

YACWA ANNUAL REPORT

2015/2016



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 AND PRESENT AND EXTEND THIS TO ALL ABORIGINAL PEOPLE SEEING THIS MESSAGE.

MISSION

To be the leading peak body working to ensure that young people and the workforce that support them are valued, informed and have opportunities to influence public policy.

VISION

We seek to develop a Western Australian community where all young people are empowered and have their human rights maintained. We aspire to create a community that values young people's skills and knowledge and engages them in decision making.



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

Message from the CEO



In writing this message to members I want to not only reflect on the challenges and hurdles that the youth sector and so many young people had to face throughout the year, but also the strengths, successes and stories of the many outstanding people and services that made the 2015/16 year so great.

In the latter part of the financial year, I was privileged to take on the role of CEO here at YACWA. I can honestly say I take on this responsibility with a strong sense of respect to the 35 year history of social advocates and sector leaders that came before me and with a strong sense of responsibility and duty to the future of the youth sector and to empowering the voice of young people in WA.

The 2015/16 financial year brought a great deal of change and many challenges for our sector and for young people. In response to the steady decline in the State's revenue and increasing debt we saw the release of conservative state and federal budgets, which did not address the most significant challenges facing young people, specifically housing affordability and homelessness, education and health. State government agencies, which fund large parts of the youth sector, also began 'expenditure efficiency reviews' which in turn put the sector under further

strain and financial pressures with uncertain future funding. Coupled with this, we also experienced rising unemployment in WA well beyond the national average, changes to welfare in remote parts of WA and increased costs for young people to access education and TAFE, all making it more difficult for young people to find a path forward.

Throughout the year, YACWA continued to advocate for young people on these issues, providing information and advice to members and actively working with government both behind the scenes and in public submissions and advocacy campaigns. We also saw the youth sector continue to step up and respond, collaborating in new and innovative ways to provide the best support possible to young people in need.

Beyond this direct advocacy and engagement with all levels of government and the youth services sector, YACWA maintained a strong presence in the media to ensure young people's stories and issues that affect young people in WA were brought to the attention of the wider public.

We have also worked to provide direct contact for our members to decision makers through events like the outstanding Catalyst Youth Summit, Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms, Youth Mental Health and Homelessness Summit and member briefings with State and Federal members of Parliament. YACWA has also continued to find ways that young people can become involved in decision-making at all levels of the work we do.

Our project work has continued to focus on building the capacity and capabilities of the workforce that support young people, whilst also using the projects as a way to advocate for changes in key areas including mental health, sexual health, service accessibility, education and employment.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE

Hosting the Catalyst Youth Summit – which was held over three days in February 2016, and provided 60 young Western Australian's from refugee and migrant backgrounds the opportunity to build leadership skills, develop relationships, speak directly with politicians and develop solutions to issues that face their peers.

Becoming the lead agency supporting the Youth Disability Advocacy Network – which is a network of young people with a disability and their support networks that support the advocacy, rights and inclusion of young people with a disability in WA.

Developing the Shout Out program – which is an innovative speakers bureau for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds that enables young people to speak up for themselves and share their experiences and views on a range of topics with a variety of audiences.

Hosting the West Australian Youth Awards – which recognises and celebrates the achievements of young people and the youth sector across WA. The 2015 Youth Awards saw Preston Culbong appointed as the WA Young Person of the Year, and in this capacity, Preston advocated on behalf of all young people, but in particular Aboriginal young people across the state.

Our work is driven by our 500+ members from across the State. Our membership is diverse and includes young people, individuals, non-government organisations. This ensures our work is driven by experiences on the ground, and informed by young people. I would like to thank all of our members for their commitment and input into the organisation.

In addition to the support provided to members, our innovative and exciting work could not have happened without the dedicated YACWA staff who work tirelessly to support and advocate for young people and the youth sector across WA. Each member of the YACWA team has significantly contributed to the projects, consultations, submissions and events held across the year. I would also like to thank the YACWA Board for their on-going commitment to the organisation, and the strategic leadership and governance of the organisation.

