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Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that it is the end of another year. Once again, we saw the youth sector's critical role with supporting young people across all areas of their lives. We would like to thank our amazing youth sector and young people members and all our other stakeholders who have engaged with us throughout the year. It is always such a privilege to work alongside you and we are truly grateful for the contributions you make to our collective work. We look forward to working collaboratively with you all next year to continue in improving the lives of young people in NSW.

Last week we had our 2023 Annual General Meeting. Our members play a crucial role in Youth Action's governance. We would like to thank everyone who nominated for our Board, we were overwhelmed by the number and calibre of nominees. You can see our new Board members [here](#). Youth Action looks forward to working alongside our Board in the coming year. We had the opportunity to share our 2022-2023 Annual Report at the AGM. We would like to thank our talented Young Artist in Residence Jennie Zhu for the cover art and for the team at Leticia Anne Designs for putting together such a beautiful report. [You can read the report here.](#)

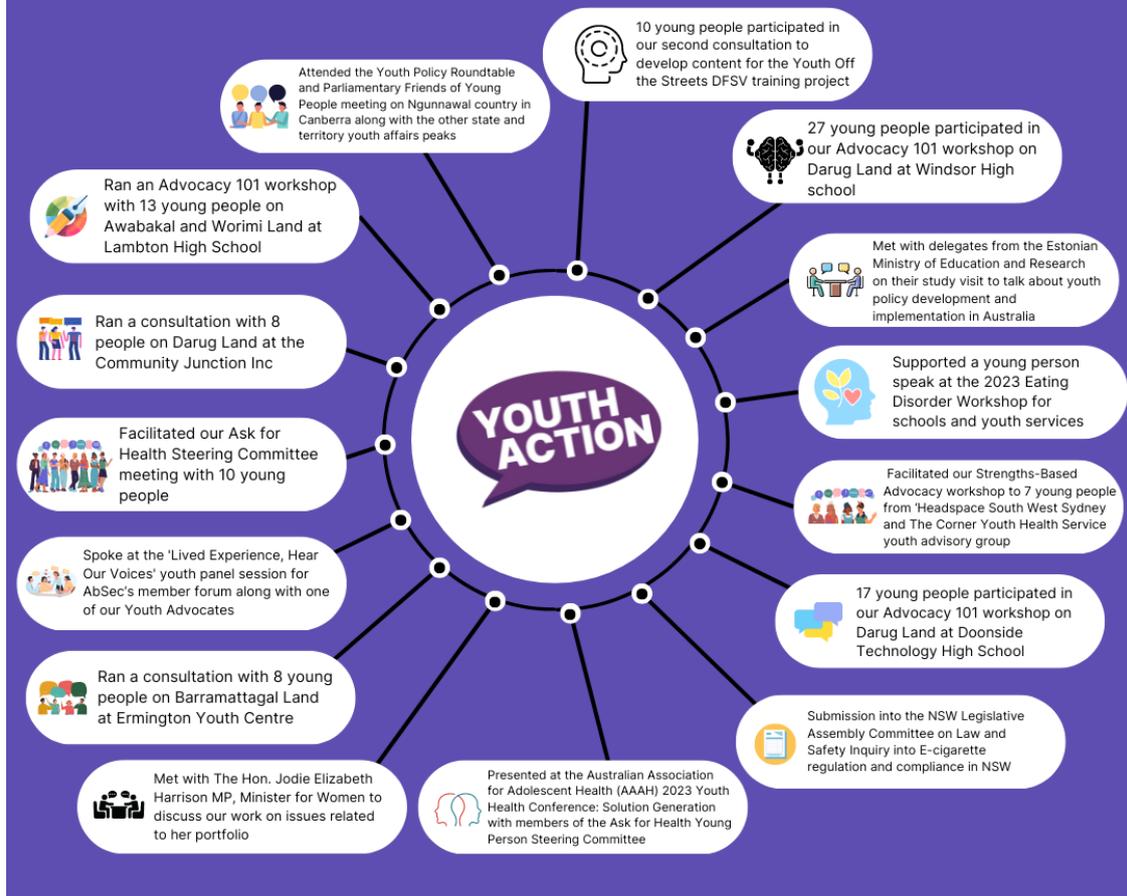
As you may know, Youth Action has been working with the Australian Theatre for Young People to develop a script that centres on young people's lived experiences of law and the justice system as part of our Throughcare Initiative. We are thrilled that the play 'Saplings' will be performed as part of the 2024 Sydney 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 may also purchase tickets to any of the other performances between 24 January – 4 February.

