



2019–2020
Annual Report



Kaya Wanju + Hello Welcome *

Cover:

Illustration by Leia Duffy.

Photo by Susie Blatchford / Pixel Poetry.

YACWA acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of this land and its waters.

We wish to pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal people seeing this message.



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For an extended copy of our financial statements, please contact the YACWA office.

Why We Exist

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) is the peak non-government youth organisation in Western Australia.

We operate primarily as a human rights organisation that seeks to address the exclusion of young people in a rapidly changing society. Our continued vision for Western Australia is one that celebrates, respects and engages young people and their voice in all aspects of community and governance. Our role is to strengthen the trust, cooperation, collaboration, professionalism and voice of the non-government youth sector to better serve the young people of Western Australia.

YACWA aims to be a united, independent and active advocate for the non-government youth sector and young people that is both supported and respected by the sector and the wider community. Focusing on young people's varied needs at local, State and Federal Government level, YACWA works to engender and enhance positive community attitudes towards young people. We provide a voice and act as a role model for the definition and demonstration of youth participation. Our work is governed by four guiding principles – respect, equity, integrity and the celebration of diversity.

What we do

YACWA carries out a number of activities which seek to promote positive community attitudes towards young people and to assist and advocate for the sector that supports them.

These activities fall under four key focus areas:

- ▶ Sector Support
 - ▶ Youth Leadership
 - ▶ Policy and Research
 - ▶ Advocacy and Action
-

Funders & Supporters



Core Funding

▶ Department of Communities

Major Supporters

▶ Department of Health

▶ Lotterywest

Funders and Supporters

▶ Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

▶ Child and Adolescent Health Services

▶ Commissioner for Children and Young People

▶ Curtin University

▶ Edith Cowan University

▶ Guildford Grammar School

▶ Harvey Local Drug Action Group

▶ headspace Mandurah

▶ Hope Community Services

▶ Indigo Junction

▶ Life Without Barriers

▶ Methodist Ladies College

▶ Mission Australia

▶ Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network

▶ Murdoch University

▶ National Youth Coalition Housing

▶ Numbers and People Synergy

▶ Orygen

▶ Propel Youth Arts WA

▶ Save the Children Australia

▶ Shelter WA

▶ St Vincent de Paul

▶ Telethon Kids Institute

▶ WACOSS

▶ Waste Authority WA

▶ Western Australian Association for Mental Health

▶ White Ribbon Australia

▶ YMCA WA

▶ Youth Futures WA

Who We Are



Board of Directors*

- ▶ Vik Jeyakumar (*Chairperson*)
- ▶ Karina Chicote (*Vice Chairperson*)
- ▶ Katherine Browne (*Treasurer*)
- ▶ Georgie Carey (*Secretary*)
- ▶ Brooke Draper
- ▶ Parul Goplani
- ▶ Sharon Gough
- ▶ Skye Groenveld
- ▶ John Thomson (*appointed mid-term*)
- ▶ Ross Wortham (*ex-officio*)
- ▶ Katie Liew (*co-opted*)

Outgoing

- ▶ Penny Webb
- ▶ Daniel Roy (*left mid-term*)

Subcommittees

Finance

Sub-Committee

- ▶ Katherine Brown (*Chair*)
- ▶ Katie Liew
- ▶ John Thomson
- ▶ Sharon Gough
- ▶ Ross Wortham (*ex-officio*)

Governance

Sub-Committee

- ▶ Georgie Carey (*Co-Chair*)
- ▶ Parul Goplani (*Co-Chair*)
- ▶ Ayden Mackenzie (*co-opted*)
- ▶ Skye Groenveld
- ▶ Brooke Draper
- ▶ Karina Chicote
- ▶ Ross Wortham (*ex-officio*)

YACWA Team*

YACWA Core Staff

- ▶ Ross Wortham (*CEO*)
- ▶ Lianda Gibson (*Project Manager*)
- ▶ Gaurav Singh (*Finance Manager*)
- ▶ Mason Rothwell (*Senior Policy & Advocacy Officer*)
- ▶ Stefaan Bruce-Truglio (*Policy & Advocacy Officer*)
- ▶ Matthew Tomich (*Member & Community Engagement Officer*)
- ▶ Charlotte Glance (*COVID-19 Youth Engagement Officer*)
- ▶ Zinab Al-Hilaly (*MYAN WA Project Officer*)

Youth Homelessness

Advisory Council

- ▶ Holly Rolfe (*Project Coordinator*)
- ▶ Kaya Caterer (*Member*)
- ▶ Danni Forster (*Member*)
- ▶ Teiyla Galip (*Member*)
- ▶ Skylar Hackett (*Member*)
- ▶ Jess Holden (*Member*)
- ▶ Jesse Leah (*Member*)
- ▶ Joshua Magee (*Member*)
- ▶ Sky Pierce (*Member*)
- ▶ Ryan Pohl (*Member*)
- ▶ Kacey Renfrew (*Member*)
- ▶ Gabby Williams (*Member*)

*As at 30 June, 2020.



Youth Educating Peers (YEP) Project

- ▶ Lorna Graham-Geraghty (Project Coordinator)
- ▶ Bridget Bathgate (Project Support Officer)
- ▶ Kai Schweizer (Project Support Officer)
- ▶ Summan Asim (Peer Educator)
- ▶ Evelyn Holt (Peer Educator)

Youth Educating about Waste (YEW) Project

- ▶ Mika Bazeley (Project Officer)
- ▶ Shanae Campbell (Peer Educator)
- ▶ Megan Menon (Peer Educator)
- ▶ Bash Lau (Peer Educator)
- ▶ Karla Barnard (Peer Educator)

Interns & Volunteers

- ▶ Jennina Cruz
- ▶ Nicholas Hill
- ▶ Ruby Wang
- ▶ Usman Abid

Life Members

- ▶ Philippa Boldy
- ▶ Georgia Davies
- ▶ Louise Giolitto
- ▶ Mark Goerke
- ▶ Nic Hastings-James
- ▶ Elise Jorgensen
- ▶ Jude Sorenson
- ▶ Kerstin Stender
- ▶ Audrey Turner
- ▶ Brian Wooller

Outgoing Staff

- ▶ Imara Mandred (White Ribbon Project Officer)
- ▶ Anne-Marie White (White Ribbon Project Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Emilia Jayne Hawcroft (White Ribbon Project Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Mohammad Hadi Rahimi (White Ribbon Project & MYAN WA Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Tamkin Essa (MYAN WA Project Coordinator)
- ▶ Rafeif Ismael (MYAN WA Project Officer)
- ▶ Sara Shengeb (MYAN WA Project Officer)
- ▶ Zahra Al-Hilaly (MYAN WA Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Daniel Ajibu Matabishi (MYAN WA Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Lewis Price (YDAN Project Officer)
- ▶ Laura Bullock (YDAN Project Officer)
- ▶ Rhiannon de Cinque (YDAN Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Rebecca Harvey (YDAN Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Madison Heady (YDAN Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Jack Meakins (YDAN Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Vanessa Vlajkovic (YDAN Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Laura Beegan (YHAC Project Officer)
- ▶ Adriana Sowah (YHAC Member)
- ▶ Susan Theseira (YEP Crew Member)
- ▶ Julian Ming (YEP Crew Member)
- ▶ Habiba Asim (YEP Crew Member)
- ▶ Amelia Murray (YEP Crew Member)
- ▶ Fatema Shalemie (YEP Crew Member)
- ▶ Vithan Thillairajah (YEP Crew Member)
- ▶ Jordina Quain (YEP Crew Member & Youth Consultant)
- ▶ Patrick Gunasekera (Youth Consultant)



CEO & Chairperson's Report



During periods of crisis, the value of collaboration is ever so important.