This financial year has also been a time of change for YACWA's leadership, and I would like to thank the outgoing CEO Craig Comrie for his five years of strategic leadership and growth for the organisation. Craig left in February 2016, and much of the work highlighted in this annual report was the direct result of ideas and projects developed during Craig's time.

The youth sector will continue to face challenges of changes in funding, policy and legislation, but I am excited by the opportunities that present themselves next year, and I look forward to continuing to work with all members, sponsors, organisations and government departments to achieve positive outcomes for young people through collaboration, innovation and ensuring young people's voices remain central to all of our work.



Ross Wortham
CEO

Message from our Chairperson



Welcome to the YACWA Annual Report for 2015/16.

This year has been one in which YACWA has continued to embrace challenge and change, and do so in a healthy way.

The year has seen one of the most significant changes at an organisational level, with the departure of Craig Comrie, and the appointment of Ross Wortham to the position of Chief Executive Officer of YACWA from a very competitive field of applicants. The change of CEO for any organisation is no small matter, and Ross has hit the ground running, and has quickly provided leadership through the increasingly complex, but not always complimentary social, financial and political environment in which we live and work.

YACWA continues to strive to provide opportunities to engage with our members, and the Board realises our membership is critical to our strength. To this end YACWA aims to provide pathways to bring the voices of our members, and all Western Australia's young people, particularly those most disenfranchised, to the forums where they need to be heard. The Board encourages and welcomes you our members, and those of you yet to become members, to keep talking

to us about what is important, and where we can do more. We are keen to create more opportunities for high level member engagement through involvement in subcommittees.

The Board wishes to thank the dedicated YACWA staff team, and volunteers for their commitment to empowering the young people of WA, and ensuring their voices are heard.

The YACWA-led WA Youth Awards also highlights the importance of this work and why working with young people is worth so much more than the dollars invested in young people and youth services.

Sadly the current economic climate has not been without consequence for YACWA. We know that a couple of our most valued projects, Music Feedback and Home Is Where My Heart Is do not have funding to continue at this stage, although every effort is being made to secure a future for these important projects through alternate channels.

I would like to personally thank the YACWA Board for their commitment and hard work as volunteers. I'm confident that the foundational work done by current and past board members has provided a base to continue to strengthen YACWA into the future, and to think more broadly and creatively about how YACWA can survive and thrive.

I welcome your input into this process, and encourage you to become an active member of YACWA and the youth sector community.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, belonging to Andrew Wenzel.

Andrew Wenzel
YACWA Chairperson



Our Advocacy

Overview of our advocacy

During the past financial year, YACWA has continued to fight for the views of our members and young people, in order to ensure they are well represented on issues affecting them. This has involved:

- Government responses
- Consultations
- Representing members at meetings
- National influence

Responding to Government

A major part of YACWA's work in the policy and advocacy space is responding to Government when it introduces new changes to legislation 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 mechanisms:

SUBMISSIONS:

- A written submission to the parliamentary inquiry into Building Resilience and Engagement for At-Risk Youth Through Sport and Culture
- A written submission to the parliamentary inquiry investigating Aboriginal Youth Suicide
- A written submission to the Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy February 2016 Discussion Paper

COMMITTEE HEARINGS:

- Evidence given at the parliamentary inquiry into Building Resilience and Engagement for At-Risk Youth Through Sport and Culture
- Evidence given before the parliamentary inquiry into the Review of the functions exercised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People

POLICY ANALYSIS AND POSITION PAPERS:

- State budget analysis
- Federal budget analysis
- Prepare-Trial-Hire (PaTH) policy position paper (submitted to relevant federal politicians)
- A letter to the Prime Minister on the importance of the Safe Schools Coalition.

