

Dear friends,

I'm excited to share that we sold out both the NSW Youth Work Conference and Awards *Listen, Learn and Celebrate* this year. It was fantastic to see over 300 people come together to reconnect, learn and share ways to improve services with colleagues and friends. *Listen, Learn and Celebrate* provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight and celebrate the NSW youth sector's successes. I would like to thank our Official Event Partners for the Conference and Awards: [Department of Communities and Justice \(DCJ\)](#) and [Office for Regional Youth](#), as well as our Award Supporters: [Association of Children's Welfare Agencies \(ACWA\)](#), [The Centre for Volunteering](#), [NSW Council of Social Service \(NCOSS\)](#), [Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care](#), and [Victoria University](#).

We would like to congratulate again the winners, highly commended and nominees of the NSW Youth Work Awards, and to extend a big thank you to all the speakers who shared their insights and expertise. Youth Action is grateful to The Hon Rose Jackson, Minister for Youth for addressing Day 2 of the NSW Youth Work Conference and to The Hon Jihad Dib, Minister for Youth Justice for opening the Awards.

Service providers in the youth sector have often said that more needs to be understood about the lived realities for young

people in conflict with the law. In line with our Throughcare Initiative, Youth Action has been working with the Australian Theatre for Young People to develop a script that centers on young people's lived experiences of law and the justice system. Over the past 12 months, Youth Action has been facilitating consultations with young people in conflict with the justice system. We commissioned Aboriginal playwright Hannah Belanzky to develop a script for a series of vignettes representing the collective stories that young people have shared with us through these consultations.

We are thrilled to share that the finished play 'Saplings' will be performing as part of the 2024 Sydney Film Festival. We are holding a special youth sector performance at 2pm on 2 February 2024 to be followed by a panel discussion and light refreshments. We would love you, your team, and young people to join us for that session. [Tickets for sector session are available here.](#) If you are not able to attend that session, you also purchase tickets to any of the other performances between 24 January – 4 February.

Youth Action has joined the campaign to raise the age of criminal responsibility in NSW. We are coming together with First Nations organisations, peak bodies, frontline services, workers, human rights advocates, and legal experts. We know the damage caused to children as young as 10 when they are

taken to police stations, subjected to body searches, and held in custody. All contact with the criminal justice system is traumatic, and it doesn't deliver safer communities. The NSW government must raise the age to at least 14 and work with us to support children, young people, families and communities to get better outcomes for all. The campaign in NSW is building significant momentum and we encourage you to be a part of that. Organisations and individual supporters are invited to join us. [Join the campaign here.](#)

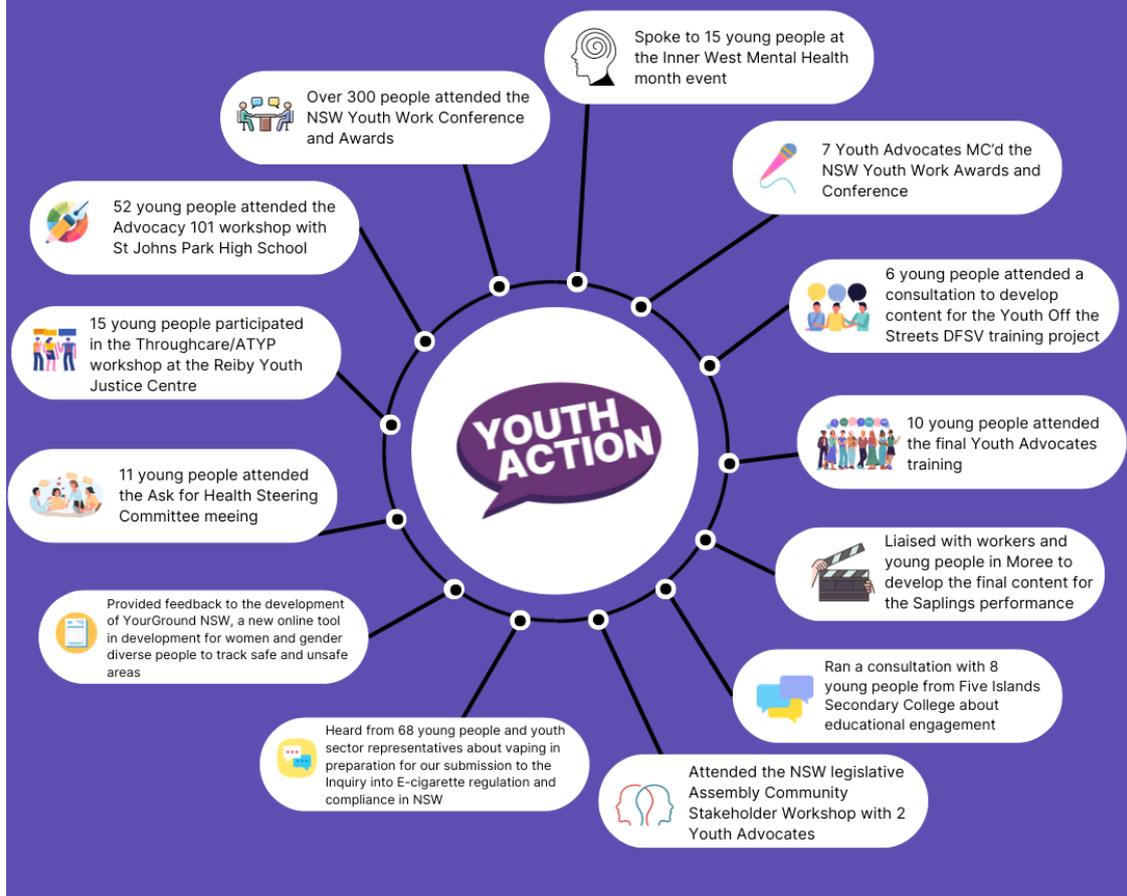
As you may know, Youth Action has been working with Social Ventures Australia to develop a Creating Great Jobs checklist and resource page for employers and young employees. This involved a consultation and co-design process with young people to capture the ideas, views and experiences of young people, to inform employers about the benefits of employing them, how to best utilise their skills and how to create safe and supportive workplaces where they can learn and work at their best. We are excited to share these resources on how young people said they want to be supported in the workplace. [Access the report and resources here.](#)