This annual report epitomises a year where YACWA and our sector rose to many challenges. The key successes and achievements of the YACWA Board, staff, consultants and members this year reflect a consistent and considered approach to supporting the youth sector and young people during what was one of the most challenging yet dynamic years we've experienced in YACWA's 40+ year history.

In March 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic dramatically changed the world. Rapid and innovative responses were required to ensure vulnerable young people were supported throughout our vast state. As we transitioned to COVID-19 restrictions, YACWA held dozens of online conversations with hundreds of youth workers, young people and organisations to understand the rapidly changing environment and how best to support service continuity and to support young people. We saw organisations stand up, adapt and get involved in helping to influence the State Government's response to COVID-19 via the Youth Taskforce and its many subcommittees. We also saw youth workers across the state readily engage in the many online forums, trainings and workshops YACWA held; each person bringing a keenness and positive energy to develop the necessary skills to adapt to the changing landscape. As a result, we have forged stronger connections with agencies across regional and metropolitan WA and built new relationships that will be nurtured over the years to come.

Throughout the year, YACWA increased our involvement in government forums and committees, sector-led initiatives and public campaigns aimed at challenging the status quo and fighting for the rights of young people across the state.

Leading our proactive policy work this year was our 2020–2021 State Budget Positioning Paper and the WA Youth Homelessness Action Plan. These pieces of policy work have gone on to advise government on strategy, resource allocation and future budget decisions. **We also put forward more than a dozen formal policy submissions to government on key issues, which included:**

- * Raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility
- * Enhancing the WA Rapid Response Framework for children in care
- * The WA State Housing Strategy
- * Updating WA Suicide Prevention Action Plan
- * Reviewing the Equal Opportunity Act 1984
- * Providing feedback on the Mental Health Commission's development of an Alcohol and other Drugs Crisis Intervention Model
- * Five major budget bids to the Expenditure Review Committee on COVID-19 Responses

Other exciting achievements to reflect on from this year included:

- * The launch of the Youth Educating about Waste project
- * The third delegation of the Hong Kong Youth Exchange program
- * The 21st WA Youth Awards, with the 2018 Young Person of the Year, Kamsani Bin Salleh handing over the prestigious title to Brenda Amito for her efforts in bringing cultural diversity into AFL umpiring, inspiring dozens of young people from diverse backgrounds to take up the profession
- * The third State of the Youth Sector Forum bringing together 100 leaders, youth workers and young people from across the state

- * The YEP Project delivered sexual health trainings to hundreds of young people and sector workers with a special focus on regional engagement across Geraldton, the Pilbara, Northam, Peel and the Wheatbelt
- * The Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC) conducted its first Service Safari and helped produce the WA Action Plan to End Youth Homelessness
- * The Youth Disability Advocacy Network, a youth-led initiative which had been incubated through YACWA, transitioned to full independence
- * The Youth Pride Network went from strength to strength taking up key advocacy issues such as speaking out against the Religious Freedoms Bill and changes to the Equal Opportunity Act 1984
- * The establishment of YACWA's COVID-19 Youth Steering Group

This year also saw a significant milestone in YACWA's financial sustainability and we would like to thank our government and our sector partners who have put their trust in us to represent young people and the youth sector across WA. In particular we would like to thank the WA Government who have ensured that the voice of the sector continues to be prominent, through a new five year core funding agreement to support YACWA as the peak body for young people and the youth sector in WA.

The adaptability and tenacity required this year has been like no other before it, and we would like to sincerely thank the dedicated, tireless and highly skilled team of people we have at YACWA. Our staff, volunteers, consultants, and board not only showed immense resilience throughout the year, but they took proactive steps to prepare and stay ahead of the curve. This contributed to us listening more and achieving more than

we could have ever predicted. We all know that any organisation is only as strong as its people and it has been, and will always be, our people who hold, maintain and enhance our work at YACWA to achieve a fair, just and equitable society for all young people in WA.

Going forward into 2021, we will continue to monitor COVID-19 challenges and opportunities and how it has and will impact our most vulnerable, but we will also continue to celebrate and reflect on the strength, diversity and resilience of the sector, our workforce and importantly young people across WA.

Regards,



Vik Jeyakumar

YACWA Chairperson




Ross Wortham

Chief Executive Officer



Our Membership



YACWA's work is driven by our members.

Our members aren't just box-tickers or governance stakeholders. They're teachers, students and youth workers. They're high-schoolers, retirees and CEOs. They're activists, advocates and change-makers. Most importantly, they share a united vision for a Western Australia that is fairer and more equitable for young people at every level of society.

We think of our membership not a mere assemblage of like-minded people but as a movement – a united front of individuals and organisations who collectively champion the human rights of young people in our state.

We'd like to thank the **diverse group of organisations and people** who comprise the YACWA movement, along with the **innumerable collectives and individuals** who **support our mission** across Western Australia:

- ▶ Accordwest
- ▶ Albany Youth Support Association
- ▶ Anglicare WA
- ▶ Assisting Your Life to Achieve
- ▶ Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees
- ▶ Centrecare
- ▶ Child and Adolescent Health Services
- ▶ City of Bayswater
- ▶ City of Cockburn
- ▶ City of Fremantle
- ▶ City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- ▶ City of Rockingham
- ▶ City of Stirling
- ▶ City of Swan
- ▶ City of Wanneroo
- ▶ Community Employers WA
- ▶ Edmund Rice Centre WA
- ▶ Ethnic Communities Council of WA
- ▶ headspace Albany
- ▶ headspace Pilbara
- ▶ Hygge
- ▶ Indigo Junction
- ▶ Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre
- ▶ Lit Therapy
- ▶ Ngala Midwest and Gascoyne
- ▶ Ngangk Yira Centre for Research in Aboriginal Health and Social Equity
- ▶ Nulsen Group
- ▶ Parkerville
- ▶ PCYC
- ▶ Peel Youth Services
- ▶ Propel Youth Arts WA
- ▶ Scouts WA
- ▶ Sexual Health Quarters
- ▶ Shelter WA
- ▶ Shire of Gingin
- ▶ South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council
- ▶ St. Vincent de Paul Society
- ▶ UnitingCare West
- ▶ Whitelion
- ▶ Wirrapunda Foundation
- ▶ Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- ▶ YMCA Perth
- ▶ Youth Involvement Council
- ▶ Youth Legal Services
- ▶ YouthLink
- ▶ Zero2Hero

Communications, Media & Social Media



YACWA's digital reach continued to grow in 2019–2020 with leaps in engagements, followers and new content created for young people and the youth sector.

While Facebook remains YACWA's primarily platform for engagement, our Instagram and LinkedIn showed significant growth, buoyed by engaging content about the Youth Educating about Waste Project, the WA Youth Awards nominees and our COVID-19 resources.

