

Dear friends,

The date for the Voice Referendum has been announced and will happen on 14 October. We know there is a lot of discussion in communities about the vote. Youth Action wholeheartedly respects the leadership and supports the right to self-determination for First Nations people. We recognise that sovereignty was never ceded. Our commitment to be an ally to self-determination is one of the key principles underpinning our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. In 2021, as a response to the invitation made to the Australia community by the Uluru Statement, we were proud that our membership voted unanimously to amend Youth Action's constitution to add a clause to "ensure the operations of Youth Action are carried out in a manner that upholds the Cultural Safety of First Nations Australians by taking necessary steps to maintain this within the organisation and its staff." We respect the diversity of views in relation to the Uluru Statement and the Voice, however we also acknowledge the harmful impact of false or untrue information on First Nations people. We want to make sure young people have access to reliable sources of information to support them make an informed decision. Youth Action is accepting expression of interest applications for young people to join a working group that will help us prepare resources and information for young people and the youth sector in the lead

up to the referendum. [Fill in the expression of interest form here.](#)

Last month Youth Action kicked off our regional tour. We were privileged to spend time on beautiful Wiradjuri Land in the Riverina area of NSW to run consultations and offer trainings for young people and the youth sector. We spoke to young people from Wagga Council, Albury Youth Council, Corowa High School and Oaklands Central School about mental health and wellbeing, re-engagement in education and learning, and life post covid lockdowns. Youth Action also facilitated an Evidence-Based training for the youth sector in Wagga Wagga. Yesterday we visited Awabakal Country in Newcastle to deliver another Evidence-Based training. Youth Action would like to thank the Youth Development Officers in those regions for hosting us. 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.

In 2022 Youth Action was contracted by the Department of Communities and Justice to hold consultations with young people 16 – 24 years of age on sexual violence prevention and response. Over two roundtables, Youth Action worked with young people to identify priority issues, needs, gaps and opportunities for enhancing sexual violence prevention and response in NSW. This report and its findings will inform the

implementation of actions in the NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022-2027 as they relate to young people. [You can access the report on our website here.](#) As a follow up from this work, [Youth Off the Streets](#) have commissioned Youth Action to bring together a group of young people to design training content for people working with young people with experiences of domestic, family, and sexual violence to make sure it reflects the lived experiences of young people who have tackled these issues. We are accepting expressions of interest applications from young people who want to be part of this content development working group. [Apply to the working group here.](#)

As you may know, over the past few months Youth Action has been working with Social Ventures Australia to develop a Creating Great Jobs checklist and resource page for employers and young employees. We heard some valuable insights and feedback from an incredible group of young people that will be used when we develop the social media tiles and webpage. We will send an update on this project soon.

We would like to thank to all the young people who submitted an expression of interest application to our Youth Advocates program. We have started going through the applications and have already read the voices of so many incredible and passionate young people. We are looking forward to running the first workshop on 'Introduction to Youth Action and

Advocacy' tonight and working with you all over the coming months.

And finally, in case you missed the email earlier this week, we are excited to announced that we will be releasing the program for the NSW Youth Work Conference very soon. We listened to the youth sector about what they wanted to hear more about in 2023 and arranged professional development sessions with a focus on topics including, mental health, homelessness, participation and rights-based approaches and more. [Reserve your seat here.](#)

August Highlights



Opportunities

Young People

Referendum Working Group

Youth Action is looking for young people to be involved in a working group to help us prepare resources and information for young people and the youth sector about the upcoming Voice Referendum. Similar to the work we did in the lead up to the NSW State Election, we want

to support young people to be able to access the information they need to make an informed decision on voting day. We want to make sure we are guided by young people about what information and resources will work best. We will be holding an online workshop at 5pm - 7.30pm on Monday 18 September. If you are interested in being part of our Referendum Working Group, please complete the Expression of Interest and register to attend the workshop. You will be reimbursed for your time.

[Learn more](#)

****Trigger warning **Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Education Working Group**

Youth Off the Streets is developing training to be delivered to people working with young people with experiences of domestic, family, and sexual violence. They have asked Youth Action to bring together a group of young people to help design content to make sure it reflects the lived experiences of young people who have tackled these issues. We know from our consultations that young people have important ideas about the kind of training that workers need to undertake to be able to provide appropriate support to young people about these issues. We will be holding an online workshop from 5pm - 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 October. If you are interested in attending and being part of our DFSV Education Working Group, please complete the Expression of Interest and register to attend the workshop. Applications close 23 September. You will be reimbursed for your time. We know that this is a sensitive topic and will ensure we provide emotional support for young people who participate in this working group.

[Learn more](#)

Participate in the Raise Our Voice in Parliament Campaign

The Raise Our Voice Australia team are inviting young people from across Australia to submit a 90-second speech to be read in parliament during Youth Voice In Parliament week from the 16-20 October. They are looking for young people aged 25 and under to share with their response to the question: "What change would make Australia a better place for future generations?" Submissions are open from now until 15 September.

