

Dear friends,

It is NAIDOC week; the theme for 2023 is For Our Elders. The NAIDOC Committee have developed a toolkit with ways you can support National NAIDOC week you can [read here](#). There are fantastic events happening across the country. Yesterday, Youth Action attended our fellow peak Absec's NAIDOC event. We want to make sure to celebrate the resilience, culture and achievements of First Nation's people this week and every week.

This month we were fortunate to be able to meet with Greg Warren MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Early Learning, and Western Sydney; Rose Jackson MP, Minister for Youth, Homelessness, Mental Health, and Water; and Jihad Dib MP, Minister for Youth Justice, Emergency Services, Customer Service and Digital Government. We are so appreciative of the time they each gave to hear about the key recommendations from our Election Platform and to discuss how Youth Action can work together with the incoming government to improve outcomes for young people. Additionally, we were very grateful to Minister Dib who was able to make time to attend the Youth Justice Throughcare Steering Committee meeting to hear from committee members about their work with young people in conflict with the law and justice system. And to Greg Warren MP who will be meeting with the Western Sydney Youth Services Network on Thursday 27 July, registration information below. Minister Jackson is also keen to meet with the youth sector, we are currently liaising with her office to organise a statewide sector meeting.

As you know, over the past 12 months we have been working in partnership with the Australian Theatre for Young People to develop a script representing the collective stories of young people in conflict with law and justice systems as part of our Throughcare Initiative. We were able to hear from over 80 young people in consultations and workshops as part of this project. We were thrilled to be able to present the first version of the script "Just a Kid" in a professional script read to the Minister Dib MP along with key stakeholders from across government and the youth sector who have been involved in our Throughcare Initiative. We would especially like to thank the Vincent Fairfax Foundation for their support on the project. The script

was written by Hannah Belanzky, an emerging writer, actor and Yuwaalaraay woman based in Brisbane and performed by a cast of very talented First Nations actors.



Photo credits: Clare Hawley

If you are interested in learning more about the Throughcare Initiative, please contact [kate@youthaction.org.au](mailto:kate@youthaction.org.au)

Youth Action's in-person consultations in schools and services across NSW are under way. It was great hearing from students in Greystanes High School and Verona School about life after lockdown and their mental health, and to support Fairfield City Council's mental health and wellbeing day for high school students. Youth Action will collate what we hear from our consultations with young people and turn the findings into reports with recommendations for policy makers. The themes of this consultation include re-engagement in education and

learning, mental health and wellbeing and life post lockdown. For more information about our consultations, please contact Hareem at [hareem@youthaction.org.au](mailto:hareem@youthaction.org.au) or call at 0456 574 467.

I would like to congratulate the University of Sydney's research team for launching the Youth Online Safety project to promote the positive and safe use of social media. Young people 12-17 years of age were involved through all the research phases including in the design of the national survey and co-creation of a series of pilot videos and scripts that were then produced into short videos and fact sheets. This was a collaborative project between the University of Sydney, Student Edge and Youth Action. [Please visit the website to access the resources here.](#)

Finally, we are very excited to bring everyone together to celebrate the incredible work that the youth sector does for young people for the 2023 Learn, Act, Celebrate NSW Youth Work Conference and Awards.

Please save the dates for the conference on 26 - 27 October and awards at 6pm - 9pm on Thursday 26 October. The Youth Work Awards nominations will be open on Wednesday 12 July, so I encourage you to take some time to think about who you would like to nominate. You can nominate yourselves, your colleagues, your friends, and any of the great programs and services for young people across NSW. We will be sending out more information about the event soon.

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## Opportunities

### Voice Referendum Young People and Youth Sector Survey

Youth Action wants to ensure that young people and the youth sector have access to the information they need to make an informed decision in the upcoming Voice referendum. Please complete this short survey and share this with the young people you work with to help us with our work.

[Learn more](#)

## Young People

### Survey and Working Group: Creating Great Jobs Checklist and Resource Page

Youth Action is working with Social Ventures Australia to develop a Creating Great Jobs Checklist and resource page for employers and young employees. We are looking to hear from young people 12 – 24 years of age to find out what they think makes a job or workplace great for young employees. There is also the option to join a working group for young people 12 – 24 years of age to help us design the information for the Creating Great Jobs checklist and webpage. If you would like to be part of this working group, there will be an option in the survey to express your interest.

[Learn more](#)

### Youth Consultations

The Office for Youth will be visiting cities and towns across Australia to meet with young people on the development of a youth engagement strategy. If you are 12-25 years of age, don't miss this opportunity to speak on matters that are most important to you. Register to attend a consultation session or participate in the online survey.

[Learn more](#)

### Mental Health Youth Advisory Group

NSW Health is establishing its first Mental Health Youth Advisory Group. They want to hear from a diverse range of voices aged 16 – 24 years old who live in NSW, particularly if they have lived experience of mental health issues and feel passionate about improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people. This is a paid opportunity.

[Learn more](#)

Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia is looking for new Board Directors

SSDP Australia is a national organisation empowering student and youth participation in drug policy reform advocacy. SSDP is looking to appoint up to three new volunteer Board Directors, including a third Board Chair, to steer the organisation's governance for a two-year term.