In addition to these stats, the 2019–2020 financial year also saw the establishment of Instagram and Facebook accounts for the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council and the newly formed Youth Educating about Waste Project, along with significant growth in the digital presence of the Youth Pride Network, the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network and the Youth Educating Peers Project.



Quick insights

As at 30 June 2020

Facebook

LIKES: LIKE GROWTH:

▶ 6,280 ▶ 13.3%

REACH: ENGAGEMENTS:

▶ 588,471 ▶ 28,710



Instagram

FOLLOWERS: GROWTH:

▶ 1,456 ▶ 33.5%



LinkedIn

FOLLOWERS: GROWTH:

▶ 952 ▶ 53.3%



Youth Educating Peers Project



The Youth Educating Peers (YEP) Project is YACWA's peer-led sexual health education initiative providing training, support and resources about sexual health and blood-borne viruses for young people and the youth sector that supports them.

Sector Support & Development

Fast Facts

- ▶ Delivered **11 youth sector workshops** and **webinars**
- ▶ Reached **225 sector workers** and **31 regional workers**
- ▶ **15,000+ community members** accessed the **YouthSHBBV referral resource**
- ▶ **726 workers** engaged through **presentations, stalls** and **events**

In the 2019–2020 financial year, the YEP Project is proud to have delivered professional development training to 256 youth, community and health sector workers in the metro and regional areas through 11 professional development workshops.

Four of these were webinars accessed by regional attendees from areas including Geraldton, Pilbara, Northam, Peel and the Wheatbelt. YEP also held stalls and presentations at various sexual health expos and events including ASHM and SHQ.

The workshops focused on:

- 👤 **LGBTIQ+**
- 👤 **STIs and BBVs**
- 👤 **Safe sex methods**
- 👤 **Contraception and pregnancy**
- 👤 **Sexuality online**

YEP also hosted workshops from specialist agencies such as Legal Aid's *R U Legal?* workshop.

The most frequently requested workshops were the *Gender Identity Toolkit* and *LGBTQIA+*, both of which include the greatly utilised Gender Burger demonstration. These workshops provide a comprehensive overview of sex and gender from a youth perspective. The burger concept has been adapted by many organisations and schools to increase their understanding and inclusion of trans and gender diverse people.

YEP hosted a conference entitled *Technosexual*, which saw 100 professionals engage with a variety of educational and sexual health organisations, to learn more about young people's engagement and exploration of their sexualities online and how they can support this as youth workers.

Youth Leadership

One of the ways The YEP Project supports young people on relationships, sexual health and blood-borne viruses is by utilising a peer-based model and employing young peer educators, known as the YEP Crew.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the YEP Crew were limited in their ability to deliver in-person workshops directly to young people. However, with a shift to online, the YEP Project's engagement with young people through social media increased dramatically with various campaigns and. This has resulted in an increased following and 'real life' interest for YEP as restrictions ease, leading to a greater demand for workshop bookings and a huge boost to The YEP Project's social media presence.

Accomplishments

- ▶ Presenting **12 workshops** to **1,400+ young people**, covering topics like: healthy relationships, consent, SHBBV, LGBTQIA+, safe sex, online sexuality, contraception and CaLD-specific sexual health
- ▶ Attending the Pride Parade, **engaging with over 1,000+ young people** and providing safe sex barrier methods

Social media engagement

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Facebook

▶ 150,000+



TikTok

▶ 34,800+



Instagram

▶ 18,000+



Major social media campaign engagement:

- ⚡ Trans Day of Visibility – 6,206
- ⚡ **#SociallyDistantSTITesting** – 32,786
- ⚡ IDAHoBIT – 19,068
- ⚡ World Day for Cultural Diversity (**#YourHealthYourWay**) – 1,878
- ⚡ International Menstruation Day (**#PEERiods**) – 10,469
- ⚡ What they don't tell guys about sex (**#MensHealthWeek**) – 33,145
- ⚡ **#12DaysOfContraceptives** – 19,508

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of WA

YACWA continued to auspice the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia (MYAN WA) during the 2019–2020 period. MYAN WA helped support and develop sector knowledge on issues of importance to refugee and migrant young people through forums, training and regular communication.

Sector Support & Development

COVID-19 policy and advocacy work

During the COVID-19 pandemic MYAN WA assessed the impact COVID-19 had on young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds in areas including financial/economic, mental health, education, racism and discrimination.

The findings from the survey and consultations were utilised to inform the MYAN COVID-19 Policy Platform as well as YACWA's COVID-19 Youth Recovery Framework.

MYAN WA continued to deliver regular newsletters during this time full of information, events and resources that focused on COVID-19 to young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. In total 15 newsletters were distributed and were viewed 2,285 times. MYAN WA's Facebook page continues to have a strong reach increasing to 1,001 followers.

In this period MYAN WA hosted 2 forums:

- Disability attendees – 65
- Justice System attendees – 35
- Total forum attendees – 100

Youth Leadership

MYAN WA strives to centre young people in all projects and has a strong focus on building the leadership of refugee and migrant young people.

MYAN WA's key youth leadership project, Shout Out, has 24 young speakers who attend schools, community organisations and businesses to speak up on issues of importance to them and their peers. The project was funded by the Department of Social Services through their Fostering Integration Grant program to expand its reach into public schools, not-for-profit organisations and LGAs. The program offered free speakers to these groups until March 2020.





Accomplishments

- ▶ **15 young people** from refugee and migrant backgrounds **received paid employment as youth consultants** throughout the duration of the project
- ▶ **Shout Out speakers** delivered a total of **64 presentations** (22 additional presentations were booked but cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- ▶ **5,383 students** received a **presentation** from a **youth consultation** on issues that face **refugee and migrant young people**
- ▶ **MYAN WA** delivered **11 one-day leadership training workshops** to total of **131 young people** from refugee and migrant backgrounds

Online Engagement

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Facebook followers

▶ 1,001



Instagram followers

▶ 160



eNewsletters

TOTAL SENT:

▶ 15

TOTAL VIEWS:

▶ 2,285



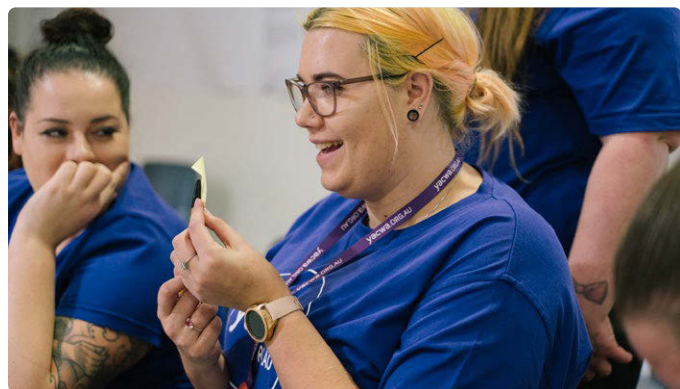
Youth Homelessness Advisory Council



In the 2019–2020 year, YACWA continued to support the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC), WA’s youth-led advocacy group comprised of young people with lived experience of homelessness.

