



YACWA 2020 Board Election Pack

YACWA works for its members. Our membership comprises young people, individual advocates and organisations working to support young people and the youth sector in WA.

Our Board is made up of dedicated members working to fulfil YACWA's strategic objectives, detailed in [YACWA's Strategic Plan](#).

Your input is essential into helping YACWA select the best people to work for its Board of governance each year.

We currently have three positions available for the 2020 Board elections. Two current Board Members, Brooke Draper and Georgie Carey, are re-nominating for another term.

The nominating members for the three positions up for election are:

- Keisha Calyun
- Georgie Carey
- Brooke Draper
- Danni Forster
- Lydia Light
- Ashleigh Lin
- Kirsty McGeachy
- Michala McMahan
- Haeden Miles
- Lyn Millett
- Derek Nannup

Continue to the next page for details on how to vote.

How to vote

YACWA's Board elections follow an anonymous preferential voting system, where candidates are ranked from highest to lowest in order of preference.

Only YACWA members are entitled to vote in the Board elections. Organisational members can only submit a single vote on behalf of their organisation.

Voting closes on **Friday 4 December at 5pm.**

Election results

The results of the Board election and the appointment of the three new Board Members for the next term will take place at YACWA's AGM + End of Year Youth Sector Sundowner on Friday 4 December at The 21st Amendment in Leederville from 5pm.

RSVP to the AGM party by **Friday 4 December** via [Humanitix](#).

Further questions

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with YACWA's Member & Community Engagement Officer, Matthew Tomich, at matthew@yacwa.org.au or 9227 5440.

Please read through the nominees' biographies below before casting your vote.

KEISHA CALYUN

I'm a 26 year old Ballardong Noongar woman who is passionate about contributing to creating a better future for First Nations people and communities, and am especially passionate about empowering First Nations youth to play their part in this and influence outcomes.

I'm working as the Aboriginal Youth Program Coordinator at the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA). The main aim of my role is to advocate for better health outcomes for Aboriginal youth across the state and implement the WA Aboriginal Youth Health Strategy. To achieve this I work closely with Aboriginal young people, the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, non-government organisations and Government Departments. Part of my role involves sitting on various committees and steering groups to ensure the voices of Aboriginal youth are heard including the YACWA COVID-19 Steering Group.

In October 2019, I was awarded the Hope Community Services Positive Achievement Award at the YACWA, 2019 WA Youth Awards. This award recognises an individual who, having overcome difficulties (such as issues related to family, culture, geographic location, health or disability), has made an important contribution to society and is an inspirational role model to others. This demonstrates that the wider community has acknowledged my passion and commitment to creating positive change.

In July this year I was selected to be on the Canada - Australia First Nations Youth Health and Wellbeing Committee. The committee is comprised of both Canadian and Australian First Nations young people. The Australian part of the committee has 23 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth members and I am one of two Western Australian members. The committee is a First Nations Youth lead initiative and membership is voluntary, with the goal of bi-national collaboration to create meaningful and real change for First Nations youth in Canada and Australia.

I am a Youth Representative on the WA Aboriginal Ethics Committee (WAAHEC), the purpose being to assess, approve, monitor and guide the ethical standards of Aboriginal health research undertaken in WA, and support research that benefits Aboriginal people and communities. Since being a member I successfully advocated for the Youth Representative to be an official position recognised in the Terms of Reference of the WAAHEC.

My educational and training achievements include:

- Leadership WA, Emerging Leaders Course – completed 2019
- Certificate II in Family Wellbeing – completed 2019
- Accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid Officer – completed 2019
- Module 1 & 2 in Cultural Safety Training, working better in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health – completed in 2018
- Certificate III in Financial Services – completed 2014

- Attended Mercedes College with the Aboriginal Scholarship Program and completed year 12 with Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) in 2011.

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

As an Aboriginal young person one of the most important things I can bring to the YACWA Board is my lived experience. I am also the guardian for my younger siblings which means I am constantly surrounded by Aboriginal young people and have first-hand knowledge of challenges we are facing as I'm immersed in it daily. These experiences include challenges with mental health, racism, having our voices heard and more.

I would bring my passion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to have better health and wellbeing outcomes, holistically, and for young people to drive this change. It is my biggest motivator in all the work that I do. I am also extremely passionate for Aboriginal voices more broadly to be heard and actually listened to. Aboriginal people have unique knowledge, needs and ways of working and I'd like to influence the implementation of considering Aboriginal people's needs anywhere I can.

As an Aboriginal woman, I would also do my best to bring a cultural perspective to the YACWA Board and always advocate for work to be done in a culturally safe and secure way.