Our Chairperson, Penny Lamaro and I recently met with The Hon. Jodie Harrison MP, Minister for Women, Seniors, Volunteering and Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Minister Harrison was really interested in what we have heard from young people on domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) in our Sexual Violence Report and what we have heard from the sector about the intersection between DFSV and homelessness and contact with law and justice systems. Minister Harrison is also keen to learn more about examples of great youth sector programs running with young women and girls in NSW. This could be on any kind of program, big or small and on any topic or subject matter. If you

have an example you would like to share, please email me on kate@youthaction.org.au.

Lastly, I would like to wish you and your loved ones all the best for the end of the year from the team at Youth Action. I know this is a busy time of the year and it can be a tough time for the young people we work with. I hope you have an opportunity to find time to rest and reconnect to the people, places, and things that sustain you in the important work you do. The Youth Action office will be closed from 22 December – 8 January. We are looking forward to seeing you all again in the near year.

November Highlights



Opportunities

Youth Action Member Survey

The Youth Action 2023 Member and Stakeholders Survey is now open! We really value the feedback our members and stakeholders provide. Responses inform our ongoing work, help us to improve and allow us to better serve young people and the youth sector. This survey is open to Youth Action members, young people (ages 12 –

25) who live in NSW, and all those working with young people in NSW. This survey closes at 5pm 22 December 2023.

[Learn more](#)

Ask for Health Free Training

The Ask for Health project is offering free training for service providers and young people to learn about Health Literacy. This year, the Ask for Health Team has run the training in schools, services, councils and to the Ministry of Health's young consultants and youth sexual health teams. Youth Action has a dedicated pool of young people that are paid for their time as co-facilitator of the training. We also provide training and upskilling to young people interested in becoming a Young Person Peer-Facilitator for their service. The training runs for 2 hours and covers topics that include an introduction to Health Literacy, being a "Health Buddy", where to get reliable health information, how to book health appointments, your rights at the doctor, and access barriers for young people receiving health support. For more information, please contact our Health Literacy Project Coordinator, Jazzie Quinn on jazzie@youthaction.org.au or 0456 584 314.

[Learn more](#)

Duty of Care Petition

Oaktree is compiling a submission for the 'Duty of Care' Bill. Independent Senator from the ACT, David Pocock, has recently proposed a new Bill in Parliament calling for Australia to enshrine a 'Duty of Care' into Australia's Climate Change Act 2022. This proposal would require the government to take into consideration environmental factors prior to approving new projects, thus limiting the approval of new fossil fuel projects. This Bill would also enforce the prioritisation of Australian children and future generations, preventing decision-

makers from approving projects that could harm their wellbeing or the wellbeing of their home.

[Learn more](#)

YourGround NSW

[YourGround NSW](#) is an interactive digital map that gathers women and gender diverse people's perceptions of safety in public spaces in cities and towns across NSW. They are asking women and gender diverse people across NSW to anonymously pin a spot on the [YourGround NSW map](#) where they feel safe. They are also asking people to anonymously identify public spaces where they don't feel as safe, and share their experiences. The project's data will provide insights into how they can make our cities and towns more inclusive and equitable, and will inform future policies and projects. This project is the first of its kind in NSW.

[Learn more](#)

Young People

Privacy Act Workshop

The Attorney General's Office (the lawyers for the government) want to change the rules so that businesses can only collect and use children and young people's data to give you a personalised digital experience when it is in your 'best interests'. They want to speak to young people between the ages of 12 – 18, as the law would apply to those under 18. Your ideas will help them understand, evaluate and convey how best interests can be used in this important legislative change. For more information contact Jacqui McKenzie via jmckenzie@childfund.org.au

Youth Sector

Youth Action Trainings and Consultations

Over the past few months, as part of our regional tour we have been grateful to deliver trainings across NSW, from Awabakal Country to Darkinjung Country and beyond. If you are interested in a consultation or training in your area next year, please contact Hareem Abbasi, our Capacity Building and Participation Officer on hareem@youthaction.org.au.