Current & opposite page:

*Members of the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council lead discussions on addressing youth homelessness at the State of the Youth Sector Forum in August 2019.
Photos by Susie Blatchford / Pixel Poetry.*



YACWA welcomed funding from Shelter WA that enabled the group to meet on a regular basis for part of the year. **With that funding, the group were able to:**

- ▶ **Employ 10 young people** with lived experience of homelessness on the committee
- ▶ Hold **eight** YHAC team meetings
- ▶ Develop **branding and a logo** for the initiative
- ▶ Establish a **social media presence** on Facebook and Instagram
- ▶ Deliver a successful campaign for **Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD)**, in partnership with the **Museum of Freedom & Tolerance**
- ▶ **Develop a video** to breakdown the stigma of homelessness, **screened in Yagan Square**
- ▶ Have their YHMD video **viewed over 8,000 times** on social media
- ▶ Participate in the sector’s **COVID-19 Crisis Accommodation and Homelessness Services** video conference



The Youth Homelessness Advisory Council is extremely sought after for their advice and experience, however at the end of the 2019–2020 financial year, **the group remain unfunded.**



Youth Educating about Waste Project



The Youth Educating about Waste (YEW) Project was funded by the Waste Authority WA in December 2019 to educate young people (aged 17 to 25) to make sustainable reductions to their textile, food, and plastic waste through peer education.

In early January 2020, the project recruited four young people to join the YEW Project as peer educators who had a strong motivation and commitment to waste reduction and positive influence in the community.

From late January to mid-February, the YEW Project ran a series of youth consultations across the Perth Metropolitan area to build an understanding of young people's attitudes towards reducing their waste and identifying effective ways to maintain their engagement in waste reduction and avoidance behaviour long-term. Across the four consultations, 58 young people shared their knowledge and wisdom with the YEW team to influence the development of the youth workshops and training.

Above left & right:

Members of the YEW Project run consultations on waste reduction with young people in February 2020.

Photos by Mika Bazeley.



With the rapid changing COVID-19 situation, the YEW Project re-scoped the workshop component of the project to develop a suite of 14 youth-friendly online waste reduction resources. The team of peer educators worked both remotely and collaboratively to create resources with youth-specific information, with complimentary screen-reader resources with support from the Youth Disability Advocacy Network (YDAN)!

With the support of local and regional youth organisations, LGAs and the Waste Authority WA, the YEW Project promoted the resources through social media and reached over 15,000 people online to learn more about textile, food and plastic waste reduction. The YEW team also developed an additional resource for organisations working with young people to learn more about their waste knowledge and behaviours, as well as how they can support them to reduce their waste.

All the resources developed are available to download from yacwa.org.au.

Above:

Select preview of the YEW Project's online suite of Waste Reduction Resources. Developed during a series of youth consultation workshops, with additional support from YDAN.



Youth Pride Network



Youth Pride Network (YPN), the volunteer-run youth network for LGBTIQ+ identifying young people, led some exciting projects in the 2019–2020 financial year.

Above:

*Members of the Youth Pride Network attend a session with writer Benjamin Law for the launch of his book, *Growing Up Queer in Australia*, as a part of Perth Festival Literature & Ideas Weekend. Photo by Jessica Wyld.*

In collaboration with GLBTI Rights in Aging Inc (GRAI), YPN assisted with the Talking Generations event, aimed at promoting intergenerational conversations. YPN also held its first Queer Dungeons & Dragons event that had an incredible response from LGBTIQ+ young people. YPN was also excited to collaborate with the Perth Festival to create an intimate event with Benjamin Law and Yamiko Marama.

YPN was also active in speaking out against the Religious Freedoms Bill and held a campaign event that sent hundreds of emails to federal Members of Parliament. YPN also submitted a thorough response to the Law Reform Commission's consultation on changes to the WA Equal Opportunity Act 1984. This submission included the voices of young people from across the state and outlines how far we have to go to achieve a future free of discrimination.

During COVID-19 lockdown, YPN undertook several projects to assist with the LGBTIQ+ community response. The *"What's Still Operating?"* guide provided up-to-date advice on how services were changing their operation. YPN also facilitated conversations with LGBTIQ+ youth service providers to assist with understanding shared issues and facilitating ideas across the sector.

Hong Kong Youth Exchange



The International Youth Exchange Program provides young people in Western Australia aged 18 to 25 with the opportunity to create strong international connections and build awareness of global issues faced by young people.

In 2019, YACWA and the Department of Communities chose 12 young people from diverse backgrounds from an applicant pool of 73 young people to represent WA on the exchange program to Hong Kong and host incoming delegates.



The young people and their team leaders from the Department of Communities and the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia welcomed the Hong Kong delegates to Perth, where they had the opportunity to share their experiences of living in a different culture and foster new international relationships.

The itinerary for hosting the Hong Kong delegation was planned with support from the WA delegates to ensure the experience reflected the experiences of young Australians, and incorporated social, political and cultural, particularly Aboriginal history and culture, to reflect the history and current position of Western Australia.

Due to the political climate in Hong Kong, the WA delegates' visit was postponed to February 2020. In the lead up to February, the Department of Communities and YACWA closely monitored the situation in Hong Kong and similarly deemed the postponed travel date an unsuitable time for the WA delegation to visit.

WA Youth Awards



The WA Youth Awards is the flagship event of YACWA's annual calendar, and the cornerstone of our organisation's work to develop and recognise youth leadership in Western Australia.

Above:

Brenda Amito is crowned 2019 WA Young Person of the Year at the WA Youth Awards. Photo by Susie Blatchford / Pixel Poetry.



We know that the work of young people and the youth sector in the WA community flies under the radar and is worthy of greater recognition, be it through activism, innovation, conservation, education, creativity, compassion and support. The WA Youth Awards exists to address that gap.

For the 2019 WA Youth Awards – the 21st edition of the event – we returned to the Heath Ledger Theatre at the State Theatre Centre of WA. We were lucky to be joined by the most recent WA Young Person of the Year, artist Kamsani Bin Salleh, and the very first, teacher Simon Zuvich, who won the award in his last year of high school in 1999.

From 87 nominees hailing from as far north as Wyndham and as far south as Albany came nine category winners. We were honoured to crown 16-year-old Brenda Amito as the 21st ever WA Young Person of the Year. Brenda, who also won the Commissioner for Children and Young People's Participate Award, was acknowledged for her outstanding work nurturing young leaders through the umpiring program for young women she created and oversees through the Edmund Rice Centre WA.

The WA Youth Awards is made possible with the support of funding partners including Lotterywest and the Department Communities, Supporting Sponsors Propel Youth Arts WA, Telethon Kids Institute and Save the Children, and our generous Award Sponsors.



Congratulations to the 2019 winners:

▶ **Brenda Amito:**

- * WA Young Person of the Year
- * Commissioner for Children & Young People's Participate Award

▶ **Madeleine Cross:**

- * Charmaine Dragun Memorial Award

▶ **Zal Kanga-Parabia:**

- * ECU Community Leadership Award

▶ **Keisha Calyun:**

- * Hope Community Services Positive Achievement Award

▶ **Gabby Loo**

- * Mission Australia Cultural Endeavours Award

▶ **Jacob Casey:**

- * Youth Futures Innovation for a Sustainable Future Award

▶ **Kristin Briggs**

- * Minister for Youth's Most Outstanding Youth Worker Award

▶ **Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation**

- * Life Without Barriers Organisational Achievement Award – Small

▶ **Youth Involvement Council**

- * YMCA Organisational Achievement Award – Large



Policy & Advocacy

Policy and advocacy are integral components of YACWA's work, aiming to influence societal change in Western Australia that is positive for both for young people and the youth sector.

