# YACWA ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

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YACWA Acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People as the Traditional 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.

Phone: 08 9227 5440 Email: yacwa@yacwa.org.au Address: Level 2, 196 Oxford Street, Leederville 6007 Postal Address: Po Box 334, Leederville WA, 6903 Web: www.yacwa.org.au Facebook: www.facebook.com/yacwa Twitter: twitter.com/yacwa

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The 2016/2017 financial year was marked by significant changes in the sector and in Western Australia more broadly, including marking YACWA's 39th year in operation and my first full year as CEO. I continue to be amazed and humbled by the remarkable, resilient young people across this state, and the youth services that are in place to support them. YACWA has continued to play a key role in advocating for the interests of young people and the sector through various state and national campaigns, and has encouraged young people to participate in these forums so their voices and interests remain at the forefront of policy decisions.

This year saw a State Government election, which resulted in a change in government after 8 1/2 years of a Liberal National Party government to a Labor government. Leading up to the election, YACWA played an active role encouraging young people to vote, advocating on election platforms that included the interest of young people and the youth sector and providing opportunities for young people to interview political candidates to raise issues important to them. The change in government also resulted in government expenditure efficiencies and the amalgamation of a number of government departments – including the creation of the Department of Communities now responsible for child protection, family support, disabilities, housing and youth justice. This major landscape change caused some significant changes in personnel within the Department, including senior personnel and key change drivers. This has resulted in uncertainty within the sector as new relationships are developed and government changes are implemented and bedded down.

However, this change has also brought a great opportunity to re-envision government procurement and state funded services to ensure they are having the greatest impact across our communities. YACWA has played a key role in this process, advocating on behalf of young people and the youth sector at several forums and through Ministerial meetings to discuss the impact of these changes on young people across the state.

Alongside our engagement with government and decision-making bodies, YACWA has continued to provide opportunities and platforms for young people to have a voice in public debate. Allowing young people to tell their own stories and advocate for themselves, which is central to YACWA's ethos.

We have also worked to provide opportunities for direct contact between our members and decision makers through events such as the Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms, the Young People in Care Youth Sector Summit, Fairground and member briefings with State and Federal members of Parliament.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR INCLUDED:

 Hosting the fifth biannual Fairground Youth Sector Conference over two days in July 2016. This year's Fairground brought together local, national and international speakers and nearly 200 youth sector representatives to discuss the issues impacting young people.

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- Hosting the 2016 WA Youth Awards an annual opportunity for us to recognise and celebrate the achievements of young people and the youth sector across WA. This year's Awards saw Vanessa Vlajkovic appointed as the WA Young Person of the Year, and in this capacity Vanessa advocated on behalf of all young people, but particularly young people of the deaf blind community, across the state.
- Hosting another Home Is Where My Heart Is photo exhibition, which provided an opportunity for young people experiencing homelessness to be paired with a photography mentor to capture images of safe places.
- Hosting the inaugural Hong Kong International Youth Exchange Program, which provides a cross cultural exchange for young people in WA and in Hong Kong.
- Driving the Youth Homelessness Matters Day Campaign, which raises awareness of young people who experience homelessness. This year, we worked in partnership with Trilogy Advertising, on a pro bono basis to design and develop a state wide campaign including a TV, print and radio ads reaching hundreds of thousands of West Australians to dispel myths and raise awareness of youth homelessness.
- Early in the year, the State Government launched the Building Safe and Strong Families – Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy, which accompanied the Building a Better Future: Out-of-Home Care Reform in Western Australia. Given the significant reforms in the child protection space, YACWA, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support and CREATE Foundation held a Youth Sector Summit to identify opportunities for support and barriers young people leaving care face to access support. YACWA also joined the Home Stretch Campaign, a national initiative to increase the leaving care age from 18 to 21 for young people.

• Seeing the Youth Educating Peers project and importantly the YEP Crew continue to grow to reach hundreds of sector representatives and young people across the state.

All of this would not have been possible without a strong membership base and without the collective effort of hundreds of people across WA. YACWA's membership continues to grow and diversify and we aim to continually create new and exciting ways to engage our members throughout the year to ensure our work is driven by the experiences of youth workers on the ground and informed by young people themselves. I would like to thank all our members for their commitment and support of YACWA's mission.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible dedication and hard work provided by the YACWA staff who work tirelessly to support and advocate for young people across Western Australia. Each member of staff has contributed to the good work YACWA has done over the past year, and are a core part of the reputation for excellence YACWA holds.

I would also like to thank the YACWA Board for their commitment to the organisation, and the invaluable leadership and governance they provided throughout the year.

Funding, policy and legislative challenges will continue to face the youth sector over the next year, but with these challenges will come opportunities. I look forward to working with all members, sponsors, organisations and government departments to achieve better outcomes for young people, and ensure their voices remain at the centre of what we do.

Ross Wortham CEO



# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



### WE ARE STRONG BECAUSE...

Recently a few YACWA staff and I had the opportunity to dive into the archives of YACWA and they revealed how far the Council has come in establishing itself as a valued and leading peak body for the Youth Sector through the massive efforts of past individuals, organisations and members. This Annual Report acknowledges the 39th year of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia.

Today, the work continues to be championed by our CEO, Ross Wortham and the remarkable team. The hunger of the staff to bring their best to advocate, inspire and support the youth sector and the young people of our vast State, Western Australia continues to be inspirational.