Consultations

During the past financial year, YACWA undertook a number of consultations with young people and the 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 ensured that young people are driving the direction of the organisation. Some examples of our consultation work are included below:

SURVEYS:

- Driving survey
- Employment survey
- Voting survey
- Aboriginal Youth Services Investments Reforms – capacity building survey
- Youth Engagement in Community Services survey

POLICY CONSULTATIONS:

- Aboriginal Youth Suicide
- Building Resilience through Sport and Culture
- Youth Engaged in Policy Project
- Global Refugee Youth Consultations

EVENTS:

- Youth Mental Health and Homelessness Summit
- WA Youth Awards
- Catalyst Youth Summit

ADVISORY GROUPS:

- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network – Catalyst Youth Leadership Group
- Youth Disability Advocacy Network (YDAN)
- Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms (AYSIR) Aboriginal Youth Leadership Group
- YEP Crew Peer Educators

KEY DECISION MAKERS:

- Quarterly meetings with the Minister for Youth
- Quarterly meetings with the Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Quarterly meetings with the Department of Local Government and Communities
- Quarterly meetings with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support
- Quarterly meetings with the Office of Multicultural Interests
- Representation on the Department of Corrective Service Youth Justice Steering Committee
- Co-chairing the Aboriginal Youth Investment Reforms Implementation Leadership Group
- Regular meetings with members of the WA Opposition and other parties on a range of issues

Representing members at meetings

YACWA has continued to ensure that young people's issues are at the forefront of key decision makers and policy consideration throughout 2015/16. This has been achieved through specific meetings with senior officials and relevant departments, as well as through advisory positions YACWA maintains on committees (detailed in other sections) representing the views of our members.





National influence

With the defunding of the national peak body for youth (Australian Youth Affairs Coalition), YACWA's national influence has become an increased priority. This increase in national focus has translated into key pieces of work, including analysing the federal budget, advocating for the continuation of federal programs such as Youth Connections and Safe Schools, as well as tracking federal policy.

This national influence is evident through our work on the PaTH program which was announced as part of the 2016 federal budget. By writing a policy position paper, YACWA was able to provide information to the sector that alleviated concern and guided an informed debate on the controversial issue.

YACWA also played a lead role in the Youth Engaged in Policy Project identified ways young people can have a voice and influence in the way policies that impact young people are developed nationally. Young people have been active participants in this project and have attended workshops in Sydney during the development of the project.

As part of this process, and our ongoing work in the federal policy space, YACWA has worked collaboratively with other state peaks, and will continue to do so, to ensure that the voice of WA's young people are heard at a national level.

Sector Development

Youth sector events

YACWA holds a number of events in order to provide opportunities for networking across the Western Australian youth sector, to hear from leading experts working in relevant fields, and to improve collaboration and information sharing.

Some examples of events held in the 2015/2016 financial year have included:

- Youth homelessness and mental health sector summit
- WA Youth Awards 2015
- YACWA's 35th birthday celebration

Training and professional development

YACWA offered a broad range of training and professional development opportunities in the 2015/2016 financial year, in response to the needs and issues of professionals working with and supporting young people.

These training and professional development opportunities included:

- Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reform workshops (2)
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia (MYAN WA) forums (4)
- Cultural awareness: engaging with Aboriginal young people training – July 2015
- Leadership and management for people working with young people training (2) – July 2015
- Self-care for people working with young people training – July 2015
- Child protection: including mandatory reporting of child sex abuse workshop – August 2015
- Sexual health and young people with a disability workshop – September 2015
- Youth sexual health, ethics and youth work training – October 2015
- Youth mental health and homelessness summit – November 2015
- Creating sex positive environments that are inclusive of LGBTIQ+ young people training – December 2015
- Catalyst Youth Summit – youth leadership and advocacy training – February 2016
- MYAN WA visioning forum – April 2016
- YACPAK youth leadership and advocacy training – June 2016

Engagement with young people

YACWA works in partnership with young people to empower them to be actively included in public policy decision-making. Young people's experiences and voices are reflected throughout our policy and advocacy work. In the 2015/2016 financial year, we engaged with young people through the following measures:

- Survey consultations: three surveys were completed with direct input from young people relating to drivers licenses, employment and voting
- Submission consultations: two written submissions were compiled with input from young people, and two hearings before parliament were conducted
- Advisory groups: YACWA maintained its policy of having young people appointed to the board and also worked alongside groups such as the Youth Disability Advocacy Network, the Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms and the Catalyst Youth Group
- Involvement in events: young people helped design, lead, and facilitate events such as the Catalyst Youth Summit and the Music Feedback launch

Young people's experiences and voices are also central to YACWA's project work. All of our projects are designed to improve the lives of young people, and have an element of engagement incorporated into them to ensure that they are relevant and effective.