By creating a space for young people to have their voice heard by decision-makers, and using evidence-based advice and analysis to influence systemic policy and practice, we ensure that the WA community upholds the human rights of young people and provides an inclusive space that values their opinions and skills as well as involves them in the discussion on issues that affect them.

Our policy and advocacy work this year involved the following activities and products:

- * Government responses
- * Targeted advocacy and influence
- * Member and youth consultation
- * Member representation in key networks, committees and meetings
- * Creating platforms for youth voices and influence
- * Regional representation
- * National influence
- * Awareness raising campaigns

YACWA's advocacy efforts in the second half of this financial year were largely devoted to ensuring that the State Government's response to COVID-19 was adequately supportive of our state's most vulnerable young people. Despite our relatively small size, we were involved in several high-level forums focused on coordinating the COVID-19 response and achieved significant policy outcomes through our policy and advocacy work.

Opposite:

WAAMH Mental Health Conference.

Photo by Ryan Ammon.

Policy & Advocacy



Responding to Government

YACWA Submissions

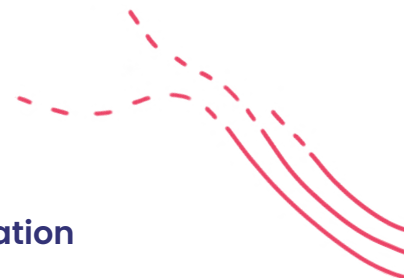
- Submission to the Council of Attorneys-General Review of the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility in Australia
- Survey response providing feedback to the Review of the Rapid Response Framework
- Feedback on the draft State-wide Ambulance Services Policy & Related Documents
- Letter opposing the introduction of Trackside Simulated Racing Machines as part of the sale of TAB
- Signatory to the Joint Statement for the inclusion of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status in the 2021 Census of Population and Housing
- The 2019 State of the Youth Sector Report
- The WA State Housing Strategy 2020–2030 Consultation Report
- Interview and survey response providing feedback on the draft Western Australian Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2021–2025
- Feedback on the draft Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
- Youth Pride Network Submission to the Review of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (Western Australia) by the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia

- Provided oral feedback on the Mental Health Commission’s development of an Alcohol and other Drugs Crisis Intervention Service Model
- Feedback to the State Government on progress implementing recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Western Australian State Budget Positioning Paper 2020–2021

In anticipation of the State Government’s 2020–2021 State Budget announcement, YACWA launched its annual Pre-Budget Submission in December 2019. Entitled ‘Sustainable Solutions for a Positive Future’, the paper provided a series of strategic and financial recommendations to government to ensure that government policy puts the best interests of young people and the community at the core of long-term thinking. This paper was inspired by young people from WA and from around the world who are leading the charge on global movements such as the School Strikes 4 Climate Change, the gun control campaign in America and Black Lives Matter movement.

The submission was based on the feedback provided by our members and other key stakeholders, including youth workers, young people from metropolitan and regional areas as well as state and local government representatives. This was gathered at our annual State of the Youth Sector Forum as well as targeted consultations with our youth and sector networks. We also drew on international and national research and best practice as well as YACWA’s previous work.



The Youth Homelessness Action Plan

In November 2019, on behalf of the WA Alliance to End Homelessness, YACWA officially launched the Youth Homelessness Action Plan (the Plan), a broad framework for the process of ending youth homelessness and indicator of key areas for action. Building on the overarching 10 Year Strategy to End Homelessness, the Plan is specifically tailored to address the needs of young people experiencing homelessness and was built through extensive consultation with young people with lived experience of homelessness, specialist youth homelessness workers and key State Government decision makers throughout April and June 2019.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the implementation of the plan and the need for rapid shift of focus to respond to its impact, however YACWA continued to work with key stakeholders to implement the first elements in the Plan where possible, as well as integrating actions from the Plan into our work on the COVID-19 Youth Taskforce.

Member Representation

YACWA continued to represent our members across the many portfolios impacting young people and the youth sector. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, YACWA shifted focus to supporting the state's response to COVID-19's overwhelming impact on young people, while maintaining specific focus on cross-government collaboration, trauma-informed practice, systemic discrimination and marginalisation.

The following are some examples of committees and key stakeholders that YACWA regularly engaged throughout the year.

Committee Representation

- Supporting Communities Forum 2020–2021
- Anti-Poverty Week State Facilitating Group
- Department of Communities Homelessness No Wrong Door Co-Design Team
- WA Ministerial Council on Homelessness (WACH) Ministerial Advisory Group
- WA Alliance to End Homelessness Collaborative Lead Group Meeting & Workshop
- Housing Authority Round Table (HART)
- Curtin University's Navigating Through Life Advisory Group
- Social Reinvestment WA Coalition Steering Committee and Closing the Justice Gap Sub-Committee
- Department of Justice Sector Meetings (facilitated by Social Reinvestment WA)
- Youth Mental Health Outreach Service Steering Committee
- WA Peaks Forum
- WA Youth Strategy Design Team
- Youth Partnership Project Executive Committee
- Youth Work WA Board
- WACOSS Children's Policy Advisory Council
- UNICEF Child Rights Taskforce
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia Executive Group
- Department of Health – Youth Mental Health Sub Network
- Telethon Kids Institute development of LGBTIQ+ Suicide Prevention Guidelines
- Department of Communities Disability Youth Workforce Attraction Campaign Planning



Parliamentary Hearings

- “ Oral Testimony to the Senate Community Affairs Committee for the Inquiry into the Adequacy of Newstart and other Income Support Payments
- “ Oral Testimony to the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the Inquiry into the Monitoring and Enforcing of Child Safe Standard

Regular Meetings with Key Decision Makers

- 👤 Quarterly meetings with the Minister for Youth
- 👤 Quarterly meetings with the Commissioner for Children and Young People
- 👤 Quarterly meetings with the Assistant Director General, Services (metro and regional), Department of Communities
- 👤 Quarterly meetings with the Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests
- 👤 Regular meetings with the Minister for Child Protection, Women’s Interests, Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services
- 👤 Regular meetings with the Department of Communities across multiple function areas
- 👤 Regular meetings with a variety of Members of Parliament on a range of issues
- 👤 Meeting with the Shadow Minister for Youth
- 👤 Meeting with the Federal Minister for Youth

Consultations

Australian Youth Development Index Consultation

In January 2020, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) and Numbers and People Synergy contracted YACWA to support the development of a national index for youth development – the Australian Youth Development Index (AYDI). The purpose of these consultations was to determine young people’s key priorities in youth development, utilising examples of similar development indexes from international jurisdictions.

YACWA hosted a workshop in the Metropolitan region and a second workshop in the Pilbara region with the assistance of the Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation, engaging 33 young people aged between 12 and 25.

WA State Government Housing Strategy Youth Consultations

In October 2019, the Department of Communities contracted YACWA to develop and deliver a consultation with young people aged 12 to 25 with aim of ascertaining their thoughts and experiences on housing, both now and in the future. The intended use of these findings was to inform the development of the WA Housing Strategy 2020–2030, which intends to set out the State Government’s plan to create better pathways for suitable and affordable housing.