As a Board we are committed to uphold the value of young people as Board Directors, with each buddied and mentored by those of us who are slightly more experienced in understanding the responsibilities of being a Director. As a whole Board we have engaged the expertise of external consultants and ensured critical conversations to advance a collective developing governance skillset and to support a healthy Board culture. We said farewell this year, to a longstanding and outstanding Board Director, Annie Buckeridge, who move to Melbourne after serving the organisation. Thank you Annie. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Andrew Wenzel who stepped down from the chairperson role this year. Andrew led the strategic development and growth of YACWA over the last 4 years' and I have enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside him as I transitioned into the Board Chairperson role this year.

It has been a pleasure to lead the Council through its key events, bodies of work and celebrations which are very much a part of the fabric of our organisation. The Board members have been active participators in these occasions, from media events, advisory opportunities with government, peak body collaborations, corridor conversations, and the events that bring out our 'black-tie' attire in celebration of the people and organisations within the youth sector.

Behind the scenes, at a governance level, we have worked diligently to ensure that the CEO and the team are supported well to be in a position to make sound decisions. Four Board Sub-Committees reinforce our regular meetings to ensure the



temperature remains consistent to support; remote and regional member engagement, good policy and governance, sound financial management, and our sustainability and development.

It is also important to acknowledge that the uncertainty of support for organisations that are so vital to thousands of young people was a regular conversation. The downturn in the economy, restructuring of service funding, the state election and resultant change in government all fuelled this conversation. Positively however, through our consistent, collaborative work, awareness of the key issues facing our young people, and positive working relationship with government, we managed to navigate this changing environment very well.

The Council is in a strong position to enter its 40th year as we embark collaboratively with our members, government and staff on appraising the environment and endorsing our new strategic direction.

We are strong because we are a part of the conversation in the community and with government to advocate for young people and the people who support them. We are strong because we have a buoyant Board, who are active and skilled to both advocate and ensure good governance. We are strong because we have a well-informed and proactive leader in Ross Wortham. We are strong because our staff are outstandingly accomplished and passionate about representing our members across the State.

Thank you all who make this organisation strong.

I commend this report to our members and supporters and look forward to the year ahead.

Penny Webb Board Chair





# 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 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 & RESEARCH
- ADVOCACY AND ACTION

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# WHO WE ARE

## **STAFF** (CURRENT AS OF JUNE 2017)

#### Ross Wortham (CEO)

Lianda Gibson (Project Manager) Gaurav Singh (Finance and Admin Manager) Carla Ormsby (Manager, Marketing and Events) Sara Shengeb (MYAN WA Project Support Officer)

Tamkin Essa (MYAN WA Project Support Officer) Charlotte Glance (YDAN Project Officer) Stefaan Bruce-Truglio (Casual Policy & Advocacy Officer)

Anania Tagaro (YEP Project Coordinator) Vithan Thillairajah (YEP Peer Educator) Amelia Murrav (YEP Peer Educator) Kai Schweizer (YEP Peer Educator) Julia Morgan (YEP Peer Educator) Fatema Shalemie (YEP Peer Educator) Julian Ming (YEP Peer Educator) Aksh Handa (YEP Peer Educator) Habiba Asim (YEP Peer Educator) Matthew Bacon (YEP Peer Educator) Susan Theseira (YEP Peer Educator) Golda Signel (YEP Peer Educator) Shaina Thomas (YEP Peer Educator) Jordina Rose Quain (YEP Peer Educator) **Darci Miller** (YEP Peer Educator) Clair Foster (YEP Peer Educator)

## PAST

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Jo Banks (Home is Where My Heart Is Project Officer) Josh Cunniffe (Music Feedback Project Officer/Senior Policy Officer) Cate Marrion (Administration Officer) Tahnae Keyser (YEP Peer Educator)

## INTERNS/ VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS

Stefaan Bruce-Truglio Liam Parsons Jeneba Macauley Olivia Steward Kendall Thomson David Wu

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairperson: Penny Webb Vice Chairperson: Kelly Clark Treasurer: Katie Liew Secretary: Karina Chicote John Thomson Andrew Wenzel Ross Wortham Vik Jeyakumar (Co-opted) Ayden Mackenzie (Coopted)

### NEWLY ELECTED OR RE-ELECTED

Sandra Spadanuda Penny Webb Katherine Browne Kelly Clark

## TERM ENDED

Annie Buckeridge Jessica Doust

## **YACWA MEMBERS**

Our work is driven by our 500+ members from across the State and is made up of diverse organisations, local aovernments, individuals, and young people. We would like to thank and acknowledge YACWA's diverse membership as well as the people and organisations that support YACWA in our work with youth sector workers, youth organisations and young people across Western Australia.

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

Audrey Turner Brian Wooller Rev. George Davies Jude Bridgland–Sorenson Louise Giolitto Mark Goerke Nic Hasting-James Philippa Boldy Kirsten Stender

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# **OUR FUNDERS** & SUPPORTERS

### **CORE FUNDING**

**Department of Local Government & Communities** 

### **FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS**

**Centrecare, Incorporated Centre for Multicultural Youth Commissioner for Children and Young People CREATE** Foundation **Edith Cowan University Equal Opportunity Commission Department for Child Protection and Family Support Department of Health Department of Finance Department of Culture and the Arts Loaded Communications** Lotterywest **McCusker Centre for Citizenship Mental Health Commission MercyCare MYAN** Australia **Office of Multicultural Interests Perth Theatre Trust** UWA VisAbility WACOSS Youth Work WA