Over the next few days Youth Action's Health Literacy Project: Ask for Health team and two members of the Young Person Steering Committee will be in Adelaide to speak at the Australian Association for Adolescent Health (AAAH) 2023

Youth Health Conference: Solution Generation. The Ask for Health team will be speaking about the importance of co-designing youth health resources with young people and the success of the Ask for Health Project. You can learn more about the conference [here](#).

Lastly we want to congratulate the 10 young people who completed our Youth Advocate training. It was great to be able to have members of the group jump straight in and MC the NSW Youth Work Conference and Awards. We are really looking forward to continuing to work alongside you on our upcoming projects and initiatives.

October Highlights



Opportunities

Add Your Voice: Inquiry into E-Cigarette (vaping) in NSW Survey

Youth Action is entering a submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly's inquiry into E-cigarette (vaping) regulation and compliance in NSW. We will be informing the Inquiry about what young people have to say about vaping, what information they need about vaping and how young people could be involved in future campaigns

regarding vaping prevention and harm reduction. Youth Action will include what young people and the youth sector has to say, and what information and supports they need to talk to young people about vaping.

[Learn more](#)

Share Your Thoughts: Youth Work Conference and Awards

If you attended this year's Youth Work Conference and Awards, Youth Action would love to hear your feedback. Please share your thoughts with us to help us inform our future events and professional development sessions.

[Share your thoughts on the NSW Youth Work Conference](#)

[Share your thoughts on the NSW Youth Work Awards](#)

Annual General Meeting

Our members play a crucial role in Youth Action's governance. The AGM will be held online and in person at our office at Yirranma Place 262 Liverpool St, Darlinghurst at 2pm Friday 27 October. You can see all our nominee profiles [here](#). If you are unable to attend and would either like to vote in advance or nominate a proxy to vote on your behalf at the AGM, please click [here](#). If you are not a Youth Action member, you can organise your membership [here](#). For more information, please contact Annie Vanderheul, Youth Action's Member Engagement and Executive Support Officer at anniev@youthaction.org.au.

[Register here](#)

Young People

Wear it Purple Arts and Culture Fellowship

Every year, Wear it Purple welcomes a different LGBTQIA+SB young person (18-26) into this unique, transformative paid role where they will produce the arts and culture program for the year. This role will involve strong producing and administrative aspects, it will be an amazing opportunity for an arts practitioner and/or producer to develop their skills, gain invaluable experience, and significantly expand their network within the LGBTQIA+SB art community. Applications close 20 November.

[Learn more](#)

Applications for the eSafety Youth Council are open

Applications for the eSafety Youth Council are open for young people 13-24 years of age. This unique opportunity gives young people a way to share their thoughts and experiences about online safety with eSafety and the Government, ensuring that issues that matter most to them are understood and addressed.

[Learn more](#)

Australian Government's Youth Advisory Groups

Applications for the Australian Government's Youth Advisory Groups have now opened. The Australian Government Youth Advisory Groups will bring 40 young people together to work across five different groups on a specific policy or program to influence its development or implementation. Young people 16-25 years of age are encouraged to apply. Applications are open until Sunday 19 November 2023. The team are hosting a free webinar where we will share more about the application process and answer questions on the application process and advisory groups. The webinar will be held on Thursday 9 November 2023, 6PM AEDT. Young people can also

contact OFY at youth@education.gov.au if they need support to apply.