During the consultation period, YACWA engaged with 217 young people from across Western Australia via five face-to-face focus groups and an online survey. Following this, a report was developed which contained an in-depth review of the data and the identification of key themes. It also provided some suggested areas for focus based on feedback from the young people.

Child and Adolescent Health Services (CAHS) Recruitment and Management Policy Youth Consultations

In August 2019, the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) contracted YACWA to run a youth engagement process that would provide input into the draft policy for the CAHS Consumer Representatives and Recruitment Management Policy. In September 2019, YACWA held a face-to-face consultation with 26 young people with the aim of finding out how to better engage, involve and retain young people as consumer representatives as well as exploring how recruitment could be made more accessible, inclusive and culturally appropriate for diverse groups of young people. Following that a report was developed which contained an overview of the consultation development and delivery as well as key findings and recommendations.

State of the Youth Sector Forum 2019

In August 2019, YACWA held its annual State of the Youth Sector Forum, a key consultation activity with youth services and stakeholders to determine their priorities for the forthcoming year. This forum was our largest yet since its inception in 2017, with over 140 representatives from the youth sector, key stakeholders, the State Government and young people.

Attendees examined key priority areas for young people across mental health, alcohol and other drugs, youth justice, child protection, housing & homelessness, education, employment and youth engagement. YACWA published a report on the forum in October 2019.

My Health Record Consultations with Orygen

In July 2019, YACWA partnered with Orygen to support consultations with young people around the development and implementation of My Health Record. The purpose of these consultations was for Orygen to assist the Australian Digital Health Agency to produce resources to inform young people about the changes to health information under My Health Record, and their rights in navigating the major reform.

Youth Justice Lived Experience Interviews

In early 2020, YACWA assisted Social Reinvestment WA to design and run interviews with several young people with lived experience of the youth justice system. The purpose of this consultation was to inform the direction of Social Reinvestment WA's approach to youth justice reform and ensure their advocacy was aligned with the interests and wellbeing of young people. YACWA and Social Reinvestment WA interviewed six young people prior to COVID-19's outbreak, which shelved the project temporarily.

Policy & Advocacy



Surveys

- COVID-19 Youth Survey – 367 responses
- MYAN WA COVID-19 Youth Survey – 37 responses
- Youth Services Directory Survey – 38 responses
- Youth Sector Response to COVID-19 Workshop Surveys – 43 responses
- Survey on the future of housing for young people in WA – 235 responses
- 2019 State of the Youth Sector Forum Feedback Survey – 35 responses

Awareness & Advocacy Campaigns

In 2019–2020 YACWA carried out and supported several state and national campaigns that aimed to raise awareness of the issues facing vulnerable young people, change community attitudes and promote youth engagement.

National Campaigns

- Raise the Rate of Newstart and Youth Allowance (led by ACOSS)
- Raise the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (coalition of NGOs)
- National campaign to oppose changes to higher education funding (coalition of Youth Peaks)

- Black Lives Matter Movement (youth-led social movement)
- School Strike for Climate Australia (youth-led social movement)
- National Youth Homelessness Matters Day (led by the National Youth Coalition on Housing)
- Reconciliation Week (Reconciliation Australia)
- Everybody's Home campaign (coalition of NGOs)

State Campaigns

- Your Help WA Campaign (led by WACOSS)
- Make Renting Fair Campaign (coalition of NGOs)
- Fine Default Reform Legislation Campaign (led by Social Reinvestment WA)
- Prevent Support Heal Campaign (led by the WA Association for Mental Health)
- Regional Champions Campaign (led by Regional Youth Leadership Development)
- Waste Reduction Campaign (led by Youth Educating about Waste)

Regional Representation

It is critical that YACWA engages regional and remote communities, young people, and service providers in our policy and advocacy work as there is often a significant gap in resourcing, support services and outcomes for young people in these areas. Given how large Western Australia is, there are many unique challenges for young people in regional WA and therefore a nuanced look at regional-specific issues is necessary, and regional and remote young people's voices need to be distinctly acknowledged in the metropolitan-focused policy development cycle.



YACWA works to ensure our policy responses and state-wide engagement consider the views, issues and opinions of regional young people and organisations at all times, including in our grant applications, project submissions and sector events. While the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic limited our ability to directly travel to the regions, it provided us with a new avenue to deepen our regional engagement, with the increased uptake of online meetings via Zoom. In the second half of the financial year we conducted fortnightly check-ins specifically for regional services, provided tailored professional development in these sessions and conducted a state-wide COVID-19 youth survey with responses from young people in almost every region of WA.

We're continuing to work to facilitate more opportunities for young people and the youth sector to participate in our policy and events, through regional visits, travel bursaries and remote participation methods.

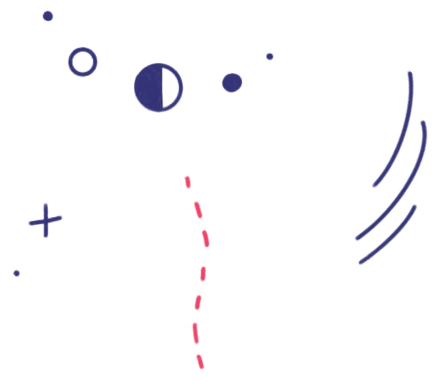
National Influence

YACWA is a state-based organisation but exerts considerable national influence alongside other state-based youth peak organisations. As a member of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), we maintained a keen lens of national policy developments and activities.

YACWA's CEO attends regular meetings on national youth specific peak bodies and committees to remain informed of national issues and collaborate on national advocacy. These include:

-  **The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition Board**
-  **MYAN Australia Executive Group**
-  **National Youth Coalition on Housing**
-  **Homelessness Australia National Committee**
-  **Youth Peaks Policy Meeting**
-  **National Multicultural Youth Census Advisory Group**

YACWA has also been heavily involved in several national advocacy movements campaigning for systemic shifts at a federal level, including Raise the Rate and Raise the Criminal Age of Responsibility Campaigns, as well as the campaign to oppose changes to higher education funding.



COVID-19 Response & Recovery



Following the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic in early 2020, YACWA committed to acting as a leader for the youth sector to support their efforts to address the overwhelming impact of the pandemic on young people in Western Australia.

Our goal was to work in partnership with the State Government to ensure the youth sector can properly support young people during a time of escalating distress and reduced capacity from services while safely minimising community transmission, flattening the curve, and minimising the economic impacts on the sector.

As part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our activities included:

Sector Support & Development

- **Coordinating a state-wide response from the youth sector:** YACWA met with over 200 youth service providers via video conference in March 2020 to determine their immediate needs and emerging issues to service provision. This included specific consultation with crisis and supported accommodation providers and regional service providers and led to ongoing online meetings with the youth sector to identify and respond to emerging issues.
- **Facilitating fortnightly Youth Workers Unite sessions:** YACWA created a space for metropolitan and regional youth workers to engage in professional development, advocacy, training and collective problem solving via Zoom. These included a webinar from a key stakeholder in the youth sector delivering skills-building, educational workshops on how best support young people as we emerge from the coronavirus pandemic as well as time for resource sharing and networking between services and youth workers.
- **Hosting a COVID-19 Response Hub on YACWA's website, including:**
 - » Information and FAQs for young people on COVID-19 safety and management
 - » Resources for young people and the youth sector to access more information on the State Government's response to the pandemic, the work of other peak bodies, translated and other resources for diverse young people
- **Developing the COVID-19 Live Youth Services Portal:** In response to rapid changes to service capacity, YACWA created a digital portal allowing services to provide live updates on changes to their opening hours, service availability, staff capacity and program operation for the purposes of referral between services and for client access.
- **COVID-19 communiques to the sector:** YACWA released seven dedicated emails to its 3,000+ database of subscribers, detailing our latest actions, updates from the State Government's Youth Taskforce, contracting changes for services and myriad resources for young people and the youth sector.