City of Bayswater City of Belmont City of Canning City of Cockburn City of Fremantle City of Fremantle City of Gosnells City of Joondalup City of Joondalup City of Karratha City of Karratha City of Kwinana City of Stirling City of Swan City of Swan City of Wanneroo





# POLICY & ADVOCACY

In 2016/17 YACWA continued to carry out our mandate of advocating on behalf of our members and young people, to ensure they are well represented in issues affecting them. **This has involved**:

- Government Responses
- Consultations
- Member representation in key networks, committees and meetings
- Regional representation
- National influence
- Raising awareness of critical issues through targeted campaigns

A significant part of YACWA's advocacy and involvement in public policy is responding to government when it introduces new changes to legislation or established policy, or holds consultations with the community around specific issues or proposed changes. During this financial year, YACWA maintained its presence in this space through the following pathways:

## RESPONDING TO GOVERNMENT

## SUBMISSIONS

- Written Submission in response to the review of The Children and Community Services Act 2004
- Written Submission in response to the review of The Young Offenders Act 1994
- Written Submission to the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Omnibus Savings and Child Care Reform) Bill 2017

- Written Submission in response to the Strategy Regarding the Range of Health Services for People Infected with, or Affected by, Viral Hepatitis in Western Australia
- Written Submission in response to the Compulsory Treatment (Alcohol and Other Drugs) Bill 2016 (Exposure Draft Bill)
- Written Submission in response to the Inquiry into Migration Settlement Outcomes
- Written submission in response to the Inquiry into Building Resilience and Engagement for At-Risk Youth Through Sport and Culture
- Written submission in response to the Inquiry into Aboriginal Youth Suicide
- YDAN Open Letter on the National Disability Insurance Scheme

### STATE PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR 2017/18

YACWA was excited to formally re-launch our **State Pre-Budget Submission for 2017/18** after an extended break. The submission provided a series of recommendations to Government for the 2017 budget that built on members feedback through areas identified in responses to our Members Survey, various consultations, and previous areas of YACWA's work.



## **MEMBER REPRESENTATION**

A core role YACWA plays is to provide representation and advocacy on a variety of committees, forums, roundtables and in countless meetings, on behalf of young people and the diverse workforce that support young people to ensure that youth affairs are constantly at the forefront of the conversation. In 2016/17 we had wide-ranging representation across multiple key issues, such as funding reform, housing and homelessness, child protection, youth justice, health and mental health, interagency collaboration, multicultural issues, and Aboriginal affairs. Below are some examples of committees and key stakeholders that YACWA regularly engaged throughout the year.

## **COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION**

- Department of Premier and Cabinet Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms Implementation Leadership Group
- Children and Community Service Act Review Steering Committee
- Youth Partnership Project Executive Committee
- Department for Corrective Services Youth Justice Reference Group
- WACOSS Children's Policy Advisory Committee
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia
  Executive Group
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of WA Advisory Group
- North Metro Local Government Coordination Group
- WA Peaks forum
- Cockburn Melville Fremantle Interagency Youth Forum
- South East Metro Human Services Regional Managers Forum
- CCYP CALD Project Reference Group
- Housing Authority Round Table
- Youth Health Policy Working Group
- Youth Mental Health Week Steering committee

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## **PARLIAMENTARY HEARINGS**

- YACWA provided evidence to the Parliamentary hearing on Aboriginal Youth Suicide
- YACWA provided evidence to the Parliamentary hearing on At-risk Youth

## 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 Director General of Child Protection
- Quarterly meetings with the Office of Multicultural Interests
- Regular meetings with the Department of Local Government and Communities, across multiple function areas
- Regular meetings with members of the WA opposition and other parties on a range of issues

## **YACWA ROUND-TABLES**

- Youth Sector roundtable at Parliament House
- Youth Sector roundtable with the WA Shadow Cabinet
- Kalgoorlie Youth Sector Roundtable
- Geraldton Youth Sector Roundtable

## **CONSULTATIONS**

During this financial year, YACWA carried out a number of direct consultations with young people and the youth sector through our policy work and projects, as well as around specific issues raised by members. These consultations have helped to inform our policy, advocacy and project work and ensure that young people are driving the direction of YACWA. **Some** examples of our work are included below.

## **POLICY CONSULTATIONS**

- Sector consultation to inform YACWA's State Pre-Budget Submission
- Sector consultations for the PaTH Policy Response
- Sector consultations for the Migration Settlement Outcomes Inquiry
- Sector consultations for the WA Young Offender Act Review
- Sector consultations for the Children and Community Service Act Review
- Sector consultations for the Social Services Legislation Amendment Bill Submission
- Sector consultations for the Compulsory Treatment Bill Submission
- Sector consultations for the WA Viral Hepatitis Strategy Response
- Youth Homelessness Matters Day TV Advert -Working Group
- Multicultural Youth Australia focus group for refugee and migrant young people's needs in Australia

## **SURVEYS**

- Youth Disability Advocacy Network Survey
- Music Feedback Stakeholder Survey
- 2016 YEP Youth Sector Survey
- YACWA Membership Survey
- YACWA Strategic Plan 2017-2020 Survey
- MYAN WA Members survey
- Mental Health Stakeholder Survey
- Agency Network for Youth Members Survey
- Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms Feedback Survey
- Youth CaLD Competency Training Survey
- 2016 YEP Youth Sector Feedback Survey

## **AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**

In 2016/17 YACWA carried out and supported a number of state and national campaigns that aimed to raise awareness on issues affecting young people, as well as promote youth engagement.