My work at the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia has given me a passion for health, but in a holistic sense. I see health as encompassing physical, spiritual, family, emotional, community, culture, language and country. Many things contribute to health and creating strong social and emotional wellbeing for young people. My role has also given me the unique opportunity of working with Aboriginal people from all across Western Australia, Nationally and Internationally, and has reinforced my understanding that not all Aboriginal people are the same, and each community is diverse in its needs. I would bring this perspective the YACWA Board to help work towards YACWA's vision of a society where all young people feel valued and are supported to develop, thrive and reach their greatest potential.

As a member of the WA Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee, I represent the youth perspective on a recognised advisory body on Aboriginal health research and ethics. This has provided me the opportunity to develop my skills in assessment and critical reasoning. I display good judgement in reviewing, approving or not approving proposals, and providing relevant feedback.

As the Aboriginal Youth Program Coordinator at AHCWA I am responsible for implementing the WA Aboriginal Youth Health Strategy across Western Australia. This has developed my skills to be adept in strategic planning, have sound knowledge of program implementation and increasing knowledge of managing budgets.

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

I'm nominating to be on the YACWA Board as I want to ensure that Aboriginal young people's voices are advocated for. YACWA is the peak body non-government youth organisation in Western Australia, and Aboriginal people have a high youth population. I want to live by, and help others live by, the 'Nothing About Us Without Us' concept. I believe that one of the best ways for me to help improve outcomes for Aboriginal young people is to be involved with organisations such as YACWA, who can influence this, at a governance level.

I anticipate that I will get more experience advocating for Aboriginal youth, learn skills from other experienced Board members, gain knowledge about how to make change from a Board level, develop skills that I can implement in other areas of my work to influence positive change, link other young Aboriginal people to opportunities that arise, and network and build relationships with others who are like-minded where opportunities in the future could emerge.

GEORGIE CAREY

I am a young leader who isn't afraid to question the status quo. I'm a local councillor, Global Shaper and G(irls)20 Ambassador who advocates for the inclusion of young people in positions of decision-making at a local level and on the global stage. I'm also a part-time sock designer, doggo enthusiast and religiously bring Vegemite with me if I have to travel.

As a passionate advocate for youth empowerment, I was appointed as the WA Youth Week Ambassador in 2016, and in 2017 was elected to the YACWA Board. In 2020, I have held YACWA's Office Bearer position of Secretary and have also been Co-Chair of the Governance Subcommittee.

I am three years into my four-year term as a councillor at the Town of Mosman Park. Having been elected at age 21, I am one of the youngest councillors in Australia. In this role, I aim to use my position to amplify the voices of young people to ensure the decisions we make today are made with the long-term implications in mind to ensure intergenerational equity is a key consideration.

Recently, I was selected as Australia's representative at the 2019 G(irls)20 Global Summit in Tokyo where I advocated for young women across the globe. Here, I was fortunate to co-author a Communique that highlighted policies to promote young women's economic inclusion that was presented to G20 world leaders.

In terms of formal qualifications, as a UWA Fogarty Scholar, I graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Commerce with First Class Honours in Marketing. I have also recently completed a certificate in Design Thinking from IDEO U.

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

♥ Having served on the YACWA Board for the past three years, I bring my passion for youth empowerment, experience in the youth leadership space and big-picture thinking. I'm also a do-er. I'm action-oriented and have the energy to get things done.

♥ I am thoughtful in my decision-making and am driven to ensure that maximising young people's potential is at the centre of every decision I make - especially those most vulnerable.

♥ As an elected Councillor, I bring governance experience, knowledge of policy development and value the importance of maintaining stakeholder relationships. These are all attributes I believe make me an effective Board Member for YACWA given the diverse and complex nature of the sector.

♥ Through my marketing background, I also have developed strong creative thinking and problem solving skills. For an organisation like YACWA that

delivers such important and high quality work with relatively limited resources, it is important to be able to think outside the box to come up with innovative solutions to complex problems that arise.

♥ Ultimately, I bring my lived experience as a young person to the role. I acknowledge the privilege I have been afforded in my life to be in the position I am today, which really drives me to question the systems in place that prevent other young people from thriving. Through my experience, I have learnt the value in questioning why things are done the way they are and keenly challenge the status quo when it does not serve its purpose.

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

Fundamentally, I believe that all young people should have the opportunity to reach their potential, despite the circumstances into which they were born in the lottery of birth. The work that YACWA does in helping to dismantle systems that work to prevent young people from thriving deeply inspires and motivates me.

In my role as a Councillor, I am often the youngest person in the room. In situations where I am representing my Council on various committees or in community forums, I have been mistaken for the intern or personal assistant more times than I can count. From these experiences, I have become acutely aware of how decision-making spaces are typically not made to allow young people's voices to be taken seriously. As such, I am particularly driven to ensure that young people feel empowered to be a part of decision-making processes that affect them and to amplify the voices of young people in these spaces. As the saying goes, "Nothing about us, without us".