Advocacy & Member Representation

- **Meeting with Cabinet members:** YACWA provided regular updates and advice to support the operation and safety of the community sector, including engagement with the Premier and Minister for Community Services.
- **Co-chairing the WA State Government's COVID-19 Response Youth Taskforce:** YACWA contributed to the Youth Taskforce's rapid response to the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable young people in WA through:
 - » Supporting its five working groups looking at a rapid response to and coordination of maintaining sector sustainability, supporting homelessness accommodation and isolation management, engaging street present and at-risk young people and addressing the significant impacts on youth mental health
 - » Supporting the development of resourcing proposals outlining critically needed resourcing to expand effective service delivery for a response to COVID-19
 - » Providing feedback to the State Government on the direct and rapidly changing impacts of COVID by providing the key points outlined in consultations with young people and the youth sector through our fortnightly check-ins, the youth survey and ongoing engagement with our youth networks
- **Representing the sector on key coordinating bodies:**
 - » Weekly National Youth Peaks COVID-19 Response Group
 - » Weekly WA Peaks Community Sector COVID-19 Response Group (hosted by WACOSS)

- » Weekly WA Government Community Services Working Group COVID-19 (hosted by the Department of Finance)
- » Fortnightly COVID-19 Department of Justice Working Group

Youth Leadership

- **Establishing the COVID-19 Youth Steering Committee:** YACWA convened a diverse group of young people who provided leadership, guidance and advice on the key issues and priorities young people in WA would be facing in response to COVID-19. This group is made up of representatives from key youth advocacy bodies in WA including the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of WA, Youth Disability Advocacy Network, Youth Pride Network, Aboriginal Health Council of WA, the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council and the Regional Youth Leadership Development group.
- **Developing the COVID-19 Youth Survey and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Youth Survey:** These surveys allowed YACWA to gain an insight into the current experiences and impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on young people in Western Australia. The key themes highlighted from these surveys were collated in a simple infographic which was used as a resource by the State Government and LGAs to inform the current issues facing the youth sector.
- **Developing easy-to-read resources:** YACWA shared a wealth of social media channels and eNews for young people to understand the impact of the various state and federal policy changes that were rolled out in response to the pandemic.



Sector Events

State of the Youth Sector Forum 2019

At the start of August 2019, YACWA welcomed over 100 representatives from the youth sector for the annual policy consultation, taking a temperature check of the key issues facing young people. For the first time since its inception, the Forum extended its reach beyond sector leaders, CEOs and key decision makers to include all levels of the youth sector – including young people, advocates, frontline youth workers, government and backend support.

The voices of the Forum were synthesised into two documents – the State of the Youth Sector Forum Report, published in October 2019, and YACWA's State Budget Positioning Paper: Sustainable Solutions for a Positive Future, published in December 2019; a 70-page policy publication outlining key recommendations to address the sustainability of the youth sector, inequality and poverty, youth leadership, young people's education and employment, and health and wellbeing.

Opposite:

*Participants workshop major policy ideas at the State of the Youth Sector Forum.
Photo by Susie Blatchford / Pixel Poetry.*



Home Is Where My Heart Is

In August 2019, YACWA, in partnership with Shelter WA and the Commissioner for Children and Young People, curated and exhibited a retrospective series of photographs from the *Home Is Where My Heart Is* project from 2008 to 2016.

Established in 2008, *Home Is Where My Heart Is* combined peer mentorship and photography to capture the reality of youth homelessness in Western Australia through an annual exhibition. Run by YACWA, the project partnered young and emerging photographers with young people who have experiences of homelessness to explore the concept of what 'home' means to them through photography.

The retrospective exhibition was curated with support from the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council to showcase a selection of 46 photographs from the project, and was launched in Brookfield Place towers to commemorate the beginning of Homelessness Week. The event included a young guest speaker who had been involved in the project that shared how the project enabled them to share their experience of homelessness.

Above:

'Home Tree' by Jess from the 2013 edition of Home Is Where My Heart Is, featured in the 2019 retrospective exhibition.

Sector Events

The Agency Network for Youth (ANY)

Through 2019–2020 YACWA has continued the facilitation of the Agency Network for Youth (ANY). These meetings have provided opportunities for sector to network and exchange learnings around relevant issues, challenges and innovative ideas within the sector. In March 2020, YACWA put the face-to-face ANY meetings on hold due to COVID-19 and replaced by fortnightly youth sector check-ins to facilitate a rapid COVID-19 response.

Alongside this, YACWA also maintained regular attendance and contributions (face-to-face and online where possible) at other key sector forums and networks such as:

- South East Corridor Youth Partnership Project (SECYPP)
- Armadale Youth Network (AYN)
- Housing Authority Roundtable Meeting (HART)
- SIREN Network
- Joondalup and Wanneroo Services (JAWS)
- Youth Mental Health Sub Network
- Peel Regional Youth Services Network (PRYS)

Above right:

WAAMH Mental Health Conference.

Photo by Ryan Ammon.



WAAMH Mental Health Conference 2019

In November 2019, the Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) invited YACWA to run a youth session at their Mental Health Conference at the Hyatt in Perth. The youth session centred the ideas and perspectives of young people from marginalised populations, providing a deepened understanding of the Western Australian human rights landscape and how it can be strengthened to better support youth.

In the lead up to the event, YACWA employed five youth facilitators from our youth networks in a series of training sessions to support the young people to lead dynamic and challenging conversations through storytelling techniques and lived experience.

On the day, the youth speakers were supported by a team of support facilitators to spark deep-dive discussions around mental health, with conference attendees having the opportunity to engage in a free-form exercise that utilised the open space and enabled them to move from experience to experience. To conclude the session, the young people joined together in a larger panel to weave together their experiences to provide a holistic understanding of the mental health experiences of young people.

YACWA Consulting

YACWA Consulting is our fee-for-service arm of the organisation. YACWA is widely acknowledged as a leader in the field of current youth participation best practice. This reputation has a national profile and is supported by academic research, proven training and project management and, most importantly, extensive engagement with young people.

The resources generated through YACWA's fee-for-service work goes directly towards our strategic goals of supporting the youth sector, helping young people be heard and youth advocacy.

YACWA Consulting continued to grow in the 2019–2020 financial year, seeing us work with a wide-range of organisations on a variety of projects including strategy development, youth leadership training, youth consultation and specialist resource development.