[Learn more](#)

## Youth Sector

### Western Sydney Youth Sector Network Meeting

Join our next Western Sydney Youth Sector Network meeting with Greg Warren MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier, Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Early Learning, and Parliamentary Secretary for Western Sydney. The meeting will be online on Thursday 27 July at 10am. In the lead up to the meeting, we are asking the youth sector to complete a short questionnaire that will be shared to Greg Warren MP and his staff on the current issues facing young people in Western Sydney. Please provide your input [here](#).

[Register here](#)

### Join the July Youth Sector Session

Please join us for our next sector session on Thursday 20 July at 10am. This session will be presented by the CEO of Brave Foundation, Jill Rocheis and Head of Program at Brave Foundation, Catherine Coone. Brave Foundation is Australia's first national not-for-profit dedicated to assisting expecting and parenting young people. In this session, Brave will draw on its unique expertise to share evidence relating to the needs of young parents and their children and recent examples of amplifying their voices. The engagement of young people in social, cultural, and political life is critical to ensure that lived experiences inform emerging policy and practice. However, young people do not comprise of one homogenous group so diversity of voices is needed. Including the voices of young parents is gaining momentum.

[Register here](#)

## Ask For Health Session: Vaping

Please join our Ask for Health: Vaping on 1 August at 10:30am about vaping. We will be joined by Sarah Etter, Clinical Director of Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies (NADA). Over the past 6 months, the Ask for Health program has been chatting to services and young people about health literacy. Following feedback from services for more specific health information, Youth Action has created monthly sessions where we will hear from health experts on specific health topics. These sessions will run alongside our regular sector training.

[Register here](#)

## Ask For Health Training

Youth Action is offering free training for service providers and young people on how to talk to young people about their health as part of our Ask for Health project. The training will run for 2 hours and can be done online or in person. Sessions are available in August to the end of the year. The training will include learning about Health Literacy, being a good health buddy and focuses on ways to engage in conversation with young people about health. Youth Action will also be holding consultations about the current challenges services are facing and what is working well in the health space for young people. Please contact our Health Literacy Project Coordinator Jazzie Quinn on email: [jazzie@youthaction.org.au](mailto:jazzie@youthaction.org.au) or phone: 0456 584 314 to book a training session or for more information.

## Youth Opportunities Grant Application are Open

The Youth Opportunities program provides one-off, time-limited grants for new projects that enable young people to lead and participate in their communities. The Youth Opportunities program requires applicant organisations to have spoken with young people and involved them in developing the project proposal prior to submitting a grant application.

[Apply here](#)

## FAMS Conference 2023

Join FAMS for a one-day conference on Thursday, 17 August on Gadigal Country, Sydney at 9am – 5pm. This event is designed to provide attendees with the tools and knowledge to create safe, strong, and supportive environments for families. FAMS will be offering fact-packed, and practice based interactive workshops, 'something a little bit different' sessions combined with the opportunity to network with like-minded people.

[Register here](#)

## NetworkTransFORUM Webinar: Promoting Wellbeing - Introduction to Mindfulness

The Transcultural Mental Health Centre (TMHC) is presenting an online webinar on mindfulness on Thursday 13 July at 9:30am – 10:15am. The webinar aims to introduce staff from NGOs, migrant resource centres, community, ethnic and volunteer organisations to the practice of mindfulness. The focus of the webinar will be the practice of mindfulness in everyday life to support wellbeing and to assist with managing the stress experienced at a personal and work level.

[Register here](#)

## The National Children and Youth Homelessness Conference

Register for the in-person and online National Children and Youth Homelessness Conference that will run from 24-25 July. Be part of a push for a collaborative national plan to address child and youth homelessness - one which involves government; the NFP sector, other sectors and young people with lived experience. This conference is where we draw a line in the sand and start to come together and demand more from the Australian government to address child and youth homelessness.

[Register here](#)

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## News and Resources

Advocate for Children and Young People new report

The ACYP have launched a new report exploring children and young people's experiences of the cost of living crisis. The data found that 34% of children and young people and 41% of young adults are struggling financially. The report includes interim findings on the issue from a survey about the cost of living ahead of a broader report on consultations with young people, due to be released late 2023. [Read the report here.](#)

## Honour Awards Nominations are Open

The Honour Awards recognise the work of a person or organisation that has provided leadership or achieved outstanding success within the LGBTQ community in NSW or has provided excellent service or made a significant contribution to the LGBTQ community in NSW. Nominations are free. [Learn more here.](#)

## ATO warning young people about scammers

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) are seeing a growing number of young people falling for scammers in the lead up to tax time. Here are a few tactics to look out for: scammers pretending to be the ATO on social media, scammers claim they will be gifting refunds and will often ask you to log in to your ATO account by opening a link or attachment they've sent, scammers will try to keep you engaged in a conversation for as long as possible so they can collect as much of your personal information as they can. [Learn more on the ATO website here.](#)

## Towards Inclusive Practice: Guides, Tips and Videos

These resources were developed by Inclusion Australia to provide advice on how to be more inclusive of people with an intellectual disability. It consists of a range of helpful resources, co-designed with a network of people with an intellectual disability across Australia. These resources provide an introduction to inclusive practice in different types of engagement. [Learn more here.](#)

## New report Emergent Adulthood: Review of Literature

The report integrates academic literature to better understand the general challenges and experiences of young people between the

ages of 18-25 years in Tasmania today. It identifies transition points that may be applied to map current social policy and programs in our State. This important piece of work, commissioned by YNOT, was produced by University of Tasmania multi-disciplinary researchers from the Tasmanian Behavioural Lab and the Peter Underwood Centre. [Read the report here.](#)