

Dear friends,

We would like to congratulate all the young people and youth services on hosting another amazing Youth Week. We were fortunate enough to attend a few events, but we know there were so many more across NSW. Youth Action would also like to congratulate [YFoundations](#) for a successful Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2023. It was great celebrating young people and their resilience at Oasis Youth Support Service. Youth Week is an important opportunity for young people to express their ideas and views, act on issues that affect their lives, and create and enjoy activities and events.

In light of the growing discussions about the upcoming Voice Referendum, we would like to share the words of our fellow peak [AbSec](#), “the importance of the Voice to parliament and constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is integral to reconciliation and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. The NSW government’s commitment to treaty with Aboriginal people is a positive first step in realising the full vision of the Uluru Statement from the Heart”. Youth Action supports the [Uluru Statement from The Heart](#) and follows in the lead of AbSec.

Over the next few months, Youth Action will work with a group of young people to develop resources on the Voice Referendum. These resources are to support young people and youth services in making an informed decision when it comes time to vote. It is important to acknowledge that people will have differing views about the Voice Referendum. We encourage respectful discussions and to acknowledge that this may be a difficult time for First Nations young people, services, and communities.

Our Health Literacy Project Training for young people and youth workers is well underway. We are proud of our committed young peer facilitators and our Young People’s Governance and Evaluation Group who are supporting us with this project. These trainings have also been an opportunity for us to have conversations with young people about what changes could be made in the health system to better meet their needs. We will be sharing this feedback to the Ministry of Health.

Lastly, we are setting up meetings with Ministers that hold portfolios relating to young people. We’ll keep you all updated on the outcomes of these meetings.

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# Opportunities

## Young People

### Ask for Health Training

The Ask for Health Training focuses on building capacity of young people to have conversations with their peers about health. It will be facilitated by Youth Action and when possible young peer facilitators will be present to support the training. The training looks at how strengthening the health literacy of young people and the services working with them can improve health outcomes for young people. The next training is at 5:30pm on Tuesday 6 June. If you have any questions, please email our Health Literacy Project Coordinator, Jazzie Quinn at [jazzie@youthaction.org.au](mailto:jazzie@youthaction.org.au) or call her on 0456 584 314.

[Register here](#)

### Applications for the NSW Youth Advisory Council 2024

The NSW Youth Advisory Council (YAC) provides a direct line of communication between young people and the NSW Government, allowing young people between the aged of 12-24 to advise the government on issues that are relevant and important to them. There are 12 spots available, and applications are open to all NSW children and young people in the 12-24 age cohort. YAC council members meet every 4-6 weeks to discuss and monitor policies and legislation regarding young people, and provide advice to Ministers and the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People. Applications close on 21 May 2023.

[Apply here](#)

### Closing tomorrow: Join the Raise Our Voice Australia's 2023 training cohort!

Over the 10 week online program, participants learn the fundamentals of domestic policy, foreign policy and politics, as well as the importance of self-care through change making. Participants also participate in group

mentoring with a policy maker or someone leading change in a political space. If you're interested and would like to learn more, please visit <https://raiseourvoiceaustralia.com/our-programs> or get in touch with the team via [training@raiseourvoiceaustralia.com](mailto:training@raiseourvoiceaustralia.com). Applications close on 5 May 2023.

## Western Sydney Young People's Network

Are you a young person active in your local community committed to making Western Sydney a better place for young people? Join Youth Action's Western Sydney Young People's Network.

[Sign up here](#)

## Youth Sector

### Join the May Youth Sector Session

Please join us for our next NSW Youth Sector Session on 'Facilitating respectful conversations between First Nation and non-First nations people' at 10am on Thursday 18 May. It will be presented by Woolwonga, Gurindji woman Susan Moylan-Coombs. Susan is a Knowledge Holder who was involved in Mosman Council's Aunty Time Project, which won the Outstanding Partnership Award at last year's NSW Youth Work Awards. The Aunty Time program is a collaborative program developed in partnership with local First Nations organisation The Gaimaragal Group. The program brought together a group of 20 young people which challenged notions of stigma and provided a space for healthy discussion of society's taboo topics. The session will explore how to use the Aunty Time model to build a framework for respectful conversations in the lead up to the Voice Referendum.

