

Dear friends,

It is that time of year again. I am excited to announce that tickets for the 2023 Learn, Act, Celebrate NSW Youth Work Conference and Awards are now open! [Please purchase your tickets here.](#) It will be held at the Australian Theatre for Young People on 26 – 27 October. We had a lot of feedback about what people would like to see in this year's conference, this included having professional development sessions with a focus on mental health, homelessness, participation and rights-based methods and programs and approaches for better through care for young people in conflict with the law. We will get in touch very soon with more information about the program.

We have had many award nominations come in over the past few weeks. We are very excited to bring everyone together to celebrate the incredible work that the youth sector does for young people. There is still time for you to make a nomination for the Youth Work Awards as we have extended the nomination closing date to 5pm Monday 21 August. Nominate someone [here.](#)

In other exciting news, Youth Action has launched two exciting projects this week. There will be more information about both programs below. We are accepting expression of interest applications for our Youth Advocates Program. Youth Advocates are a group of young people 12 – 24 years of age that work closely with Youth Action on all areas of our ongoing work to both advise us and to represent young people. Make your application and learn more about the program [here.](#)

Youth Action has also relaunched our NSW Young Artist in Residence Program. There is an open call out to NSW young artists 12 – 24 years of age to do a paid commission to co-design Youth Action's 2023-24 Annual Report and additional design elements. We are seeking design submissions on the theme of young people's voice, with a focus on why it's so important for young people's voices to be included in conversations that directly impact them and their communities. Learn more about the program [here.](#)

Youth Action has been working with [Social Ventures Australia](#) to develop a Creating Great Jobs checklist and resource page for

employers and young employees. Last week, we met with a fantastic group of young people to talk about what they think makes a job or workplace great for young employees. Following the workshop, we will be working together to design social media tiles and a webpage using what the young people have told us.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Greg Warren MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier, Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Early Learning, and Parliamentary Secretary for Western Sydney for meeting with us and nearly 60 sector workers and young people for our Western Sydney Youth Services Network meeting last week. It was a great opportunity for the sector to talk to Greg Warren MP about the current issues facing young people in Western Sydney and share the experiences of young people they work with.

This month we are also launching our 2023-24 Regional Tour. We will be visiting different regional areas to run consultations and offer trainings for young people and the youth sector. The different trainings we offer include, strengths based advocacy, youth participation, running great advisory groups, and evidence-based practice (EBP). We will be kicking off the tour in Southern NSW, where we will be running a “lunch and learn” EBP training with the Wagga Wagga youth interagency, followed by consultations with young people in the afternoon. Following this, we will be holding consultations with young people in Albury Council on 15 August and Federation Council on 16 and 17 August. After that, we will travel to Newcastle youth interagency on 6 September for another EBP training and more consultations with young people. I want to say a big thank you to the Youth Development Officers in those regions for hosting us. More information is included in the opportunities section below. If you are interested in a consultation or training in your area, please contact Hareem Abbasi our Capacity Building and Participation Officer hareem@youthaction.org.au.

And last but not least, we were pleased to hear that the NSW Government announced a 5.75% indexation to community services grants in the Health and Communities and Justice portfolios from 1 July. This will allow organisations to pass on the mandated Fair Work increase to workers on the [SCHADS Award](#), deliver on the super

guarantee increase, and manage other rising organisational costs without needing to resort to measures such as reducing hours or levels of service delivery. This recognises the sustained advocacy from peaks, unions, and many other organisations about the importance of the community services sector being able to offer better rates of pay and job security.



Opportunities

NSW Youth Work Awards Judging Panel – Youth Action member opportunity

Register an expression of interest to be on the Youth Work Awards Judging Panel. Young people and youth sector members are invited to apply. Judging will start in late August. Judges will have four weeks to make their decisions, this process will require approximately five hours of your time. Registrations close 23rd August 2023.

[Register here](#)

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](#)

Free individual and group therapy

The ACAP Psychology Clinic is staffed by final year Psychology/Clinical Psychology, Counselling/Psychotherapy and Social Work students on placement. They are offering a wide range of FREE individual and group therapy options.