The work YACWA does in this space is incredible; acting to ensure our diverse young people are actively included in the planning of the future of their communities and, more generally, our state. In this way, I think YACWA plays one of the most important roles in ensuring agencies, institutions and governments consider the consequences their decisions have on the future of young people in WA. If elected, I would continue to use my position to advocate for our state's young people on the YACWA Board.

I am keen to see YACWA's continued growth as a strong and respected voice for WA's young people, particularly those most vulnerable. I'm excited about what's ahead for YACWA as they continue to grow in the reach and impact of their work to ensure that all young people in WA are given the opportunity to reach their potential, whatever their situation.

BROOKE DRAPER

I am a very passionate values based leader who is committed to supporting our communities and assisting those people who are truly in need. With over 20 years experience working in and alongside the not for profit sector, I am committed to making a difference in people's lives and have been fortunate enough in my career to date to impact children, young people and adults across Western Australia. I have held senior leadership positions in several Not for Profits, including WA Disabled Sports, YMCA WA and Mission Australia.

I am currently a member of the YACWA Board and have been for over the last three years and I am looking to continue building on the work we have done to date to better support and provide a voice to the young people of Western Australia. I am an active member of the Governance Sub-Committee and provide guidance and support to YACWA both through this group as well as more broadly in the area of governance and organisational development.

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

I have worked in the not for profit sector for over 20years, and bring knowledge and skills in a number of areas including;

- Leadership
- Management
- Governance
- Project Management
- Contract Management
- Human Resources
- Financial Management

I am passionate about equality, ensuring that every person regardless of the ability, age, gender, race, beliefs or sexuality deserves the same level of respect and understanding as everyone else.

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

YACWA as a peak body, is critical to the equality for young people in WA. It's important to me to stand for and represent what I believe in. Over the last three years I have seen the growth and development of YACWA and the Board, and with a number of key projects that the Board has embarked on recently I would love to continue to be a part of this change and hopefully bring some knowledge and skills to support this.

DANNI FORSTER

I'm Danni, 24 years old and I work at YACWA as a Youth Consultant on the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC) and the COVID-19 Youth Steering Group, and through YHAC we are assisting Curtin University on their research study called Navigating Through Life which gathers the experiences of young people in or have experienced out of home care where I am currently the Peer Research Project Officer which means that I am leading the few members from YHAC that are also peer researchers. I have a Certificate IV in Community Services, which I finished at the end of 2019, and I am currently doing a Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs online, which I will complete in June 2021.

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

I think that I would bring a very unique view to the board because of my lived experience of homelessness and since starting at YACWA I have grown a person a lot and have gained a lot of skills including public speaking and being able to lead a small team of people. I am passionate about youth people getting a voice within groups and organisation boards like the YACWA Board. I work well in teams and ensure that everyone voice is heard, even if some people have a difference of opinion.

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

My motivation to sit on the YACWA board is to ensure that the voices of young people are at the table and make sure that they are continued to be heard. I am motivated to make a difference and continue to advocate for youth and youth homelessness in particular. If I am chosen to be a part of the YACWA Board, I think it would build on my current experiences, open myself up to new experiences and be able to work with and learn from others from different backgrounds, non-for-profits and walks of life.

LYDIA LIGHT

I am a skilled, passionate and creative events, marketing and communications professional with over 22 years' experience working across a range of events, communications and partnerships focused roles in the not-for-profit and corporate sectors.

In my current role as General Manager Brand, Events and Partnerships for Youth Focus, I lead a team of events, marketing and business development professionals, and hold responsibility for the organisations portfolio of fundraising events, brand and fundraising campaigns, corporate partnerships and strategic communications.

In my previous role as Partnerships Manager for Crown Perth, I oversaw development of a robust annual sponsorship and partnership strategy aimed at driving sponsorship acquisition and revenue growth, and maximising the value and return-on-investment from Crown's broad outbound partnerships portfolio.

Prior to this appointment, I held the role of Manager, Events and Sponsorship at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of WA. There I led a team of event and business development professionals and oversaw development and implementation of CCI's extensive events program, which comprised over 100 corporate events annually, attended by more than 15,000 business representatives from across the State.

From an academic perspective, I am a degree qualified marketing and communications professional possessing a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications, with a double major in Marketing and Journalism, which undertook whilst working full-time in my role at CCI, and completed with a Distinction grade point average.

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

I would bring an extensive range of skills and experience developed over the course of my career to the YACWA Board.

My strong people skills and ability to engage, understand and relate to others, combined with my extensive experience in working and collaborating with a diverse range of people within a variety of situations are just some of the positive attributes and skills I would bring to the YACWA Board.