#### These included:

- Youth Homelessness Matters Day Advertising Campaign
- Support for the Homestretch Campaign's WA Launch
- Get Out the Vote: State Election Social Media Campaign, including live-stream interviews with major political parties
- Anti-Poverty Week 2016
- Home Is Where My Heart Is photo exhibition
- Music Feedback Regional Roadshow





## **REGIONAL REPRESENTATION**

Western Australia is a large state and regional issues are unique and dynamic, impacting on both service delivery and the lived experience of young people. YACWA aims to build regional engagement into as much of our work as possible, including grant applications, project submissions and allocated project funds to include regional work. We also consider methods and approaches for project development and delivery in order to ensure engagement and accessibility for regional and remote services. Most of our main events during the year had funds allocated for regional travel bursaries to ensure these events are accessible to regional members and stakeholders.

# During 2016/17, YACWA also engaged directly with services and with young people in the following regions:

- Mid West / Gascoyne
- Great Southern
- South West

Face-to-face engagement isn't always possible, so YACWA's online dialogue is a critical in our engagement with the regions. This was primarily conducted through our social media presence, newsletters, and correspondence about outreach strategies employed by our projects and policy team.

## **NATIONAL INFLUENCE**

YACWA has continued its efforts this year to exert national influence and collaborate with other state Youth Coalitions nationwide, especially with the national Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) following its federal defunding. This has translated into our work advocating for the continuation and re-funding of federal programs such as Youth Connections, Safe Schools and AYAC, being part of national awareness campaigns such as Youth Homelessness Matters Day and the Homestretch Campaign, as well as tracking federal policy.

Examples of our national advocacy and influence include submissions to the Inquiry into Migration Settlement Outcomes and a Submission to the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Omnibus Savings and Child Care Reform) Bill 2017.

## YACWA also maintained it's national presence by sitting on the following boards and committees:

- The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition Board
- MYAN Australia Executive Group
- National Youth Coalition on Housing

In the upcoming year YACWA will continue to leverage its partnerships with federal peak bodies, organisations, and campaigns to ensure that federal decision makers actively incorporate the voice and rights of young people in Western Australia into public policy, strategies and legislation.

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# **SECTOR SUPPORT** & DEVELOPMENT

One of the key roles of YACWA's is our mandate to develop and support a strong youth sector. Having a strong youth sector ensures that the organisations that support young people are competent and confident in delivering evidence-based, effective services for young people.

During the 16/17 financial year, YACWA held a number of sector development events not only to facilitate this strength but also to:

- provide an opportunity for networking across the Western Australian youth sector;
- to hear from leading experts working in relevant fields;
- to improve collaboration and information sharing; and
- to improve the evidence base for our advocacy.

These principles underpin all of our sector-focused core functions.

## **SECTOR EVENTS**

## **YACWA FAIRGROUND**

This year's Fairground Conference was YACWA's fifth Youth Sector Conference. Fairground is the premier bi-annual networking and professional development event here in Western Australia for youth workers, sector organisations and young people. The conference theme was maintained as 'Fairground', which reflects an opportunity to encourage social inclusion through the continued development of an even playing field for young people across Western Australia.

Fairground is an opportunity for the youth sector to network, share ideas and common experiences whilst focusing on statewide issues of importance to young people and the sector. In 2016, the changing landscape of the youth sector – in particular the way the youth sector is resourced – made Fairground a critical opportunity to navigate and discuss these changes.

The conference took place on the 14th and 15th of July 2016, and had 175 delegates over the two days, many of whom were from regional and remote WA. We were honoured to have two great keynote speakers, Dr Marie Wilson & Emily Howie, as well as three panel discussions including a young people's panel, a panel on emerging issues in the youth sector and a panel looking at Aboriginal affairs and the role of the youth sector. We also heard presentations from amazing youth work, youth services and young people from across the state.





YACWA Fairground Conference 2016.

## YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE SECTOR SUMMIT

On the 9th of November 2016, YACWA and CREATE Foundation hosted a youth sector summit on the topic of young people living and leaving state care. The one day event brought together more than 100 young people, Child Protection workers, youth workers, academics and sector leaders. This event provided an opportunity to hear first-hand experiences and issues young people face when in Out of Home Care and when leaving care, to discuss innovative solutions, to develop collective skills and to develop specific recommendations that were provided to the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.

The Summit was organised and delivered by YACWA in partnership with CREATE Foundation along with a planning committee made up of young people, a representative from the Department of Child Protection and Family Support, a representative from the Youth Sector and a representative from the Out of Home Care Community Services Sector.

## SECTOR NETWORKS AND COLLABORATION

## THE AGENCY NETWORK FOR YOUTH (ANY)

This year, YACWA commenced the facilitation of the Agency Network for Youth (ANY). The facilitation change was in response to the feedback received from the ANY sector survey, and is a great way for YACWA to gain further insight into trends, issues, challenges and innovative ideas in the sector and to facilitate collaboration between individual organisations.

