YACWA 2026 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.

As a member, your input is essential in ensuring YACWA's Board represents the best interests of the organisation, young people and the youth sector. For this election, there are five (5) nominees and three vacancies. Current Board Member, Craig Webster is re-nominating for another term.

Vacancies are:

- Two (2) ordinary members - 3-year term
- One (1) youth member - 1-year term (the usual term is 3 years; this vacancy is for the remainder of the current term)

Nominees are:

- Craig Webster – Renominating for another term
- Leila Saba
- MD Rakibul Islam – Young Person
- Misty Pathak – Young Person
- Samuel Nolthenius

How to vote

YACWA's Board elections follow a proportional voting system-single transferable vote model.

Eligible voting members will complete two ballots:

- The preferred candidate is selected from the two (2) Youth Member candidates; and
- Ordinary Member candidates are ranked from highest (1) to lowest (5) in order of preference.

The Youth Member vacancy will be filled first by the young person who receives the most votes. The remaining young person will then be considered for election to the Ordinary Member vacancies alongside all other nominees.

Each eligible voting member will receive an email at their nominated membership contact email with personalised link that directs to the OpaVote voting portal.

Who can vote

Each organisational member and individual member (including Life Members, free members 25 or under and fee-paying members) receive a single vote in this election. Members must have been a member for at least three months prior to the Annual General Meeting to be eligible to vote.

If an organisational member representative is also an individual member, they are entitled to cast two votes.

Associate members, non-members and members registering after the commencement of the election are unable to vote.

Voting closes on **Wednesday 18 November at 11.59pm.**

More details about this process can be found in the **YACWA Constitution**.

Election results

The results of the Board election will be announced at YACWA's Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 24 November** at Trinity on Hampden, Cambridge Room. RSVP here.

Further questions

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with Adelaide Williams, Engagement Coordinator at adelaide@yacwa.org.au or call us on 9227 5440.

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

Craig Webster – Renominating for another term

Please provide a brief biography outlining who you are, your current or previous roles, and any relevant experience, training, education or governance/committee experience.

I am an Ordinary Board Member coming up for re-nomination and I would like to re-nominate. I am a Life Member of YACWA and have worked in the Education sector for the last 22 years as an Engagement Coordinator and previously sat on the MYANWA advisory Commitee as Chair.

How would you contribute to YACWA's Board and its work? Drawing on your understanding of governance, YACWA and the youth sector, please outline the perspectives, skills and experience you would bring to the Board.

I have been sitting on the Finance Sub Committee for nearly three years and have participated in strategic planning, financial sustainability of YACWA and all other planning processes. I was also involved in the process of CEO recruitment. I have been involved in any necessary training that involves understanding of all Governance that goes with the role of being a YACWA board member.

I have been a long-term advocate of young people, especially in the multicultural space, and I have had a long term commitment to MYANWA. I am a Life Member of YACWA to which I hold that dearly.

I also understand my responsibility of a Board Member and to all the voting Members of YACWA and I do my upmost in making sure YACWA is a thriving peak body for advocating for the rights of young people.

YACWA has subcommittees focused on risk, finance, governance and organisational sustainability. Please describe any relevant knowledge, skills or experience you could bring to these areas, including examples where possible.

At the moment I sit on the Finance Committee, though this can be challenging. I bring a perspective of owning my own private businesses.

Leila Saba

Please provide a brief biography outlining who you are, your current or previous roles, and any relevant experience, training, education or governance/committee experience.

I am keen to lend my experience and skills to serving on the YACWA board as an ordinary member. I am currently (recently) a regional director with an education-adjacent service provider for OSCH. Prior to this new role, I consulted in the disability services sector focused on policy and procedure reviews in HR and leadership capability, and prior to that I was a senior IT program manager for a very large retail organisation.

I served for two years on the local Victoria Park Community Centre board, paused for a year, and now seeking a new challenge and a way to maximise my volunteering value.

How would you contribute to YACWA's Board and its work? Drawing on your understanding of governance, YACWA and the youth sector, please outline the perspectives, skills and experience you would bring to the Board.

Coming from finance (banking), then IT, then policy, I've developed a solid grasp of governance and compliance in general over the years. I'm deeply passionate about inclusion for all, especially vulnerable people and young people. I have a soft spot for the elderly too, and I believe the values that truly drive inclusion, drive inclusion for all. I am experienced working and volunteering directly with children and young people,

including career mentoring, tutoring and crisis support training. To a board I bring a balance of strategic thinking and pragmatism in proposed application. I'm also an experienced presenter and public speaker, and a confident report writer.