I also have excellent communication skills, both written and oral, and am creative, proactive and very resourceful - which is a must have skill working with-in the not-for-profit sector!

My strong decision-making skills and extensive experience in developing, leading and working within teams to achieve successful outcomes would also

be a positive addition to the YACWA Board. As would my strong negotiation skills, fundraising background and broad experience of working with business and community leaders, and senior government representatives.

I also currently participate on a number of Board and Committees, including the Youth Focus Board, the Youth Focus Partnerships and Fundraising Committee (a sub-committee of the Youth Focus Board) and the Hawaiian Ride for Youth Organising Committee. I believe my Board and Committee experience would also be a valuable addition to the YACWA Board.

In terms of passion – that is simple, I am passionate about our young people and ensuring that as a community we are working together to effectively support and resource them so they can achieve success, lead meaningful lives and enjoy mental and physical wellbeing.

However, I believe this can only be achieved through effective collaboration which would require government agencies, community and business groups, young people, parents, carers and the relevant NGO sectors work together to co-design programs and services for our youth.

We are on the path, but a long way from that goal at the moment. I would bring with me a passion to see this collaboration and co-design progress continue, and for our young people to have a seat at the table and be actively involved in the conversations about their future.

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

As explained in my previous answer, I am passionate about supporting, resourcing and empowering our youth so they achieve can success, lead meaningful lives and enjoy mental and physical wellbeing in all aspects of their lives.

Our youth are our future. As a society, it is essential that we involve them in the development of programs, services and solutions to address the variety of issues and challenges they face. We must empower them to identify and create the solutions for the unique challenges they experience, and equip them with the tools, resources and access to supports that will set them up to be the best they can be.

Yet this is not happening. Instead, we are seeing significant increases in youth mental health issues and growing numbers of young people feeling disempowered and thus disengaging from their communities.

I would greatly value the opportunity to utilise my extensive skills and experience across a broad range of areas, including my experience within the youth mental health sector, to be part of driving positive change in this area, developing solutions and most importantly, providing our young people with a voice and an active role in their future.

ASHLEIGH LIN

I am a youth mental health researcher working at the Telethon Kids Institute in Perth where I hold the position of Program Head of Mental Health and Youth. In this role I lead a large team of researchers who are passionate about youth mental health and ensuring all young people have equitable access to care. Our work focusses on priority populations of young people, such as Aboriginal and LGBTQIA+ youth, who have higher risk for mental health difficulties but poorer access to safe and appropriate care. I hold a BSc in Psychology from Curtin University, and Honours, a Master of Clinical Neuropsychology and a PhD from the University of Melbourne. I have worked as a research fellow in youth mental health at Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health in Melbourne and the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. I have >100 peer reviewed publications in youth mental health related areas.

I returned to Perth in 2014 after many years over east and abroad to take up my position at Telethon Kids. Since then, I have been a fierce advocate for Western Australian services, researchers and youth, ensuring we always have a seat at the table. I recognise the importance of relationships and have worked hard to grow meaningful partnerships within the youth sector. I was a member of the WA LGBTI Health Policy Reference Group in 2018-2019 and sat on the Steering Committee for the WA Suicide Prevention Framework 2021-2025. Since February this year, I have been a board member at Youth Focus. On a national level, I currently sit on the Board of Governors for the Australian Professional Association of Trans Health and am the WA representative on the Executive Committee of the Society for Mental Health Research.

On a more personal note, I am a queer cis woman with no human children but joint custody of my beautiful dog Missy. Like many, I work too hard but am driven by my passion for equity.

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

I have >15 years' experience as a researcher in youth mental health. My training and professional history equip me with skills in innovative thinking, interest for novel ideas and a critical eye. I like to look at ways in which something can be improved and enjoy exploring how this can be achieved. I am clinically trained and have worked for many years with young people who are seeking care for their mental health and may be at their most vulnerable. This provides me with strong clinical insight and a solid understanding of mental health and social emotional development. I have 10 months board experience with the non-for-profit organisation, Youth Focus, and additional experience on the executive bodies of professional associations. I manage a team of approximately 30 staff and students which has provided me learnings in leadership, goal setting and conflict resolution. My passion for young people and for equity drives everything that I do. I want to join the YACWA

board if members believe that my skills, experience and passion will help to progress the organisation in the most positive ways.

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

Since returning to Perth in 2014 I have seen YACWA grow in strength and influence. I want to do what I can to support young people as they take the lead on the issues that affect them. I believe that being on the YACWA Board is one way that I can do this. From a personal perspective, I get a huge amount of pride and enjoyment watching the strength of young people and hearing their stories; they continue to inspire and amaze me, and remind me why I love working in the youth sector.