#### Alongside this, YACWA also maintained regular attendance and contributions at other key sector forums and networks such as:

- The North East Youth Organisations Network (NEYON)
- South East Corridor Youth Partnership Project (SECYPP)
- Northern Corridor Network Group (NCNG)
- Fremantle, Cockburn, Melville Youth Interagency
- Armadale Youth Network (ANY)
- Housing Authority Roundtable Meeting (HART)
- SiREN Network
- Joondalup and Wanneroo Services (JAWS)
- WA Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus (SHBBV) Quarterly Forum
- State Election Working Group
- Youth Mental Health Sub Network
- Kwinana Rockingham Service Network
- Youth At Risk Network

### MULTICULTURAL YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (MYANWA)

YACWA continued to auspice the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia (MYAN WA) during 2016/17. During this period, MYAN WA focused on four key strategic areas: youth participation, sector capacity building, policy and advocacy and sustainability. The achievements of MYAN WA included:

#### Youth participation

- Developing the Catalyst Youth Summit in collaboration with 12 young people
- Supporting 17 young people in the Shout Out program
- Supporting four WA delegates to attend the National FUSE summit
- Over 20 positive stories of refugee and migrant young people in the media



#### Sector capacity building

- Delivering four sector forums with attendance of over 150 sector members and young people
- Developing and distributing 12 e-newsletters to the network
- Establishing a social media page and growing the audience to over 400 during within the year
- Developing a new MYAN WA website www. myanwa.com

#### **Policy and advocacy**

- Collaborating with YACWA to write a submission into the Migrant Settlement Outcomes Inquiry
- Participating in the Public Sector Commission's reference group for their development of a CALD employment strategy
- Participating in a focus group for the State Government's review of state funded youth services
- Hosting two working groups, one looking at issues with young people from refugee and migrant background's access to Centrelink, and the other at the use of interpreters in medical settings

#### Sustainability

- Building MYAN WA's membership base to over 480 individuals
- Drafting a MYAN WA strategic plan
- Recruiting new Executive Group members, including two young people
- Formalising an MOU between YACWA and the MYAN WA Executive Group
- Completing the MYAN WA into the Future report

MYAN WA would like to thank the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Australia (MYAN Australia) and the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) who have provided funding for the network in this financial year. Thank you also to the members of the MYAN WA Executive Group for bringing their considerable skills, knowledge and commitment to the network.

## **SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING**

### THE YOUTH EDUCATING PEERS (YEP) PROJECT

The YEP Project has been working alongside the WA Youth Sector to deliver sexual health and blood borne virus (SHBBV) specific workshops and trainings to ensure that youth workers and staff working directly with young people build their capacity, skills and knowledge to better engage with their clients regarding these sensitive, and often, tricky topics. In total, there has been 8 YEP Youth Sector Workshops in this financial year, with the YEP Project contracting SHBBV experts to facilitate trainings on pertinent SHBBV topics, as well as developing and delivering our own workshops, **which have included:** 

- Beyond Blood Basics WA AIDS Council (WAAC) & Hepatitis WA
- Understanding Diverse Sexualities & Genders UWA Associate Professor Dr Rob Cover
- Talking Positive: HIV/AIDS YEP Project
- Engaging Young People in Youth SHBBV Issues YEP Project
- Creating Safe Spaces: the YEP Youth Sector Guidelines v2.0 – YEP Project

The YEP project also produced several new resources which can be found on the YEP website www.theyepproject.org.au that aims to help the youth sector in their work with young people on SHBBV issues. This includes the **YEP Youth Poster**, which is a youth-friendly version of the *YEP Youth Sector Guidelines*, as well as our first online training video **Creating Safe Spaces: the YEP Youth Sector Guidelines v2.0**, which is a condensed and easy to follow video based on the actual workshop of the same name.

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## THE ABORIGINAL YOUTH SERVICES INVESTMENT REFORMS (AYSIR)

The Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms (AYSIR) (the 'Reform') is a set of Investment Priorities and Principles, designed to drive improved outcomes for Aboriginal young people, and increase the effectiveness of government expenditure on Aboriginal youth services and programs. YACWA was asked to co-chair the AYSIR Implementation and Leadership Group (ILG) overseeing the rollout of the Reform with the Department of Premier and Cabinet, in the spirit of partnership between the government and nongovernment sectors. For the last two years YACWA has been funded to facilitate the non-government sector's involvement in the implementation of the Reforms.

This year we have focused on ensuring that all regions are aware of the Reforms process and the Aboriginal Youth Investment Priorities and Principles, and on connecting with the Regional Managers Forums in each region. Our work has continued to demonstrate how unique each Regional Managers Forums are in operation and membership, with different leadership and approaches to engaging with the community, young people, and the not-for-profit sector. YACWA conducted a survey in June 2017 which suggested the need for additional support for Regional Managers Forums to allow them to better engage with local community organisations. As a result YACWA's future work in these reforms will be focused on partnerships with specific Regional Managers Forums to improve their collaborative relationships, co-design and service mapping of their region.

### YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECT

YACWA, through the Capacity Building Grant Program funding from the Department of Finance, carried out a Youth Participation in Community Services Project in 2016. The aim of this project was to identify what support the non-government sector needs to better engage young people in the design, procurement, delivery and evaluation of community services. From these results, we developed appropriate training on engagement principles, and developed resources for effectively engaging young people in delivering community services.

Over the duration of the project there were 106 occasions of engagement with service providers and the non-government sector. YACWA also established a youth advisory group that consisted of 10 members, ranging in ages from 17 to 25 years old, to ensure the project not only reflected YACWA's vision but also underpinned the integrity of the project and displayed the principles of meaningful youth engagement where young people are valued and their contribution is respected, considered and acted upon.

Because of the sector survey and review of youth participation literature and resources, a training workshop aimed at increasing organisations' capacity to engage with young people in the design, procurement, delivery and evaluation of community services was developed and delivered in November 2016. It attracted participants from across the non-government and government sector including representation from both metro and regional areas.