YACWA has subcommittees focused on risk, finance, governance and organisational sustainability. Please describe any relevant knowledge, skills or experience you could bring to these areas, including examples where possible.

Of the subcommittees outlined, organisational sustainability would be my strongest area, followed by governance and risk, ending with finance. I have led and/or supported several organisational change and transformation programs. I'm familiar with common approaches and challenges, and am able to assist others in this arena, as I continue to learn and stay up to date.

MD Rakibul Islam

Please provide a brief biography outlining who you are, your current or previous roles, and any relevant experience, training, education or governance/committee experience.

I am a final-year Bachelor of Information Technology student at Murdoch University, majoring in Business Information Systems. I currently serve as an Undergraduate Student Member of the Murdoch University Senate and as a Murdoch Guild Councilor.

These roles have given me practical experience in governance, student representation and working with different stakeholders. I review information, contribute to discussions, represent student perspectives and regularly communicate with students, university staff and leaders.

Outside university governance, I am active in community engagement, events, marketing and project work. I run Perth Pixel Media, where I work directly with clients on photography, video and digital content. I was also part of the winning team at the Murdoch AI Hackathon 2026 with QR Safe, which I continued developing through CERI's Concept to Creation program.

I am interested in youth representation, stakeholder engagement, and making sure young people have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect them.

How would you contribute to YACWA's Board and its work? Drawing on your understanding of governance, YACWA and the youth sector, please outline the perspectives, skills and experience you would bring to the Board.

I would bring the same approach to YACWA by listening first and ensuring young people's perspectives are included in Board-level discussions. I can also contribute skills in marketing, communications, digital content and stakeholder engagement, which could support how YACWA connects with young people and communicates its work.

YACWA has subcommittees focused on risk, finance, governance and organisational sustainability. Please describe any relevant knowledge, skills or experience you could bring to these areas, including examples where possible.

I would bring a strong marketing and content creation perspective to YACWA's Board. Through Perth Pixel Media, I create photography, video, social media content, and promotional materials, working directly with clients to understand their audiences and goals.

I could support YACWA in strengthening its communication with young people, promoting its programs and events, and sharing the impact of its work across digital platforms. I am particularly interested in social media strategy, short-form video, event content, and creating stories that feel relevant and engaging to younger audiences.

Misty Pathak

Please provide a brief biography outlining who you are, your current or previous roles, and any relevant experience, training, education or governance/committee experience.

I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Hospitality and Events Management. I have experience in sales, hospitality, event support, marketing, communications and community engagement, with my work experience closely aligned with my studies and career interests.

Through my work in sales, hospitality and events, I have developed strong communication, customer service, teamwork and organisational skills. These roles have given me practical experience working with different people, understanding customer needs and contributing to positive experiences.

I am also a member of YAC Bayswater and have been involved in community volunteering through Study Perth and the Western Australian State Government. These experiences have strengthened my interest in community participation, youth engagement and making a positive contribution to society.

Previously, in India, I worked with an NGO and helped organise an educational event attended by more than 1,500 students, along with politicians and other notable guests. I also contributed to a mental health awareness event and participated in community outreach activities.

Through my education, employment and volunteering, I have developed an understanding of teamwork, leadership, responsibility and the importance of bringing people together. I am passionate about hospitality, event management and community engagement, and I aim to use my skills and experience to support meaningful initiatives and create positive outcomes for the community.

How would you contribute to YACWA's Board and its work? Drawing on your understanding of governance, YACWA and the youth sector, please outline the perspectives, skills and experience you would bring to the Board.

I would bring strong communication, teamwork, organisation and problem-solving skills to YACWA's Board. Through my studies in Hospitality and Events Management and my experience in sales, hospitality, events and volunteering, I have developed the ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds and contribute effectively to team goals.

I am actively involved in community engagement through my membership with YAC Bayswater and my volunteering with Study Perth, the Western Australian State Government and other community initiatives. These experiences have strengthened my interpersonal skills and understanding of the importance of community participation.

I would bring a collaborative approach, fresh perspectives, a willingness to learn and a genuine interest in contributing to positive outcomes for young people. I also recognise the importance of accountability, transparency and responsible decision-making in effective governance. I would aim to contribute constructively to Board discussions and support YACWA's work through my skills, experience and commitment to community involvement.