Lens on Strengths training

Designed for professionals, volunteers, and leaders in the youth and community sector, this program dives deep into the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) methodology and Storytelling. Learn how to amplify youth and community engagement, participation, and empowerment for lasting impact. The training will be held on 23 February 2024 at Yirranma Place, 262 Liverpool Street, Darlinghurst 2010 NSW. Dive into Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) with Dimitrios Papalexis and guest speakers such as Natalie Chiappazzo and more.

[Register here](#)

New Active and Creative Kids voucher program starts in February 2024

Providers offering sport, recreational, creative or cultural activities for school-aged children in 2024 are invited to register now for the new program so they can beat the back-to-school rush and accept the new \$50 vouchers. As this is a new program, providers must register even if they are already registered to accept current Active or Creative Kids vouchers.

[Learn more](#)

Resources

Youth Action submission to the Inquiry into E-cigarette regulation and compliance in NSW

This submission is grounded in the voices and lived experiences of young people across NSW who we have heard from through our consultations. Vaping use amongst young people in NSW is a recent phenomenon with young people and those working with them reporting its prevalence amongst their peer group. It is important to note that the issue of smoking amongst young people has been the focus of health professionals for many years. There are many successful strategies in relation to reducing smoking use in young people that are applicable to use of e-cigarettes and vapes. [Learn more here.](#)

The 2023 Australian Youth Barometer: Understanding young people in Australia today

The Australian Youth Barometer gauges the pressures currently experienced by young Australians. For this third edition of the Australian Youth Barometer, they surveyed over 500 young Australians aged 18 to 24 and undertook 30 in-depth interviews to examine the interconnected dimensions of young people's lives, including the economy, employment, education, health and wellbeing, relationships, and young people's civic participation in society, including their experiences of belonging and exclusion. [Read the report here.](#)

Witness to war: A national multilingual telephone hotline for people affected by overseas conflict

This hotline has over 30 years of experience assisting survivors of war and refugee trauma. They are here to listen to your concerns and provide information about available support. They can also help you connect to services that can assist you and your family. Call 1800 845 198 between 10am – 7pm.

Mission Australia's Youth Survey Report 2023

Mission Australia's 22nd annual Youth Survey was completed between April and August this year by 19,501 young people aged 15 to 19 years across Australia. This report details the findings of the survey and provides compelling insight into the strengths, challenges, concerns and experiences of young people. Young people have identified the environment, equity and discrimination, the economy and financial matters and mental health as the top national issues that they want Australia to address in 2023. [Read the report here.](#)

Children's picture books on diversity and inclusion, reviewed by young people with disability

Children and Young People with Disability Australia celebrated International Day of People with Disability (Dec 3) with the release of 45 reviews of children's picture books about diversity and inclusion, written by young people with disability. The aim of this project is to draw attention to realistic and positive representation of characters with disability. [Learn more here.](#)

Grants

Macca's Community Grants

Macca's has teamed up with elite NSW sporting clubs to support young athletes with big ambitions, through their new Community Grants program. Young applicants aged 14-18 could score \$2,500 in development funding, access to professional athlete mentoring, and an interview opportunity for the role of crew member at Macca's restaurant. Please note that only parents or guardians can fill out the application. Applications close 23 January 2024. [Learn more here.](#)

Play Like A Girl Scholarships

This is a full scholarship for the Play Like A Girl's 5-week leadership challenge course that is valued at \$1,495. This program is exclusively for individuals who identify as female, including those who identify as gender fluid and trans, are aged 14 or above and are involved in

female sporting programs as players, coaches, or volunteers. [Learn more here.](#)

Sanitarium Community Care Program

This is a food relief program that offers mostly in-kind support (products) for community programs, projects or activities. The program's focus is tackling hunger and food insecurity. Applicants are recommended to apply at least 6 weeks prior to your program, project or activity. [Learn more here.](#)

Lights On, Doors Open – Stipend Program

The 'Lights On, Doors Open' stipend program has been established to relieve the pressures faced by volunteer-led museums and Aboriginal cultural spaces in NSW. With a total funding of \$226,000, this initiative by the NSW Government aims to provide crucial financial support to cover essential expenses like rent and electricity bills. [Learn more here.](#)

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.](#)