The overwhelming and quick uptake of the workshop reflected the interest from the sector in wanting to improve upon their capacity to engage with young people. It also demonstrated that the sector was able be self-reflective and thoughtful about their engagement with young people.



## YACWA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

In the 2016/2017, financial year YACWA formally commenced our consultancy service. Whilst YACWA has previously provided fee for service work to the sector, in 16/17 YACWA developed a structure around this arm of the organisation and began work scoping and developing the Youth Consultants Project. The funds that are received from consultancy work enables YACWA to continue to better support our members.

## In this period, YACWA commenced or completed the following pieces of consultancy work:

- City of Cockburn Youth Services Strategy
- Centrecare consultation and engagement with children and young people

## ONLINE MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

YACWA was excited to officially relaunch our website in May 2017 with a new design that is more streamlined and easier to navigate. The need for a new website was well overdue and feedback gained previously from members was that they wanted to see more information on YACWA policy work, work with young people and sector events.

A large part of YACWA's engagement with our members is online via our e-news and social media – these mediums provide a fast, free, and accessible means of both getting feedback and in providing and disseminating information on key trends and sector news. YACWA's social media following has continued to grow in 2016/17 with more than 8499 likes on Facebook and followers on Twitter combined. Facebook alone saw an increase of nearly 1000 people liking the page in 2016/17.

We also relaunched our E-news with a transition from Campaign Monitor to MailChimp in 2016/17. Through this, we have been able to maintain our commitment to delivering interesting news, sharing stories and keeping the sector up to date with YACWA projects and events in a more streamlined and accessible format.





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# YOUTH LEADERSHIP

YACWA aims to ensure youth engagement, participation and leadership is central to all levels of society, including our own governance and the work in general of the organisation. **Throughout our work**, **YACWA endeavoured to promote, facilitate and engender youth leadership in the following ways:** 

- Developing the skills and confidence of young people to be leaders in the community;
- Actively promoting the positive contributions young people make to society;
- Building the capacity of young people to engage positively with government and to influence social policy; and
- Ensuring that young people of all backgrounds are given a platform to have their voice heard and to drive public debate.



## **THE 2016 WA YOUTH AWARDS**

The WA Youth Awards were established in 1999 to provide a platform to recognise our most amazing, inspirational and dedicated young people aged 12 to 25. These are young people committed to their community, helping others and thinking outside of the box. The awards also recognise outstanding youth groups and organisations that serve and support the state's young people.

We know that young people don't often get recognised for the contributions they make to the community, and our community often falls back into the stereotype that young people are disengaged and disinterested. This event, and the young people that are recognised at it, prove that stereotype to be very wrong.

The 2016 WA Youth Awards was held at the Crown Grand Ballroom on Friday the 25th of November. The 2016 WA Young Person of the Year was the incredible Vanessa Vlajkovic who is an important advocate for the deaf blind community across the state. We would like to again congratulate all the seven fantastic winners for their categories, and all the nominees and finalists.

As with every year of the WA Youth Awards, the event was only made possible by the generous contributions and time-commitments of our partners, sponsors, organisers, nominators and attendees.



WA Youth Awards 2016.

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## **MUSIC FEEDBACK**

The Music Feedback project uses music and popular culture to promote positive mental health and reduce stigma associated with mental illness for young people (12-25) from at risk groups. The 2016/2017 year was the final year that YACWA received funding for the project. **The achievements during this period included:** 

- Pressing and distributing 20,000 Volume 8 Music Feedback CDs
- Distributing 8,000 2015 Volume 7 CDs
- Producing three Instagram length videos to widen the project's social media audiences
- Partnering with nine new Australian artists for Music Feedback interviews, including a band from regional Queensland comprised of four young Aboriginal men
- Partnering with West Australian Music (WAM) to launch the Volume 8 CD on their Wheatbelt Touring Circuit during Mental Health Week
- Increasing the project's online following by approximately 25%

## **CD LAUNCH**

This year Music Feedback launched its 8th CD to regional and metropolitan young people during Mental Health Week 2016. An evaluation of the Volume 7 CD distribution gave insight into the reach of the project with 57% having reached to the Metropolitan region and 43% having reached regional WA.

### **MUSIC FEEDBACK EVENTS**

To launch the Volume 8 CD, Music Feedback partnered with WAM on their Wheatbelt Touring Circuit during Mental Health Week. This provided the opportunity to meet with local community members and organisations in Northam, Narrogin and Wagin. The tour involved a live gig at each location and featured a Music Feedback band from the Volume 8 CD, the Perth band The Tommyhawks, and local bands. YACWA also collaborated with HyperFest and Nannup Music Festival to interview several artists involved in these festivals.

## **MUSIC FEEDBACK WORKSHOPS**

Music Feedback hosted three song-writing workshops during the 2016/2017 period in collaboration with Outcare, the Champion Centre and the City of Kwinana. Seventeen young people took part in these workshops and wrote, produced, discussed and recorded eight songs that covered issues including suicide, mental health issues, relationships, alcohol or other drugs, happiness, hope, family issues and love.