Some examples of our engagement with young people throughout the past year in our projects include:

- WA Youth Awards: young people judging the awards
- Shout Out: young people being trained and supported in public speaking
- Catalyst Youth Summit: young people leading and delivering a conference for their peers
- MYAN WA: young people speaking at forums
- Youth Educating Peers (YEP): young people being trained and contracted as peer educators
- Music Feedback: young people organising the launch of the CD
- Home Is Where My Heart Is: young people working with a mentor to tell their stories through photography

Regional engagement

YACWA builds engagement in the regions into all grant applications and project submissions and allocates 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.

During 2015/2016, YACWA engaged with services and young people in the following regions:

- Great Southern
- Goldfields-Esperance
- Kimberley
- Mid-West
- Peel
- South-West

Online engagement is a big driver of our engagement across the regions, with our Facebook page, e-newsletters, and emails employed by our projects and policy team keeping us connected.



Engagement in the regions in this financial year also included:

- Support to young people and the youth sector in Geraldton as part of YACWA's work on the Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms
- Regular consultation with regional members in the Kimberly such as the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC)
- Regional trips by project staff and the CEO to Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Esperance and the Mid-West to meet with local services, including local government, to discuss YACWA advocacy and support that could be provided to the region
- Distribution of Music Feedback CDs to regional areas
- Bringing people from the regions to events such as Cataly1st Youth Summit and the WA Youth Award.

A great example of our regional engagement is our work on the Catalyst Youth Summit. As part of this summit, regional young people were strongly encouraged to attend the conference and financially supported to do so.





OUR PROJECTS

Aboriginal Youth Services

Investment Reform **16**

Youth Educating Peers **17**

Music Feedback **19**

MYAN WA **20**

Home Is Where My Heart Is **23**



Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms

YACWA is working with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to facilitate the not-for-profit and local government sectors' involvement in the implementation of the Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms (May 2015) and Investment Principles. The purpose of this reform is to drive improved outcomes for Aboriginal youth and increased effectiveness of government expenditure on Aboriginal youth services and programs. YACWA co-chairs the Implementation and Leadership Group, which has oversight of the reform with the Department of Premier and Cabinet. YACWA has also received funding from the Department of Finance to support the not-for-profit and local government sectors in responding to these reforms.

The first 12 months of the project focussed on understanding the sector's knowledge and gaps about the reforms and associated trends (measuring outcomes, co-designing with Aboriginal young people, collaboration), and on the roll-out of the reform in the demonstration sites of the Mid-West and Mirrabooka and surrounding suburbs.

The second 12 months is, and will continue to be, focussed on continuing support to two demonstration sites, but will also provide information and support to Regional Managers Forums (RMFs) and organisations that are in other areas of WA south of the Pilbara. This period will also be focussing on strengthening the resources that we have available to the sector, and to RMFs, including adding blogs and other resources to our online platform, creating simple case studies that outline initiatives that align with the reform policies and principles that can be replicated in other areas, and providing advice and guidance to RMFs about how they can engage with the youth community services sector and with young people.

In this period we have also set up a Youth Leadership Group (YLG) to inform and guide the work of YACWA and the Implementation and Leadership Group. A selection process was undertaken, leading to the shortlisting of applications and interviews with 12 Aboriginal young people by Ross Wortham, CEO of YACWA and Jenna Woods. Jenna is a well-respected young Noongar woman with extensive experience in engaging with and facilitating youth leadership groups, and whom YACWA has engaged for facilitating the YLG. We now have nine very impressive young people sitting on our YLG.



Youth Educating Peers (YEP) Project

It's been an incredible first year for the new iteration of the YEP Project. Having re-secured funding from the WA Department of Health (2016-2019) to continue this YACWA initiative the YEP team has been extremely busy getting the project off the ground and running full steam ahead.