KIRSTY MCGEACHY

I currently hold a Bachelor of Social Science, majoring in Women's Studies and minoring in addiction studies and youth work. In 2017 I completed a Graduate Certificate in Neurobiology of Developmental Trauma as I had an interest in developing my knowledge around the effects of trauma in children and young people on the brain. In 2020 I decided to further my skills and return to university to complete my Bachelor of Social Work at ECU which I am studying part time and due to complete in 2022.

I have been involved in youth work since 2008. I commenced my career with Mission Australia – (DAYS) Drug and Alcohol Youth Service and spent 6 years with the organisation, I commenced as a green young youth worker eager to learn and was lucky to be provided with opportunities for growth and development during this time. I worked in a variety of roles with young people with drug and alcohol and complex issues. During my time at Mission Australia I worked across a variety of positions including Residential Youth Worker, Detention Counsellor, Case Manager, and Site Manager for the 10 bed Residential Rehabilitation program and 7 bed Transitional Support Program. I was also provided the opportunity to represent the service and advocate for young people on Children's Drug Court.

In 2014 I took a leap of faith and moved to Melbourne to join the Australian Community Service Organisation (ACSO) a organisation which works with young people and adults WITH drug and alcohol issues in forensic settings, during my time at ACSO worked across a variety of positions including Coordinator, Assistant Manager, Regional Manager for Melbourne working alongside drug and alcohol, youth services, Department of Justice, VICPOL and Department of Health and Human Services.

Since 2016 I have been the Coordinator of Youth Accommodation and Support Services at MercyCare and has been pivotal in integrating a trauma-informed practice framework alongside Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) into a youth residential setting and broader tenancy support services. In 2020 I was selected to present at the International Childhood Trauma Conference however due to COVID19 this has been postponed.

During my time at MeryCare I have stepped into the Youth and Homelessness Managers role on a number of occasions and more recently supported the expansion of MercyCare's Youth and Homelessness services with a co-design and service implementation process to launch Amber Youth Wellness, Youth Mental health outreach for 12-25 year olds.

I have a wide range of training, including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural responsiveness training, assist suicide and self-harm training, trauma-informed practice, Orygen Youth Mental health family inclusive training, AoD, leadership and have always advocated for inclusive and diverse practice models, most recently our LGBTIQ organisational practice strategy and implementation and have advocated for LGBTIQA+ training to be rolled out across the organisation and advocated for MercyCare to promote and represent in PRIDE.

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

I have a wide range of knowledge and experience across the sector working with young people with disability, AOD issues, complex trauma, family domestic violence and justice. I am a strong advocate for young people and listening to their needs and promoting change to suit young people we work with. I believe I have strong organisational and communication skills and work hard to promote these not only across the organisation but across the sector.

I'm really passionate about young people, specifically for those who have experienced trauma or hardship or from diverse backgrounds and work hard to promote understanding and educate that young people are our future and deserve to be invested in and provided with opportunity. I'm passionate around providing high quality service delivery and have a strong sense of ethics.

During my time in the sector in WA and Victoria I had opportunities to work within a variety of projects to support young people. In 2017, I worked in partnership with VICPOL to pilot the state's first Alcohol Fines enforcement program. This program supported young people (usually street present) who were intoxicated or found with alcohol to seek support rather than fines which they would never be able to pay or end up in prison. The harm reduction pilot was successful in the Dandenong region and later expanded across Metro Melbourne.

I have been provided opportunities as a representative on the ECU Youth Work Consultative Committee to give input and strengthen youth work across the state.

Since 2020 I have been on the YWWA Committee as the membership officer and attended all committee meetings and provided feedback to sector issues and advocacy proposals.

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

I am passionate about young people and the work we do to create change for the next generation. I have local knowledge and experience, strong networks, a broader understanding of how to better meet the different needs of young people in Perth.

I feel the board will offer me an opportunity to grow as a leader and become more confident to speak up on youth issues, it's another avenue to advocate and shift the workplace and community's responsibility for being more tuned in to young people's rights, needs and strengths as they are the leaders of our future and create change.

MICHALA MCMAHON

Michala has been working in the community service sector in WA for the last decade, after moving to Perth from the UK. She has extensive experience managing teams, building innovative projects and working in diverse environments. The projects Michala has been involved in, support and empower people facing complex issues, including; adults and youth experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, families escaping domestic violence and people who have experienced trauma.

Michala is a strong advocate in the homeless sector and believes everyone deserves a safe place to call home. Previously Michala was the coordinator of the 50 Lives 50 Homes (collective impact) project and after-hours support services (AHSS), bringing together a variety of Organisations to support and house the most vulnerable rough sleepers in Perth. Promoting Housing First principles and trauma informed approaches (including developing and facilitating training). Prior to Ruah, Michala worked at St. Bartholomew's House in a range of roles including; senior case manager, coordinator of transitional services, coordinator of family services and learning and development specialist.