## **MUSIC FEEDBACK EVALUATION**

In December 2016, YACWA conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the Music Feedback Project and found that the CD had been very important for organisations starting conversations with young people around mental health - the respondents touched on the CD's novelty and well-sourced artists









## THE 'YEP CREW'

The Youth Educating Peers Project has gone from strength to strength during the year, with demand for YEP Crew youth workshops and youth sector workshops increasing since the Peer Educators came on board in June 2016. In the 2016/2017 financial year, the YEP Crew have undertaken:

- 40 informal outreach and expo-style activities
- 40 youth workshops
- 5 youth sector workshops

These YEP Crew activities have mainly taken place in the Perth Metro area, however we did have the opportunity to travel to Geraldton, Bunbury, Harvey and Northam to deliver workshops to young people and members of the youth sector this year! It has been such a great opportunity and privilege for the YEP Project to visit rural/regional areas and connect with the young people and the youth sector in these places, and we hope to do more travel in the upcoming year.

YEP's online presence through our website and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram) continued to grow and be extremely active. The YEP team used these avenues to educate, empower and positively evolve young people's and the youth sector's perception around SHBBV and other risk-taking behaviours. In the last year, the YEP Talk has published over 50 blogs on a variety of youth SHBBV issues written by the YEP Crew, members of the youth and sexual health sectors, as well as our volunteers and supporters. Make sure you check them out on our website!

The YEP Project has big plans for lots of exciting adventures and projects in 2017-2018 so make sure to watch this space!!



## YOUTH DISABILITY ADVOCACY NETWORK (YDAN)

The Youth Disability Advocacy Network (YDAN) is made up of group of young people aged 12 to 25 living with a disability in Western Australia. YDAN aims to provide a voice to a forgotten, ignored and underrepresented demographic of the disability sector. YDAN provides an opportunity for young people with a disability to be consulted on the difficulties they face and make sure that they know their opinions are not only important, but also listened to when policies and other solutions are being developed.

The group is currently under auspice by YACWA, and in 2016 we secured a grant from the Disability Services Commission, delivered through VisAbility. This grant has allowed YDAN to employ a part time project officer and fund necessary expenses involved with promoting developing the group.

YDAN is the only representative group of young people with disabilities that is directly involved in advocacy in WA. In its first few years YDAN has quickly become the eminent reference body for young people with disability. This work has provided a meaningful voice for young people in both disability and youth spaces. In addition, we have started to bring together young people with disability across WA through our networks to strengthen and grow our voice.

YDAN started providing workshops for both young people and the youth sector workers, which draw awareness to accessibility, or lack thereof, of facilities that young people use. These workshops have been growing in demand this year, owing to the community's recognition of the importance of young people with disability's experience. In January YDAN also had the opportunity to travel to Bunbury to engage with service providers in the region and highlight the experiences young people with a disability face in regional areas. YDAN have enacted key pieces of advocacy this year including a position statement on the NDIS and in strategic meetings with key community leaders including the Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Disability Services, regarding YDAN's position on the NDIS.



YDAN also expanded and refined its workshop program in 2016/2017. The workshop list now includes:

- A workshop for young people introducing them to the idea of disability and doing a lot of mythbusting
- A workshop for the Youth Sector on thinking
  about accessibility
- A workshop for the teachers regarding young people with disability's experience of school (In development)

YDAN has also expanded it's experiential auditing service. This has included the creation of a robust auditing framework which has allowed the committee to complete several audits of youth and community services. Audits include:

- Foyer Oxford
- City of Armadale Museum Tactile Tour

YDAN has also focussed on developing its network of young people with disability. This year there has been the creation of Facebook groups as autonomous spaces for young people living with disability.



## **SHOUT OUT**

Shout Out is a leadership program for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. It is designed to enable young people to speak for themselves and share their experiences and views on a range of topics with a variety of audiences. While there are many specialist voices willing to talk about youth issues, we think it's often more insightful and meaningful to hear from the real experts – young people.

Seventeen young people participated in the Shout Out program in 2016/2017 and delivered 36 speaking engagements reaching an audience of 3,340 people and earning over \$6,000 in speaking fees. In the near future we are looking to expand the program by recruiting more speakers and increasing its visibility.

## **HOME IS WHERE MY HEART IS**

In 2016, YACWA hosted the 9th annual Home Is Where My Heart Is (HIWMHI) where nine young people with experiences of homelessness were paired with young emerging photographers to develop their technical and creative skills and to capture four images depicting what 'home' meant to them. The exhibition ran from the 1st to the 14th of August at the State Library and a special launch night was held on the 4th to honour all of the participants and highlight the often-negative stigma associated with homelessness.

HIWMHI was born out of recognition that young homeless people are marginalised, experience discrimination and often lack opportunities for their voices and stories to be heard. One of the main aims of HIWMHI is to support young people who have experienced homelessness in telling their stories and to change the conversation around youth homelessness in Western Australia These moving and diverse images offered insight into the lives of young people who experience homelessness in WA and acted as a catalyst for wide spread community education and discussion about homelessness. A post-event survey showed that 56.25% of those who attended the exhibition said they learned something new about youth homelessness:

*"I like that the young people's work always provides a different perspective to the homelessness experience. It's always great to hear from the young person who speaks."* 

#### "I thought the event highlighted the diversity in youth homelessness in a manner I don't usually see in my street present youth worker role."

The project was also rewarding for the young photographic mentors, with several getting involved in the project for the second or third consecutive year.

## *"I really valued the opportunity to contribute on this project."*

"It is great to be exposed to some of the services available for young people, as well as utilise my photography skills in such a positive way."

"I learnt that most homelessness is silent and out of sight, and so far from the public's perception. It made me realise how many people there are every day without a place to stay in which they feel safe and at home, and how this has an impact on every aspect of their life."

YACWA would like to thank all the organisations, groups and individuals who made this year's event possible.