[Learn more](#)

Rental reforms – have your say

The Government is seeking feedback on further changes to improve rental laws. The focus is on ending 'no grounds' terminations, making it easier to keep pets, protecting renters' information, and designing a portable bond scheme. Feedback can be provided until 11th August 2023.

[Learn more](#)

Millennial and Gen Z attitudes to tax reform survey

Think Forward have just launched a survey that will inform their first research report - Millennial and Gen Z attitudes to tax

reform. Together, Millennials and Gen Z now form the biggest voting block in Australia so there's real opportunity for change if we can show our politicians what younger generations think about sourcing and distributing those resources. The survey will close September 17 and Think Forward plan to release the report in November.

[Learn more](#)

Young People

NSW Young Artist in Residence open call out

Youth Action is launching our NSW Young Artist in Residence Program again this year. This is an open call out to NSW young artists 12 – 24 years of age. This is a paid commission to co-design Youth Action's 2023-24 Annual Report and additional design elements. We are seeking design submissions on the theme of young people's voice, with a focus on why it's so important for young people's voices to be included in conversations that directly impact them and their communities. Submissions close Friday 25 August, 2023 11:59AEST.

[Learn more](#)

Youth Advocates Program Expression of Interest Applications Open

Expression of Interest applications for our Youth Advocates Program are open. Youth Advocates are a group of young people that work closely with Youth Action on all areas of our ongoing work to both advise us and to represent young people. Youth Advocates will need to complete our 3-module skills development course to prepare them for their work. Youth Advocates are paid for their time when undertaking the work on behalf of Youth Action. This is an ongoing role.

[Learn more](#)

Menzies Emerging Leaders program applications open

Young people 15-17 years of age are encouraged to apply to the Menzies Emerging Leaders Program. Applicants must be students at any Australian school and be available for the virtual workshop on the 1st/2nd September 2023. The program supports a community of young people to engage with ethical challenges and build leadership capability.

[Learn more](#)

Young People Survey

The Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare and Health Consumers NSW are currently seeking funding through the Youth Opportunities Grant NSW 2023. They are looking for young people's ideas, suggestions, and opinions for what they want to see in a Youth Health Project. Young people can choose to just take part in the survey or express your interest in being more involved if the project moves forward. The survey closes on Sunday 6 August.

[Learn more](#)

Youth Sector

Join the August Youth Sector Session

Please join us for our next NSW Youth Sector Session on 17 August at 10am. This session will cover LGBTIQ+ inclusivity and it will be presented by Daisy Catterall, the Learning and Development Officer at Twenty10. Twenty10's LGBTIQ+ Inclusivity Training has a strong focus on understanding the lived realities that LGBTIQ+ young people face and how to better support them. We cover topics like inclusive language, understanding realities for LGBTIQ+ communities in NSW, social and health impacts of discrimination and how to establish and develop your affirmative practice to make your service safer and more affirming for everyone.

[Register here](#)

Ask For Health Sector Panel: Mental Health

Please join us for our next Ask for Health Sector Panel: Mental Health on 5 September at 10am. 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. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with our Health Literacy Project Coordinator, Jazzie Quinn at jazzie@youthaction.org.au or call her on 0456 584 314.

[Register here](#)

Consultation and training opportunities with Youth Action

Youth Action is running a series of consultation and training opportunities for young people and workers in schools and youth services as a key part of our advocacy work. Our training offerings include capacity building workshops with young people or staff on topics such as strengths-based advocacy, youth participation and engagement, running youth advisory groups, and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP). If your school or youth organisation is interested, please contact Veronica or Hareem on the details below:

- Western or South Western Sydney contact our Western Sydney Project Coordinator at veronica@youthaction.org.au
- Greater Sydney contact Hareem Abbasi our Capacity Building and Participation Officer hareem@youthaction.org.au
- Regional NSW contact Hareem Abbasi our Capacity Building and Participation Officer to be part of our Regional Tour 2023-24 hareem@youthaction.org.au

Work and Development Order Information Session

Join Revenue NSW, Legal Aid NSW and the Department of Communities and Justice to learn more about the Work and Development Order (WDO) scheme. The purpose of this session is to discuss how a WDO can help young people to clear up to \$1000 a month from unpaid fines, increase awareness of mentoring programs for people under 25 as a WDO activity and provide an opportunity for youth workers to give feedback about ways to improve the WDO scheme for young people. The session will be held on 10 August at 11am-12pm.