Additional to the above employment, Michala sat on the Board of Directors for Short Back and Sidewalks (commencing February 2016). Holding an active role, Michala's focus was on coordinating events and creating partnerships with community service Organisations. Short, Back and Sidewalks (SBSW) is a not-for-profit charity which was started in Perth (more recently in Sydney and Adelaide), which provides haircuts to disadvantaged people, free of charge, free of judgement. The charity has reputable connections within the youth and homeless community of Perth and Melbourne, also reaching as far as Indigenous communities in Arnhem Land, NT.

Michala is currently working in the role of 'training and action research lead' for the Zero Project - Housing First Coordination for WA (employed by Ruah Community Services). The innovative project aims at achieving functional zero homelessness in Perth and other communities in Western Australia. Michala is also an Associate for Unique Outcomes, delivering training to a range of community service providers in Outcomes Star.

Education includes; certificate (equivalent to diploma) Health and Social Care (UK), Cert III, IV and Diploma in Community Services, Cert IV in Training and Assessment and Diploma in Leadership and Management (partially completed).

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

Michala is well known in her field for being a passionate advocate for young people, in particular youth navigating complex health and social systems or experiencing stigmatisation and discrimination. Michala has established, facilitated, and driven working groups aimed at improving access to housing, physical and mental health services and wrap around supports for vulnerable young people. Michala is an experienced trainer and leader and has the ability to create grassroots action and generate outcomes as well as provide advocacy for individuals and groups at executive and government levels. Michala is passionate about social justice which is her motivation for working in complex and at times challenging fields, particularly on projects that are unique and try to facilitate change, showcasing evidence of positive outcomes when 'trying something outside the box' or implementing creativity in approaches.

During Covid-19 the sector sadly lost a couple of youth people which had a huge impact on friends, family, youth workers and others who were connected. It became very evident how much the young people being supported through AHSS experienced additional challenges, exacerbated by experiencing higher levels of isolation. From listening to feedback from young people, the AHSS Team and other workers within the youth sector, Michala organised a youth network forum, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss issues within the sector, barriers for young people being supported and collaborative solutions to enhance the support provided to young people accessing services.

For 4 years Michala volunteered with Short Back and Sidewalks in the role of Director. This included involvement with various youth organisations, the youth at risk network event, disruptive festival of ideas and participation, contribution and attendance at Garma Festival of Traditional Culture in Arnhem Land, NT. Michala's involvement and experience of many of these events has contributed to further developing her skills in working alongside marginalised communities and engaging with a range of cultures.

Michala can contribute frontline experience working with young people and the youth sector along with excellent advocacy and facilitation skills. Michala is highly skilled at building and maintaining momentum for change and improved outcomes for young people and is able to communicate with people from diverse backgrounds Michala has a strong understanding of issues faced by young people in Perth and celebrates diversity.

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

Over the last few years I have become more involved with youth services and worked alongside young people who face many challenges, barriers and remain extremely resilient. I have always been involved in a voluntary

capacity with organisations that advocate for, and create, change for people experiencing social constraints/barriers and I want to be part of something that assists in reducing complexity when navigating services and systems.

Since finishing up with Short Back and Sidewalks, I have been looking for another Board to be involved in, something that aligns with my own core values of equity, respect and integrity (along with creativity, passion and justice) and that I could contribute my skills, knowledge and experience towards. The vision of celebrating and engaging young people in all aspects of the community is a vision I feel is vitally important to our ever-changing society.

For my own experience, I'm hoping to gain additional skills in being part of a well-established Board, listen to the wider voice of young people and the sector, gaining an understand how I can contribute further in my professional and non-professional capacity.

HAEDEN MILES

Hey! I'm pleased to be nominating for the YACWA Board. Here is a little about me; I graduated from High School last year completing the ATAR Pathway and I'm currently studying International Relations and Political Science at UWA. I have held various roles during school including: Student Councillor for 4 years, President of Amnesty International Club, I was on the Senior Debate team for WADL, and was a minister in the YMCA Youth Parliament. As much as I valued my education in High School, I understood that one can't learn and grow simply through standardised schooling, so I was also dedicated to perusing areas in the youth leadership and politics space to compliment my secondary education. My desire to broaden my horizons centred around my drive to implement positive change in society, most prominently in the youth sector as a young person myself. In university I was elected First Year Representative for Arts Union at UWA, which is the official faculty society for Bachelor of Arts Students, and I have also been elected as Senior Externals Representative for 2021. I am honoured to be a representative for Arts students, especially at a time where my field is under strain from government policy. Further, I have been involved with TEDxPerth as a member of the Youth Panel to advise on the implementation of the TEDxYouth@Perth Event that was postponed this year for the beginning of 2021; this has been especially fulfilling as I am helping contribute to such a respectable organisation that gives a platform for bold ideas and in this case, the bold ideas of young people in WA. As a leader in various positions, I wanted to ensure all perspectives are considered in discussion; as decision making should include all voices, especially the quietest voices. To reiterate, I am passionate in striving for a more equitable society. This bio was supposed to be brief so, in essence, I am someone who is seriously passionate about young people having their voice heard in society and in policy making, and especially for those who aren't normally given a voice; queer people, people of colour, those with a disability and those in other minority groups. I cannot wait to continue working with YACWA, regardless of my position in the organisation.