[Register here](#)

### Ask for Health Sector Training

The Ask for Health Sector training focuses on building capacity of workers to have conversations with young people about health. It will be facilitated by Youth Action and when possible young peer facilitators will be present to support the training. The training also looks at how strengthening the health

literacy of young people and the services working with them can improve health outcomes for young people. The next Ask for Health Sector training is at 10am on Thursday 1 June. If you have any questions, please email our Health Literacy Project Coordinator, Jazzie Quinn at [jazzie@youthaction.org.au](mailto:jazzie@youthaction.org.au) or call her on 0456 584 314.

[Register here](#)

## Evidence-Based Youth Work Practice workshops

We are excited to be partnering with DCJ and Youth Work NSW to run training about evidence-based youth work practice. We have two in-person sessions being held in May in Orange on 16 May and in Belmore on 23 May. You can contact Katrina Hausia, Youth Development Officer, Orange Council at [khausia@orange.nsw.gov.au](mailto:khausia@orange.nsw.gov.au) or Sarah Callaghan, Youth Development Officer, Canterbury-Bankstown Council at [sarah.callaghan@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sarah.callaghan@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

## Trauma Informed Care courses

AbSec is running an interactive trauma informed short course that aims to equip workers with basic skills, knowledge, understanding, approaches and strategies to work effectively with survivors of past and ongoing trauma. It will explore the way that complex trauma, caused by early childhood abuse and neglect, impacts survivors and outlines a number of principles and approaches for working in a trauma-informed way with children and families. The two-day course will run on 31 May - 1 June and 24 - 25 July.

[Register here](#)

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## News and Resources

### NSW Government Coercive Control Taskforce – Children and Youth Reference Group

In 2022, the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 created an offence of coercive control in NSW. The amendment also set up a Taskforce that would consult with reference groups to consider and provide advice and recommendations about the impact of the new crime on specific

groups in the community. Youth Action was invited by the Attorney General to participate in the Coercive Control Children and Youth Reference Group. We attended the first meeting this month and are looking forward to supporting the work of the Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce on the coercive control reforms.

## National Summit for Intergenerational Fairness

Youth Action was invited to attend the National Summit for Intergenerational Fairness, hosted by Think Forward, Orygen and Foundations for Tomorrow. The summit explored the experiences and challenges of intergenerational inequity within policy and government systems, the impact on young people in Australia and opportunities for governments and policy makers to prioritise and act on this issue. We were lucky to hear from the first Welsh Commissioner for [Future Generations](#), Sophie Howe.

## Walking in Commemoration of Stolen Survivors

To mark National Sorry Day and the start of National Reconciliation Week, Cootamundra Girls Aboriginal Corporation will be hosting an event in Sydney's Royal Botanical Gardens, from 10am until 2pm on Saturday, 27 May. The family-friendly event will include a commemoration of Survivors past and present, as well as panel discussions, cultural performances and activities, and an installation walk along Tarpeian Way. [Find out more.](#)

## NCOSS: Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW

The Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW project was released by the NSW Council of Social Service this month. The report breaks down poverty rates and provides a deep dive into where people with disadvantage are located, their age, sex, employment, and housing tenure. It additionally shows us how the state of economic disadvantage has changed since 2016. The report makes key recommendations across areas of income support, social housing and private rental market, cost of living and the social services sector. [Read the full report here.](#)

## Guidebook: Youth Engagement in Health Research

There is growing evidence that health research on issues affecting young

people is better when young people are engaged across all research phases: from agenda-setting to translation into policy and service design and delivery. The Young and Resilient Research Centre and the Wellbeing, Health & Youth Commission developed a suite of resources to guide and support researchers in engaging and collaborating with young people. Regardless of what phase of research you are in, these resources provide simple and practical steps which can help you engage with young people in ways that are respectful, meaningful and inclusive. [Read the resources here.](#)