[Learn more](#)

Youth Sector

December Sector Session

Please join us for our next NSW Youth Sector Session on Thursday 14 December at 10am. This session “Don’t just hear us, listen to us” - What young people of NSW have to say about climate change will be presented by Freya Conomos, the Child and Youth Engagement Manager, at UNICEF Australia and Peta, a UNICEF Young Ambassador. The impacts of climate change are currently being felt by young Australians. As a part of the international negotiations leading up to COP28 this year, UNICEF Australia and the Monash Sustainable Development Institute partnered to support the Australia Local Conference of Youth – a youth-led national consultation about what young people have to say on climate change. Join us to hear what young people in NSW have to say about climate change, what was discussed at COP28 for Australian young people, as well as the youth participation principles utilised to ensure that the process was youth-led the whole way along.

[Register here](#)

Ask For Health Panel: Sexual Health

Following feedback from services for more specific health information, Youth Action has created monthly panels where we will hear from health experts on specific health topics. These sessions will run alongside our regular sector training. The month of December will focus on Sexual Health. Please join us on 5 December at 10am. We will be hosting experts that will talk on the work that they do and

answer questions from the sector. If you have any questions for the panelists, please feel free to email them to our Health Literacy Project Coordinator, Jazzie Quinn at jazzie@youthaction.org.au

[Learn more](#)

We are Hiring: General Manager

Youth Action is hiring. The General Manager position is a great opportunity join a small dynamic and innovative team and to grow and learn, while contributing to the advancement of social issues relevant to young people and representation of the Youth Sector who support young people across NSW

[Learn more](#)

Audit: Supporting Students with Disability in NSW Public Schools

Performance audits are reviews done by the Audit Office of NSW to see whether state, local government or funded entities carry out their activities effectively, economically, efficiently and in compliance with relevant laws. One of the performance audits underway at the moment is looking at whether the NSW Department of Education is effectively supporting students with disability in NSW public schools. If you have experiences or views on support for students with disability in NSW public schools, you can share them with the Audit Office up until Friday 3 May 2024.

[Learn more](#)

2023 NSW Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Workforce Baseline Survey

The aim of the survey is to improve our understanding of the DFV workforce and the broader workforce which may come into contact

with victim/survivors or those who choose to use violence. A key aim of the survey is to obtain information about the training and support needs in relation DFV, and your level of contact with children and young people experiencing DFV. The information will be used by DCJ in practical ways to identify areas where you may benefit from more training or support. The overall aim of this work is to improve the service system response to DFV, and ensure that workers are well-trained and supported to respond. The survey closes 12 November. If you have any questions about the Survey, please contact the NSW Department of Communities and Justice via katie.hall@justice.nsw.gov.au

[Learn more](#)

Resources

New Renters Kit

Renting can be tricky to navigate, especially if you are new to renting in NSW or haven't rented for a while. The Tenants' Union of NSW has made this kit to help renters put the pieces together, avoid common pitfalls, and resolve issues that may arise over the course of a tenancy. The kit combines legal resources with practical tips to help you get on your feet. [Learn more here.](#)

Social exclusion and the mental health of young people: Insights from the 2022 Mission Australia Youth Survey report

Orygen, Australia's Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health and Mission Australia has released the Social exclusion and the mental health of young people: Insights from the 2022 Mission Australia Youth Survey report. The report examines the relationships between mental health and social exclusion among young Australians aged 15-19 years. Social exclusion was defined across four domains: housing challenges, relational difficulties, financial hardships and education/employment issues. [Read the report here.](#)

Vaping report

The Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People have released their Vaping Report to understand the reasons young people choose to vape or not to vape and what supports would help a young person if they were trying to stop vaping. Young people who participated in consultations had diverse perceptions about vaping and vaping culture in schools, with the data finding that vaping culture is strongly influenced by peer pressure, used as a stress management tool and there is an alarming misunderstanding of how harmful it can be to your health. [Read the report here.](#)

Grants

Youth Development Scholarships

The Department of Communities of Justice offering up to 1,400 scholarships to students enrolled in education or training in 2024. Successful applicants will receive \$1,000 to help with school expenses and secondary support services. You are eligible to apply if you are: studying in Year 10, 11 or 12 in NSW in 2024 and you must also be either a social housing client or living in out-of-home care. Applications close 16 February 2024. [Learn more here.](#)

SilverChef Community Grants Program

The SilverChef Community Grants Program is open to eligible Australian community groups that use hospitality or food services to help disadvantaged or under-served members of their local community. Each \$5,000 grant is a 75:25 mix of equipment and cash. Applications close 31 December 2023. [Learn more here.](#)

Service NSW Disaster and emergency assistance for business

If you're a small business or a not-for-profit organisation in NSW and you've been directly impacted by storms and floods from 4 August 2022 or 14 September 2022 onwards, you may be eligible for a storm and flood disaster recovery small business grant. This disaster recovery grant of up to \$50,000 is to help pay for the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of a small business or not-for-profit organisation's

operations. You must be a small business or a not-for-profit organisation in a defined disaster area. Applications close 15 December 2023. [Learn more here.](#)