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

As a YACWA Board member I would bring various skills to the role. My background in a previously low-socio economic home and school, and as a queer young person allows me a nuanced perspective that I would be able to bring to the role as Board member. Following this, my resourcefulness in finding opportunities and providing a path to success academically and socially in the face of challenging environments could be a valid trait for a Board Member. My interpersonal skills, public speaking and dispute resolution that come from my time in various positions and interactions in my life allow me to find compromise in team settings and effectively communicate my ideas. During my time on the Student Council in high school we held meetings weekly-planning for strategies within the school-this position was important in my growth in understanding formalities; Arts Union Committee was also

important in understanding these procedures. My times in Youth Parliament and WADL Debating were instrumental in developing my ability to compromise and hear from different perspectives and work with others to achieve a common goal. Youth Parliament, in particular, was a fantastic environment for me to find my voice as a young person and hear what others had to say. Additionally, as President of my school's Amnesty International Club, we had the goal of championing human rights and equality campaigns within the school and community. Being elected as Club President allowed me to chair our meetings and facilitate our annual fundraiser in support of the victims of the Christchurch massacre. I am especially proud of my time on Amnesty Club where we saw meaningful discussion of issues facing young people and society in general. This role was a great learning opportunity on how to lead effectively and understand the importance of the collective over the individual. I have also been involved with UN Youth Australia, where my participation in Evatt Debating Competition and the 2019 Timor-Leste Project allowed me to see the world in a different light. Getting selected for the delegation to East Timor was amazing, and seeing how young people and various NGO's were helping shape the future of the nation was particularly enlightening. This experience was one of the most formative for me as a young person, for understanding my privilege living in Australia with the opportunities we have, and how naïve I was. However, that has allowed me to have an effective growth mindset, and understand the importance of young people in making positive changes on our society. I think that I can bring many things to the Board, and that my individuality would align with YACWA, but I feel my passion for proactive representation and desire for social impact is my best asset as a Board member candidate.

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

My eagerness for nomination to the YACWA Board is motivated by my desire to contribute to the running of such an integral organization for the youth space. I aspire to create positive changes wherever I go, and I am passionate about impacting the present lives of young people and future generations. I have made strides to invest my time to directly benefit young people, but I've also invested in learning what ways I can help elevate the voices of young people and young minorities at a more systemic scale. Regardless of the position I hold in any place, or the stage of my life, I understand the integral value of young people in decision making in our society. I will continue to fight for those who might feel left out of the important discussions that influence our lives. As much as I intend to be a proactive contributor of the Board, I anticipate I would get so much out of my time on the Board, learning how the mechanisms that drive such a vital organization work. I fully expect that one's occupancy on the YACWA Board would be in a position of both teacher and student no matter their age or situation, as the ability to share our expertise and experience is important to sustaining a cohesive and cooperative environment. I fully believe in the importance of learning more, to be better equipped to serving our community, and I expect being on the YACWA Board would improve my understanding of Board formalities and how I and youth as a collective can implement positive and systemic change in Western Australia.

At the end of the day, I am nominating for the Board, with my guiding principle of helping people and contributing to create a more equitable society, which I believe I can do on the Board of the Youth Advisory Council.

LYN MILLETT

Education/ Training: Masters Clinical Psychology, Grad Cert Forensic Behavioural Science, Grad Dip Education, AHPRA Registered Clinical Psychologist, Certificate in Governance units (Governance institute of Australia)

Current Role: National Executive Manager, Safeguarding Children and Young People and Education Services, Australian Childhood Foundation 2020 - current

Previous relevant Roles: Executive Director, Child, Family and Youth Services, MercyCare 2015-2020

State Manager WA/ SA, headspace National 2013- 2015

Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Kath French Secure Care, Dept of Child Protection and Family Support 2011-2013

Executive Manager, Child, Youth and Justice Services, Uniting Care West 2006-2011

Clinical Psychologist in private practice, Cygnet Clinic, Midland specialising in youth mental health part time since 2011.