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## HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE

In 2016, The Department of Local Government and Communities (DLGC), Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) and YACWA worked collaboratively to facilitate an exchange program between Hong Kong and Western Australia in October 2016 and February 2017.

The aims of the program were to provide delegates with the opportunity to develop:

- Self-confidence
- International friendships and networks
- A real understanding of a different culture
- A base for future education and career goals

YACWA hosted eight Hong Kong delegates for a week in Perth where they had opportunities to meet with Ministers, tour youth services and learn more about the Aboriginal and Australian culture. We also had the opportunity to take seven Western Australian young people to Hong Kong, where they immersed themselves in its culture and learned more about the political environment for young people in Hong Kong.

The exchange program is an initiative of the Western Australian State Government and the Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and we look forward to another successful program next year!





# TREASURERS REPORT

I am pleased to present the audited financial statements for the Youth Affairs Council WA (YACWA), for the period ended 30 June 2017. This report should be read together with the 2017 Financial Report. The accounts audited by Hewitt Turner and Gelevitis, are included in the Annual Report.

Against a backdrop of recent years, I am delighted to report, that through careful control of costs and a strong executive and management team, YACWA has ended the 2017 financial year with a profit of \$11k, compared to \$67k loss in the prior year.

The prior year financial statements were also restated to report grant income to be lesser by \$3k, resulting in an increase to the 2015/16 deficiency to \$67k, and a reduction in the Net Assets and Retained Earnings to \$28k. Please refer to Note 2 in the Financial Statements for further details. The Board and auditors are confident no fraud or irregularities were present in the financial and organisational records.

Our income for the year was \$1.37MM, with its main source stemming from grant funding \$1.16MM, with some other income generated through Conferences \$196k. Grants and Service funding was primarily received through Department of Local Government and Communities (DLGC), Lotterywest, Department of Health, and Department of Finance. Our expenditure for the year was \$1.36MM. The majority of this expenditure relates to Staff Costs \$577k, and Events and Activities \$480k, inclusive of staff expenditure. Other significant costs include Administration and Other Costs \$120k, and Travel Expenses \$101k. Full details of both the income end expenditure can be found in the accounts. An outstanding effort has been put in by our CEO, Ross Wortham, to ensure relationships are built and maintained with key stakeholders, which has allowed for the security of funding – continued and new.

Additionally, the sound financial management and improvement of the organisation's practice could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication by Ross, and Finance Officer Gaurav Singh. I would also like to extend a special thank you to the Board and the Finance Sub-Committee for their support and governance to ensure the organisation enters the new financial year in a positive financial position.



Katie Liew Treasurer 20 November 2017

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#### YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WA INC

#### INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

#### 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 2017, 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 2017 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.



Telephone: (08) 9362 5855 Facsimile: (08) 9362 5186

htg@htgpartners.com.au www.htgpartners.com.au

ABN: 78 607 011 001

PO Box 199 Victoria Park Western Australia 6979



#### PARTNERS

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

Vick Gelevitis BBus (Acc), FCPA, CTA

Darryl Rodrigues BSc, BBus (Acc), CPA



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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: <u>http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx</u>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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Dated this 2" day of November 2017

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#### YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

#### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

			Restated
	Note	2017 \$	2016 * \$
INCOME Grant and Service Income		4 400 050	4 400 4 44
Interest	2	1,163,659	1,108,440
Conference and other income		5,100	6,258
	13	195,763	238,317
Membership Income	_	6,000	17,497
	-	1,370,522	1,370,512
EXPENDITURE			
Employee Benefits		577,146	565,724
Events & Activities		479,678	613,176
Occupancy		47,989	43,801
Depreciation		18,062	18,011
Vehicle and Travel Expenses		100,859	81,538
Finance and Insurance Costs		16,179	20,455
Administration and Other Costs	12	119,652	94,979
	_	1,359,565	1,437,685
Profit/ (Loss) before income tax		10,956	(67, 173)
Income Tax Expense			
PROFIT/(LOSS) AFTER INCOME TAX	-	10,956	(67,173)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			(
Items that will not be reclassified to profit and los	s		
Items that may be reclassified to profit and loss			
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/ (LOSS) F			
THE YEAR	2	10,956	(67,173)
	·	10,000	(01,115)

\* Refer to Note 2 for details regarding the restatement.

### YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

A5 A	1 30 JUNE 2017		
	Note	2017 \$	Restated 2016* \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	309,048	459,581
Trade and other receivables	5,2	34,147	56.374
Prepayments	6	17,999	34,474
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	-	361,194	550,429
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	38,735	56,797
Rental Bond		10,010	10,010
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		48,745	66,807
TOTAL ASSETS	-	409,939	617,236
LIABILITIES CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables		60,147	107,864
Provisions for Employee Entitlements	9	20,413	19,122
Project Funds Received in Advance	8,13	290,266	462,094
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	370,826	589,080
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for Employee Entitlements		-	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	-		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1.00	370,826	589,080
NET ASSETS	_	39,113	28,157
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained earnings	2	39,113	28,157
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	-	39,113	28,157
	-	58,115	20,157

\* Refer to Note 2 for details regarding the restatement.



Phone: 08 9227 5440 Email: yacwa@yacwa.org.au Address: Level 2, 196 Oxford Street, Leederville 6007 Postal Address: Po Box 334, Leederville WA, 6903 Web: www.yacwa.org.au Facebook: www.facebook.com/yacwa Twitter: twitter.com/yacwa