[Learn more](#)

Child Protection Week 2023: Where We Start Matters

It's National Child Protection Week! CREATE Foundation is hosting events all over the country. Join Create Foundation's Youth Advisory Group's hybrid event on Friday 8 September from 4:30pm – 6:00 pm (6-7pm at TimeZone). The event is for anyone 10 –25 years of age with care experience. Join in person or online. For more information or to RSVP please email: nsw@create.org.au

Life skills survey

Are you aged 16-24 (or know someone who is) and want to be part of something that will help young people in NSW? The NSW Office for Regional Youth are working on an exciting project with the Department of Customer Service to help young people make sense of becoming an adult. In their Life Skills survey, they want to find out what 'adulting' skills are important to you and how confident you feel about them. Make your voice heard and complete the survey by 13 September.

[Learn more](#)

Youth Consultation

The Australian Government wants to hear from you! They are developing a youth engagement strategy to improve how they work with young people now and into the future. The Australian Government want to hear from young people aged 12–25 across Australia, their advocates, the youth sector and governments. If you have any questions email youth@education.gov.au. The next consultation will be on 9 September from 4:30pm – 6pm at Ultimo Community Centre, 40 William Henry Street corner, Bulwara Rd, Ultimo NSW 2007.

[Register here](#)

Office for Youth Engagement Strategy Survey

Do you want to tell the government what matters to you? The Office for Youth wants to hear from you about what matters to young people.

[Learn more](#)

Office for Youth Consultations

Do you want your seat at the table with government? The Office for Youth are running consultations across the country to understand how government and young people should work together.

[Learn more](#)

Youth Sector

Join the September Youth Sector Session

Please join us for our next NSW Youth Sector Session on 21 September at 10am. This session will be presented by Julia Cook, ARC DECRA Senior Research Fellow at Newcastle Youth Studies Centre and Rhys Morris, Senior Participation Advisor at the Advocate

for Children and Young People. The session will cover current research undertaken by the Centre as well as looking their development of a Financial Literacy Tool to work with young people and ACYP's Cost of Living consultation findings.

[Register here](#)

New date Ask For Health Sector Panel: Mental Health

As a result of some tech issues, we were forced to postpone the recent Ask For Health Sector Panel: Mental Health. Please join us for the new date on 25 September from 10am-11:30am. 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 on 0456 584 314.

[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 runs for 2 hours and can be done online or in person. 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. The Ask for Health Project has recently presented to the Inner West Youth Alliance Interagency and Inner Sydney Youth Services Interagency, and delivered the training to the Inner West Young Leaders group. We look forward to delivering our health training to the Ministry of Health Play Safe this week. Please contact our Health Literacy Project

Coordinator Jazzie Quinn on email: jazzie@youthaction.org.au or phone: 0456 584 314 to learn more.

[Learn more](#)

Sector consultations on National Housing and Homelessness Plan

Yfoundations is holding a joint consultation in partnership with Homelessness Australia to help inform submissions on the service response for children and young people in the development of the National Housing and Homelessness Plan. It will be held online on Tuesday 12 September from 11:00am-2:30pm and features Yfoundations CEO, Trish Connolly and Associate Professor Catherine Robinson, University of Tasmania, who will talk about the ideal homelessness and housing service system and response for children and young people on a national level. The session will open to discussion so you can ask questions and add issues you think should be included in submissions.

[Register here](#)

Sector Roundtable

The youth sector roundtables are part of the [National Youth Consultations](#) that will inform the new youth engagement strategy. You will be able to share what matters to you, identify how the government should work with young people, and network with colleagues in the youth sector. There are limited places at each roundtable and we ask that only one representative from each organisation registers to attend. If you have any questions email youth@education.gov.au. The sector roundtable will be held on 19 September 11am-12:30pm at the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence, 166-180 George St, Redfern NSW 2016.

[Register here](#)

News and Resources

First Nations Organising Toolkit on the Referendum

The team at Australian Progress have created a [Referendum Community Organising Toolkit for mob](#) and [First Nations Referendum Rapid Response Grants program](#) that together, provide critical resources and support for First Nations organisations, community groups and individuals to campaign, organise and mobilise in their communities.

State-Wide Free Suicide Prevention Skills Training

LivingWorks suicide first-aid training is currently available for free to NSW communities including all NSW high school teachers and staff, parents/carers, first responders and community groups, and organisations. This funding includes LivingWorks Start (online 90 minute training), safeTALK (in-person 4 hour workshop) and ASIST (in-person two day workshop). This has been made possible through the NSW Government's Mental Health Recovery Package, which aims to support anyone whose mental health has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here to download our Schools Programs Evidence Summary](#). [Learn more here](#).

Core and Cluster Films DVNSW

DVNSW has launched a suite of film resources to support specialist DFV and trauma-informed practice. The films feature subject matter experts, including Tracey Phillips from Bonnies Support Services, Eloise Layard from ACON, and Karina Noble from People with Disability Australia. [Learn more here](#).

Youth Speaks Consultation Report

Settlement Services International (SSI) released their NSW

Settlement Partnership Youth Speaks Consultation Report last month. The project involved conducting a number of consultations with over 100 young people, the findings of which inform this report. The report outlines what they heard from young refugees about their experiences with settlement in NSW and Queensland. [Read the report here.](#)