At its core, the purpose of the YEP Project remains the same, but with a few tweaks and add-ons that we hope can make it better than ever. The aim of the

YEP Project is to **EDUCATE**, **EMPOWER**, and positively **EVOLVE** young people's attitudes, perceptions and behaviours around sexual health & blood borne virus (SHBBV) issues, and other risk-taking behaviours. We do this by engaging young people in face-to-face and online interactions. YEP also endeavours to support the WA youth sector by creating opportunities where youth workers and staff working directly with young people are provided with the knowledge, skills and experience by which to engage their clients in a more youth-friendly, respectful and effective manner. As such, we host free trainings and workshops facilitated by subject matter experts in a variety of pertinent youth SHBBV issues. In addition, YEP assists in facilitating greater partnerships between members of youth and sexual health sectors to enhance the engagement of young people in this extremely sensitive space.

In 2015/16, the YEP Project has accomplished some significant milestones, including:

- Hosting three dynamic youth sector workshops on the topics of: sexual health and young people with disability; youth sexual health, ethics and youth work; and creating sex positive environments that are inclusive of LGBTIQ+ young people.
- Recruiting 12 YEP Crew members as paid, casual staff. The YEP Crew is a group of professionally trained young people from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences, aged 18-25, who come with invaluable expertise in the youth and/or SHBBV sectors, and are passionate about creating positive changes for their peers.
- Presenting the new YEP Project at the YACWA Fairground Conference 2016.
- Engaging in a number of youth events across the Perth metropolitan area including youth/health/school expos, youth festivals, youth days, formal education workshops, and informal outreach at youth centres.
- Launching the new YEP website and increasing our reach through creative use of social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.
- Increasing the YEP Alliance Partnership Network, with over 40 new YEP partners since the project's resumption in April 2016.
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The YEP Project is extremely excited to move forward into 2017 – we have new and awesome partnerships in place, big ideas and even bigger plans.



Music Feedback

“Music talks about mental health, so can you”

– is the message behind YACWA Music Feedback project, an anti-stigma, mental health campaign that targets young people aged 12 to 25 years. Music Feedback uses music and popular culture to encourage youth help seeking behaviours and to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues.

Music Feedback CD

This year Music Feedback launched its 7th CD in October 2015. We distributed 20,000 CDs to a wide range of youth organisations and young people. An evaluation of the Volume 7 CD release showed they were distributed to the following areas:

- 62% – Perth metropolitan area
- 11% – Great Southern region
- 6% – South-West region
- 6% – Mid-West region
- 5% – Kimberley region
- 4% – Pilbara, Wheatbelt, Gascoyne and Goldfields – Esperance regions

Music Feedback workshops

Three music writing workshops were held at Kiara College and one was delivered in partnership with Outcare. The workshops focused on mental health, reconciliation, respect, culture, identity, isolation and exclusion. Young participants reported enjoying themselves, feeling proud and feeling like they were part of something.

Music Feedback events

Music Feedback supported several events throughout the year including Unwind, NAIDOC Week events, Music to Open Your Mind, Youth Wellbeing Breakfast, as well as the City of Swan’s annual Hyperfest. To launch the Volume 7 CD, Music Feedback collaborated with City of Fremantle and headspace Fremantle at the Changing Your Tune Mental Health Week festival at the Fremantle Youth Plaza. Approximately 2,000 people attended and it provided a great opportunity to spread the Music Feedback message.

Music Feedback evaluation

In December 2015, YACWA conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the Music Feedback project. We found that:

- Music Feedback appeals to a broad group of young people with a variety of musical taste, especially priority groups of young men, Aboriginal communities and young people living in rural or remote communities.
- Stakeholders unanimously agree that Music Feedback raises awareness of mental health issues for young people and over 80% believe the program helped young people feel that it’s acceptable to talk about mental health.

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia (MYAN WA)

The 2015/16 period has been one of significant growth for MYAN WA. The network's membership has grown to over 400 members and the number of young members has tripled. We hosted four well attended network forums, with inspiring and informative guest speakers, including young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. We also distributed 13 informative e-newsletters and 8 e-updates to the youth/settlement sector over the year. We held four consultations with young people to facilitate their input in the United Nation's High Commission on Refugees Global Youth Refugee Consultations.

MYAN WA was recognised for two awards this year, receiving a Highly Commended in Office of Multicultural Interests' Multicultural Recognition Awards and as a finalist at the Community Services Excellence Awards, in the Citizen Empowerment category. We also co-presented at the West Australian Council of Social Services conference.