[Register here](#)

Holiday Fun for Regional Youth Program opened

The Office for Regional Youth's Holiday Break program provides young people in regional NSW with the opportunity to enjoy a range of free activities to connect, socialise, learn new skills and have fun during the school holidays. Funding of up to \$8,000 is available for 93 regional councils and eligible not-for-profit organisations to cover the cost of running youth events over the Spring school holidays. Applications close 13 August 2023, 5:00 pm.

[Learn more here](#)

Centre for Volunteering survey

The Centre for Volunteering, in partnership with the Department of Communities and Justice, to produce the second Volunteering Report. This is one of the most influential research projects in the sector, which holds the power to shape the policies, resourcing, and overall future of volunteering. Multiple volunteer managers from the same organisation are encouraged to respond. Completing the survey will automatically put you in the draw to win one of 30 x \$100 gift cards as thanks for your time and effort. There is [also have a dedicated survey for volunteers](#).

[Learn more](#)

TEI Funded Services Survey

The evaluation of the TEI program is underway. A crucial part of the evaluation involves the valuable input received from TEI providers through the survey. The TEI Evaluation survey to the nominated contact person registered in DCJ's payment system at the contract level for service providers. If they are out of office, their nominated contact was sent the survey for completion. If the contact person for a service provider did not receive an email from the TEI mailbox (tei@facns.nsw.gov.au) with the survey links, they can contact tei@facns.nsw.gov.au so we can ensure they receive a copy. All service providers have until COB on Friday 4 August to complete the survey. The evaluators are only seeking one response per TEI contract. If service providers have any issues with completing the survey or any questions, please direct them

to jwang@socialventures.com.au. Social Ventures Australia will be managing the survey process.

Membership

Our membership base drives our work and makes us a strong, productive peak body. A collective of diverse students, activists, youth workers, service providers, organisations and individuals from across NSW helping improve the lives of young people and the work of the youth sector. Have your voice heard. Become a member today. Youth Action members fall into three categories:

- Young people members – aged 12–25. Young person membership is free.
- Individual members – aged 26 or more and working in the youth sector or have an interest in youth policy. Individual membership is free.
- Organisation members – services of all sizes that support young people. Organisational membership has a sliding scale fee and is renewed each July.

[Learn more](#)

Grants

Event Grants - Women & Leadership Australia

As part of the 2023 Women's Leadership Symposium, Women & Leadership Australia is offering sixty-four (64) full-attendance grants (valued at over \$70,000) to women who play active leadership roles within their communities and organisations, but who would otherwise be unable to attend the Symposium due to a lack of funding or employer support. [Learn more here.](#)

Community Grants Program - SilverChef

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. These community groups can include:

- registered charities and not-for-profits
- social enterprises (direct-benefit, cross-subsidy, or donation model)
- private entities with an ABN for which improving the lives of Indigenous people accounts for more than 50% of their time and/or resources

Application close 30 September. [Learn more here.](#)

Emergency relief support for temporary visa holders - Australian Red Cross

Emergency relief is to help people meet their basic needs, like food, medicine or shelter. This support is for people who do not have access to Commonwealth income support (including SRSS, Special Benefits and Job Seeker). Your application will be assessed for all available emergency relief available in your state or territory at that time. If eligible, payment amounts will vary according to your situation and family size. [Learn more here.](#)

Futures Fund - Black Rainbow

Black Rainbow is investing in the futures of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+SB community and offers up to \$1000 to eight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+SB recipients each year. The Futures Fund is a development bursary awarded to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+SB community members who demonstrate they are high achievers and are excelling in their chosen field and require additional support. These include but are not limited to the education and professional sectors and trade, arts, and sport. Applications close 30 October. [Learn more here.](#)

Home Support Grants - Youngcare - Support to move back home, or to make a new one

The Home Support Grants provide essential funding to assist people

in moving from inappropriate housing, such as aged care, rehabilitation or hospital, into somewhere more appropriate. This may be back home or to Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA). Funding is available for people with extreme functional impairment caused by a physical disability. This can be used for essential disability equipment, home modifications, and basic household items such as whitegoods and essential furniture. [Learn more here.](#)