Committee/ Board Appointments

Board member, National Residential Therapeutic Care Alliance 2017 to current

Co-Chair, State Steering Group, Youth Mental Health Subnetwork 2016 to current

Chair, Service Solutions Subgroup, Independent Reference Group, Out of Home Care Reform, Department of Communities April 2019 - March 2020

Life Experience: Mum and Grandma within a family which blends three cultures across four continents. Lifelong participant in equestrian sports and advocate for young peoples' involvement in sports. WA born and bred, I've lived and worked in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the US. I understand the importance of family and community connection to support vulnerable young people to feel valued and important in a rapidly changing world.

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

All of the above:

I have worked in Government, not for profit and for profit community service organisations across many sectors including mental health, justice, homelessness, education, family violence and out of home care helping to bring better outcomes for young people experiencing complex life circumstances. I have previous Board experience, been on state and national committees and understand many of the issues facing young people in WA. I strongly believe in the power of partnerships between young people,

Government, community, NFPs and the corporate sector working together to deliver great outcomes and solutions.

What drives me every day is

Supporting young people to be the masters of their own destinies,
Helping to create pathways where the voices of young people are at the centre of policy and thinking and young people are educating the community about the solutions that young people need

Helping create circumstances where young people who have faced adverse experiences can find pathways into better lives

I am particularly passionate about youth mental health and advocating for more community-based resources to enable all young people to experience positive mental health.

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

I admire the work of YACWA to unite, lead and advocate for young people and the youth sector and the strong theme of innovation and courage that YACWA applies to all its work. YACWA is not afraid of raising difficult issues and asking tough questions but is always willing to offer positive solutions and lead if necessary. This resonates with the approach I have tried to apply in my work and aligns with my values base. I believe that I can contribute to this work through my experience and skills as well as gain incredible opportunities to listen to others' viewpoints and ideas.

YACWA projects bring together amazing young people and advocates and there would be fantastic opportunities to expand my thinking and mindset by getting to work alongside some of these people. I like the very "hands on" approach that YACWA uses as this is so different to more "traditional" boards and the way young people sit alongside people from different generations as equals to create solutions and figure things out. I really believe being on the YACWA Board would be an unique experience that I would love to be part of.

DEREK NANNUP

Kaya,

My name is Derek Nannup and I am a proud Whadjuk Noongar, with connections to five of the fourteen sections of Noongar Boodja (country). As a young 22 year old man I know that I have role and responsibility to educate, empower and take care of my community.

I have worked in the cultural space teaching and running Noongar workshops (language, dance and leadership) ever since I was a young boy with my elders with me and now with their permission to do so alone. I have worked in a number of Primary schools, high schools and colleges, in roles like being an education assistant and AIEO.

The last school I was working at was Wesley College, I was the Indigenous Cultural Program Coordinator. I have also worked with Wungening Aboriginal Corporation in two roles, one was a Support Worker working alongside the Department of Child Protection and the other role was as a Youth Worker working alongside the Department of Justice. I am currently working with AHCWA (Aboriginal Health Council of WA) with the Sexual Health team as the Sexual Health and BBV's Program Officer (Youth).

With the roles mentioned above I have had experiences working with young people across the board. Growing up in low socio economic areas I have been exposed to some quite traumatic experiences, have seen young people not having the necessary support to fulfil and reach their full potential and also seen firsthand the effects transgenerational trauma, which is a huge factor in my community. I have started up a group called the Boorloo Indigenous Youth Yarning Circles, it's a space where young people can get together to practice traditional healing methods, discuss culture and issues in our community, we talk about how we can address them, attack them and then prevent them.

I have been lucky enough to be able to travel across the country and sit with many other young and old Indigenous people and because of it I have made many connections and have a grasp of the universal issues we face as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here in Australia. I have also travelled to America and was lucky enough to sit in on a Native Youth Advisory group at NYU (New York University) and was able to listen to some of their concerns as other First Nations Young people.

I am a Cultural Squad Member with Culture is Life, it is a collective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who give voice to the views and cultural expression of our young people. I am also on the Mirrabooka Police District Youth Advisory Group and also a member of the YEP Reference group. I was a part of the inaugural WAALI (West Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute) Emerging Leaders Program.

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

I believe I can not only be a voice, but also encourage other young Indigenous people to express themselves in a culturally sensitive and safe space for them to feel comfortable enough to have conversations. I Also believe I can be that "you cant ask that" person, who can help educate and answer questions some YACWA people might not be educated around or feel comfortable to learn about.

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

Something that motivates me to be on the YACWA Board is that I'd like to help provide a space for some of these young people in the Indigenous and low socioeconomic communities that I grew up in, who's voices are sometimes never heard or appreciated. I believe if I was given the opportunity I could learn how to cater for different young people and their needs, it would also be a perfect place for me to fulfil my cultural responsibilities to learn how to look after and help people of all different backgrounds who live and learn on Whadjuk Noongar Country.

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