YACWA has subcommittees focused on risk, finance, governance and organisational sustainability. Please describe any relevant knowledge, skills or experience you could bring to these areas, including examples where possible.

I would bring strong organisational, communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills to YACWA's subcommittees. Through my studies in Hospitality and Events Management and my experience in sales, hospitality, events and community volunteering, I have developed skills in planning, coordinating tasks, managing responsibilities and working with people from diverse backgrounds.

My experience supporting events, including an educational event attended by more than 1,500 students, taught me the importance of preparation, teamwork and managing responsibilities carefully. These skills are relevant to identifying risks, planning activities and supporting effective decision-making. My involvement with YAC Bayswater and other community initiatives has also strengthened my interest in community development and sustainable outcomes.

I understand that good governance requires accountability, transparency and responsible use of resources. Although I am continuing to develop my knowledge of formal financial and risk management, I am eager to learn, contribute practical ideas and work collaboratively to support YACWA's effective operations and long-term sustainability.

Samuel Nolthenius

Please provide a brief biography outlining who you are, your current or previous roles, and any relevant experience, training, education or governance/committee experience.

I currently work as Programs Manager – Growth and Strategy at zero2hero, a WA-based youth mental health education and suicide prevention charity. My role spans our industry partners, community organisations, government and school networks, where I focus on building meaningful partnerships, creating opportunities for collaboration and growing the impact and reach of our school programs and rites-of-passage camps.

I am also a trained Mental Health First Aid Instructor and have experience delivering Mental Health First Aid training. Alongside my strategic role, I continue to facilitate zero2hero's five-day residential youth camp programs, which are designed as rites-of-passage experiences. These camps give young people the opportunity to learn more about themselves, build meaningful connections and develop the confidence and skills to become mental health leaders within their own communities.

Before moving into the youth mental health space, I built my experience across business development, organisational operations and business growth. As National Sales and Marketing Manager for an import, distribution and sales business, I worked closely with the General Manager to help scale the organisation from a WA-based business generating approximately $1 million in revenue with a team of six, to a national operation generating more than $20 million in revenue, with staff across every state in Australia.

That experience gave me a strong understanding of what it takes to grow and build an organisation, from developing the right systems and processes to creating the operational foundations needed to support sustainable growth. I now bring that experience into the not-for-profit sector, with a focus on collaboration, sustainable impact and better outcomes for young people.

How would you contribute to YACWA's Board and its work? Drawing on your understanding of governance, YACWA and the youth sector, please outline the perspectives, skills and experience you would bring to the Board.

I would bring a commercially minded, solutions-focused perspective to the Board, coupled with a strong human connection to young people, a huge passion to show up for and support our future generations.

While some parts of board governance will be new to me, I do bring experience in business growth, organisational operations, strategic planning and building sustainable partnerships. Having helped scale a business from a small WA operation to a national organisation, I can contribute to discussions around organisational growth, financial sustainability, operational efficiency and turning strategic priorities into practical action.

Importantly, I remain closely connected to young people through my work at zero2hero. I regularly seek out their perspectives and listen to what they believe is working, what is missing and what needs to change. Being able to facilitate rites of passage programs for young people, spending 5 days in the bush, just yapping with young people multiple times per year I believe helps me bring this practical, youth-informed perspective to Board discussions and decision-making

YACWA has subcommittees focused on risk, finance, governance and organisational sustainability. Please describe any relevant knowledge, skills or experience you could bring to these areas, including examples where possible.

I think my skill set would lie closest with organisational sustainability, with a strong understanding of what it takes and the difference modes of an organisation, from growth, to sustaining and the many sprints in between.

My previous experience taught me a lot about the importance of having the right foundations in place, to not only identify growth opportunities but also to build the systems needed to support long-term success

I now bring that experience into the not-for-profit sector at zero2hero, where I work across strategic partnerships, program growth and new opportunities to increase our impact. I understand the challenge of balancing big ambitions with the practical realities of funding, resources and delivery.

I'll bring a practical, commercially minded and collaborative perspective to YACWA, with a genuine interest in helping build an organisation that is not only doing great work today, but is well positioned to keep growing, adapting and making a difference into the future.

Most importantly, I'll bring a real world, youth first perspective, staying connected to young people and making sure their voices help shape the conversations, priorities and decisions being made on their behalf.