In the 2019–2020 year, we commenced or completed the following pieces of work:



-
- ▶ **Child and Adolescent Health Services (CAHS)** – Partnering with Consumers Strategy youth consultation and report

 - ▶ **CAHS** – Recruitment and Reimbursement of Consumers and Carers Policy review youth consultation and report

 - ▶ **CAHS** – Midland Community Health Hub youth consultation and report

 - ▶ **Curtin University** – Navigating through Life peer research

 - ▶ **Department of Communities** – Housing Strategy youth consultation

 - ▶ **Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)** – youth consultation

 - ▶ **Short Term Accommodation for Youth (STAY) Geraldton** – Strategic Plan and Outcomes Framework development

 - ▶ **Harvey Local Drug Action Group (HLDAG)** – youth leadership training

 - ▶ **White Ribbon Australia** – Youth Engagement Toolkit development

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the audited financial statements for the Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) for the period ended 30 June 2020.

This Report should be read in conjunction with the 2019–2020 Financial Report. The accounts audited by Hewitt Turner and Gelevitis are included in the Annual Report.

YACWA's financial position continues to strengthen, with an increase in income from \$1,312,620 in the previous financial year to \$1,356,697 during this period. The main sources of income for YACWA include grant funding through the Department of Communities, Department of Health and Lotterywest. A 5-year core funding agreement was signed with the Department of Communities in December 2019. Income in this financial year also included coronavirus (COVID-19) government assistance, including the Australian Taxation Office Cash Flow Boost and JobKeeper payments. 2019–2020 was a non-conference year for YACWA, with the biennial conference being held in the following financial year.

Expenditure for the 2019–2020 financial year was \$1,208,008, with the majority of expenditure spent on employee costs, sector events and activities. YACWA has finished the 2019–2020 financial year with a surplus of \$148,689, compared to the prior financial year surplus of \$43,479.

It is important to note the significant impact COVID-19 has had on YACWA's financial position. A number of potential grant opportunities were delayed, impacting YACWA's capacity to secure income that was anticipated in early 2020. However, the provision of JobKeeper payments allowed for continuity of staffing over this period, and allowed YACWA to mitigate any adverse financial impacts as a result of COVID-19.

This additional income received will be added to YACWA's reserve, contributing to sustainability planning, and contingency planning to protect YACWA over future years and from further potential COVID-19 economic repercussions. Consequently, in addition to income received through other avenues, retained earnings increased from \$96,197 in the prior year to \$244,886.

The 2020–2021 budget has been approved by the Board, with the view to further expanding YACWA's engagement, advocacy and sector partnerships.

I would like to extend thanks to Ross Wortham (CEO) and Gaurav Singh (Finance Manager) for their rigorous and disciplined approach in managing YACWA's finances, as well as to the broader YACWA team. The YACWA team consistently demonstrate their capacity to build and strengthen relationships and partnerships and display a solid focus on building sector capacity. This has been particularly evident in the continued growth of new consulting contracts and funding that YACWA continues to experience.

A sincere thanks to previous Treasurer and current Chairperson, Vik Jeyakumar, the Finance and Sustainability Sub-Committee, and to the rest of the Board for their continued support, leadership and energy. A special thanks also to outgoing Vice Chairperson, Karina Chicote, for her leadership, and her significant contributions to YACWA's finance and governance committees during her time on the Board.



Katherine Browne

*Treasurer
12 November 2020*



Financial Statements

Statement of Profit or Loss & Other Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
INCOME			
Grant and Service Income		952,727	966,606
Interest		1,908	4,383
Conference and other income		168,453	323,528
Government Assistance – COVID-19	12	223,600	-
Membership Income	2	10,009	18,103
		<u>1,356,697</u>	<u>1,312,620</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Employee Benefits		774,433	700,189
Events & Activities		210,507	341,866
Occupancy		67,995	44,492
Depreciation		8,910	14,994
Vehicle and Travel Expenses		67,532	70,831
Financial and Insurance Costs		18,653	19,778
Impairment of Debtors		11,000	-
Administration and Other Costs		48,978	76,991
		<u>1,208,008</u>	<u>1,269,141</u>
Profit / (Loss) before income tax		148,689	43,479
Income Tax Expense		-	-
		<u>148,689</u>	<u>43,479</u>
PROFIT / (LOSS) AFTER INCOME TAX			
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items that will not be reclassified to profit and loss		-	-
Items that may be reclassified to profit and loss		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR		148,689	43,479

For an extended copy of our financial statements, please contact the YACWA office.

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2020	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	473,566	361,177
Trade and other receivables	5	129,670	43,675
Prepayments	6	13,245	12,623
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		616,481	417,475
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	-	8,746
Right of use Lease Assets	11	35,217	-
Rental Bond		10,010	10,010
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		45,227	18,756
TOTAL ASSETS		661,708	436,231
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables		78,139	56,074
Provisions for Employee Entitlements	9	57,928	33,688
Project Funds Received in Advance	8	211,974	249,272
Lease Liability – ROU	11	6,406	-
Make Good Provision		20,000	-
Membership Paid in Advance	2	13,545	1,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		387,992	340,034
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease Liability – ROU	11	28,830	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		28,830	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		416,822	340,034
NET ASSETS		244,886	96,197
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained earnings		244,886	96,197
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		244,886	96,197

Financial Statements

Statement of Changes in Equity

AS AT 30 JUNE 2020	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2018		52,718	52,718
Profit / (Loss) for the year		43,479	43,479
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2019		96,197	96,197
Profit / (Loss) for the year		148,689	148,689
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2020		244,886	244,886



For an extended copy of our financial statements, please contact the YACWA office.

**YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC
ABN 47 288 240 388**

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

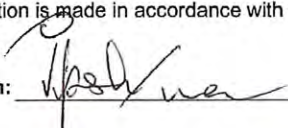
The Directors have determined that Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Inc is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes as set out on pages 1 to 14 present a true and fair view of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Inc financial position as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (Western Australia) 2015 and the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012 the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
2. To the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia will be able to pay its debts, as and when they become due and payable

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Chairperson:



Treasurer:



Dated this day

28/10/2020



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Accounting | Tax | Audit | Advisory

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AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE MEMBERS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WA INC

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

HTG PARTNERS

TIMOTHY TURNER
PARTNER

Dated this 28th day of October 2020



PARTNERS

Timothy Turner
BBus (Acc), FCPA, CTA
Registered Company Auditor

Vick Gelevitis
BBus (Acc), FCPA, CTA

Darryl Rodrigues
BSc, BBus (Acc), CPA

HTG Partners is a CPA Practice



YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WA INC INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

 **HTG
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Growth Strategy Solutions
Accounting | Tax | Audit | Advisory

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Youth Affairs Council of WA Inc, which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2020, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report presents a true and fair view, in all material respects the financial position of the Youth Affairs Council of WA Inc as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act (Western Australia) 2015* and the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*, incorporating Subdivision 60-D-Requirements for annual financial reports.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Act (Western Australia) 2015* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* and to meet the needs of the members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

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 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.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the Youth Affairs Council of WA Inc, are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the members and their reporting requirements under the *Associations Incorporation Act (Western Australia) 2015* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation and true and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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**YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WA INC
INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report (continued)

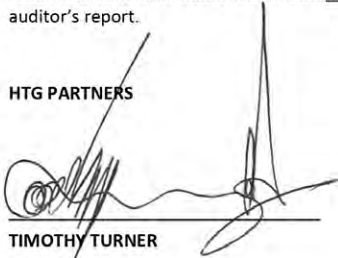
In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative to do so.

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 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

HTG PARTNERS



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Turner', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends above and below the line.

**TIMOTHY TURNER
PARTNER**

Dated this 28th day of October 2020