Catalyst Youth Summit

The most exciting project MYAN WA was involved in this year was the Catalyst Youth Summit. Held over three days in February 2016, this unique event provided 60 young Western Australian's from refugee and migrant backgrounds the opportunity to build leadership skills, develop relationships, speak directly with politicians and develop solutions to issues that face their peers. MYAN WA is incredibly proud to have supported the young people that developed this youth led initiative – we look forward to doing it all again in July 2017! The summit report can be downloaded from YACWA's website.



Shout Out

The Shout Out project was developed this year, to provide young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds the opportunity to share their experience and views on a range of topics with a variety of audiences. The program saw 17 young people receive a four-week training course in public speaking, sharing their story and media relations, and culminated in a public speaking event and program launch. All young people are now featured on the Shout Out website and are being booked (and paid) for speaking engagements.





Home Is Where My Heart Is (HIWMHI)

In 2015, YACWA hosted the 8th Home Is Where My Heart Is youth photography exhibition. HIWMHI is a peer mentorship and photographic exhibition, which captures the reality of youth homelessness in Western Australia.

This year, eight young people with experiences of homelessness were paired with a young emerging photographer. Each young person worked with their mentor to develop their photography skills and capture four images that depicted what 'home' meant to them. These images were then displayed in a photographic exhibition, which ran the 3rd to 14th August at 108 St Georges Terrace (old Bank West Tower). The exhibition was launched to an audience of 150 people during Homelessness Prevention Week in the first week of August.

HIWMHI aims to challenge and change public perceptions of homelessness and in particular, highlight the complexity of youth homelessness. A post-event survey revealed that 65% of those that attended the launch said that they learned more about youth homelessness from visiting the HIWMHI exhibition.

This year, once again the project demonstrated how important it was for the young people involved. The young participants indicated that the project helped them feel more creative and more interested in education and training.

"(I enjoyed) learning how a digital camera works, the cool adventures we had. (I learnt) how the camera works and with the lighting. I'm interested in being a professional photographer."

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've been involved (in Home Is Where My Heart Is) for a few years and the reason (for participating) has changed as I, and the project have developed. At first I wanted to help individuals share their story and now I have been exposed to a bigger picture, a community issue that needs awareness and compassion."

A highlight of this year's project was also a morning tea with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, where some of the young participants and photographic mentors were able to share their experiences of the project and also talk about youth homelessness and how it had affected them.

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

Media Profile

YACWA's reach within local and national media has continued to increase, allowing us to pursue both reactive and proactive policy agendas.

In 2015/16, we achieved 106 mentions, and whilst youth homelessness and unemployment continue to be prominent issues that YACWA responds to in the media, our coverage also included:

- Mental health and suicide
- Youth Voting
- Sexual health and education
- Licencing system
- Juvenile justice
- Education funding
- Welfare support
- Human rights

Several of our projects had extensive media coverage during the year, including Home Is Where My Heart Is, the Youth Educating Peers Project, Music Feedback, the WA Youth Awards, Catalyst Youth Summit and the Shout Out project.

High profile mentions in the media included:

- Interview on 6PR
- Online stories on ABC
- Interviews on Channel 9 Perth
 - Young People's attitudes about the 50 hour driving requirement for young people to obtain a drivers licence in WA
 - New secondary supply laws for Leavers Week, supporting parents and young people to make better decisions in relation to alcohol
- High cost of living for young people
- Generation Y work ethic is alive and well
- WA Youth Awards finalists and Preston Culbong – WA Young Person of The Year 2015



Royal Ishak, Golda Signal, Florence Baitio, Daniel Matabishi and Sara Shengeb, with Colin Pettit, are six of the young people who spoke about their experiences of racism and moving to Australia. Picture: Michael Wilson

Fails to dent enthusiasm and prospect

A peer leader group whose members spoke to 300 young refugees and migrants from 40 countries about settling into life in Australia on the basis of a report for children and young people from 100 backgrounds to speak out.

The report released on Monday by the Commissioner for Children and Young People reveals racism as a big issue in the lives of these young people.

But most of those surveyed believed this issue could be overcome with 82 per cent positive about their future in Australia.

"It doesn't matter if I was 17 or 18 or even 10 years old or a young person, they all said they had had some racism in some way," Mr Pettit said.

"We need to be listening and we need to value education and the youth movement."

Commissioner for Children and Young People Colin Pettit said it was the first time a group of peer leaders played such an active role gathering data.

He said the peer representatives helped generate a message.

foreign countries faced. "I think it is more important that's needed," Mr Pettit said.

"I think we need to have a better understanding and a better cultural awareness."

"We are not a multicultural society and we are not a multicultural society."

"We are not a multicultural society and we are not a multicultural society."

Committees and Conferences

Committees:

- WA Peaks Forum
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network WA Executive Group
- North East Youth Organisations Network
- Youth Health Policy Forum
- Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms Implementation Leadership Group
- Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms Working groups
- Housing Authority Round Table
- Youth Mental Health Sub Network
- Youth Partnership Project Executive Committee
- Mirrabooka Regional Manager's Forum
- Geraldton Regional Manager's Forum
- North Metro Local Government Coordination Group
- Armadale Youth Network
- Joondalup and Wanneroo Youth Services Agency Network for Youth
- CDC Youth Working party
- Commissioner for Children and Young People CALD Project Reference Group
- Department for Health Youth Mental Health Sub-Network
- Youth At-Risk Network
- Youth Mental Health Week Steering Committee
- Youth Health Policy Working Group
- Siren Network
- Kalgoorlie Youth Advisory Committee
- Cockburn Melville Fremantle Interagency Youth Forum
- Kwinana Rockingham Service Network
- WACOSS Children's Policy Advisory Committee

Conferences attended:

- Speak Out for Change Youth Summit 2015
- Australian Association for Adolescent Health Conference 2015
- WACOSS Conference 2016
- Western Australian Mental Health Conference 2016
- The 6th University Scholars Leadership Symposium 2015

Memberships held:

- Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
- Australian Council of Social Services
- Australian Institute of Management
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Family Planning Western Australia
- Western Australian Council of Social Services
- Community Employers of Western Australia

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the audited financial statements for the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, for the period ended 30 June 2016.

This report should be read together with the 2016 Financial Report, as well as the Management Representation Letter as prepared by Hewitt Turner & Gelevitis auditors.

YACWA ended the 2016 financial year with a loss of \$64k, compared to \$62k in the prior year. This financial position was adversely impacted by an external limitation of controls, particularly regarding staff costs (mismanaged annual leave expenses resulting in an unexpected \$40k liability at the end of the financial year). Additionally, fixed assets were undervalued, which led to a weaker than expected cash position.

The previous year financial statements were also restated with an error found during the audit in the allocation of membership and conference income, however, this will have no effect on the net result on the 2015 statements. Please refer to Note 2 in the Financial Statement for further details. The Board and auditors are confident no fraud or irregularities were present in the financial and organisational records.

YACWA's main sources of revenue are generated from grants, services, and conferences. The latter decreased by \$10k from the previous year due to the timing treatment with a portion of the income received from the Fairground Conference registration being rolled over to the 2017 financial year.

While income increased as a whole by \$102k, this was offset by an increase in expenses by \$104k, primarily due to events and activities by \$134k, as a result of a change in treatment of management fees charged to external projects. Please refer to Note 12 in the Financial Statement for further detail.

We understand we need to remain cautious of our current circumstances and consider its impact; however, the organisation has a strong CEO who has worked tirelessly in the few short months since coming on board to ensure the company reaches a strong financial position.

The proposed budget for the 2017 financial year has been approved by the Board, to which there is a great deal of confidence that the accounts will be in a healthier state to enable YACWA to meet its goals in the near future.

To the date of this report, no matters or circumstances have arisen which would have a material adverse effect on the financial health of the organisation.

A special thank you to the Board and the Finance Sub-Committee for its support, and a sincere thank you to YACWA's CEO, Ross Wortham and Acting Finance Officer Gaurav Singh, particularly in identifying and addressing matters prior to the audit and for implementing strategies immediately to rectify.



Katie Liew
Treasurer
2 November 2016

YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	Restated 2015 \$
INCOME		
Grant and Service Income	1,111,661	1,007,086
Interest	6,258	5,788
Conference and other income	238,317	247,902
Membership Income	17,497	11,352
	<u>1,373,733</u>	<u>1,272,128</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Employee Benefits	565,724	525,631
Events & Activities	613,176	479,539
Occupancy	43,801	48,956
Depreciation	18,011	10,147
Vehicle and Travel Expenses	81,538	115,452
Finance and Insurance Costs	20,455	18,355
Other Costs	94,979	135,573
	<u>1,437,685</u>	<u>1,333,653</u>
Profit/ (Loss) before income tax	(63,951)	(61,525)
Income Tax Expense	-	-
PROFIT/(LOSS) AFTER INCOME TAX	(63,951)	(61,525)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit and loss	-	-
Items that may be reclassified to profit and loss	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/ (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(63,951)	(61,525)

YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	459,581	546,240
Trade and other receivables	59,596	23,622
Prepayments	34,474	9,484
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	553,651	579,346
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	56,797	74,808
Rental Bond	10,010	10,010
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	66,807	84,818
TOTAL ASSETS	620,458	664,164
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	107,864	85,145
Provisions for Employee Entitlements	19,122	22,351
Project Funds Received in Advance	462,094	446,851
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	589,080	554,347
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provision for Employee Entitlements	-	14,488
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	14,488
TOTAL LIABILITIES	589,080	568,835
NET ASSETS	31,378	95,329
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained earnings	31,378	95,329
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	31,378	95,329

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016, and 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, the significant accounting policies note and the declaration by the responsible entity. The financial report has been prepared by the responsible entity of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Incorporated based on Subdivision 60-D Requirements for annual financial reports of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013* (ACNC Regulation).

Responsible Entity's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The responsible entity is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act). The responsible entity's responsibility also includes determining if the basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial report in the circumstances; and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to auditing engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the responsible entity's preparation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the responsible entities, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
(continued)**

Auditor's Responsibilities (continued)

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2016 has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with 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

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the responsible entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



**TIMOTHY TURNER
PARTNER
HEWITT TURNER & GELEVITIS**

Dated this 21st day of October, 2016

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank and acknowledge YACWA's diverse membership as well as the people and organisations that support YACWA in supporting 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

Funders and Supporters

CORE FUNDING:

Department of Local Government and Communities

PROJECT FUNDERS:

Government of Western Australia Social Innovation
Grants Program
Lotterywest
Department of Health
Mental Health Commission
Anglicare WA
Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Department of Finance
Office of Multicultural Interests
MYAN Australia
The Funding Network
OneLife
Department of Culture and the Arts
Edith Cowan University
City of Stirling
Rise Network
Inclusion WA
Mission Australia
City of Perth
McCusker Centre
Western Sydney University
WACOSS
Perth Centre for Photography (PCP)
Campaign Capital

BOARD MEMBERS

Chairperson: Andrew Wenzel

Vice Chairperson: Penny Webb

Treasurer: Nicki Morrison / Katie Liew

John Thomson

Sandra Spadanuda

Ayden McKenzie

NEWLY ELECTED 2015/16

Katie Liew

Karina Chicote

Jessica Doust

TERM ENDED 2015/16

Nicki Morrison

Peta Nordberg

Jeremy Peris

Kate Waylen

Stephanie Jackson

Annie Buckridge

Staff

CURRENT AS OF JUNE 2016

Ross Wortham (**CEO**)

Lianda Gibson (**Project Manager**)

Josh Cunliffe (**Music Feedback Project Officer**)

Anania Tagaro (**YEP Project Officer**)

Sara Shengeb (**MYAN WA Project Support Officer**)

Gaurav Singh (**Finance Officer**)

Jo Banks (**Home Is Where My Heart Is Project Officer**)

Laura Taylor (**Administration Officer**)

Carla Ormsby (**Manager, Marketing and Events**)

Cate Marrion (**Administration Officer**)

Past

Craig Comrie (**CEO**)

Donna Quinn (**Project Manager**)

Myra Robinson (**YEP Project Officer**)

Kate Carter (**YEP Project Officer**)

Rachel Fuller (**YEP Project Support Officer**)

Internship / volunteer team members

Junie Baptiste Poitevien

Ankush Wagle

Stephanie Tan







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