

Dear friends,

We have had an overwhelming response to the NSW Youth Work Conference and the event is now sold out. I am excited to announce that The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Youth will be opening Day 2 of the Conference. We are really grateful to Minister Jackson for making time in her busy schedule to speak with the sector. We look forward to seeing everyone in person on 26 – 27 October. If you missed out on tickets, please email Annie, our Member Engagement and Executive Support Officer at annie@youthaction.org.au to be placed on the waitlist.

And I want to extend a big congratulations to all the shortlisted nominees for the NSW Youth Work Awards 2023! [You can read about the nominees here.](#) A big thank you to all of you who took the time to make a nomination to highlight some of the great programs and services for young people across NSW. Tickets to the Awards are selling out fast, [reserve your seat here.](#)

We especially want to thank our Conference and Award Partners, Department of Communities and Justice and Office for Regional Youth and our Awards Supporters, NSW Council of Social Services, Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care, and the Centre for

Volunteering. This event would not be able to happen without your support.

As the Voice Referendum draws closer, Youth Action wants to support young people to access the information they need to make an informed decision on voting day. We recently met with an incredible group of young people for our Voice Referendum working group to help us prepare resources and information for young people and the youth sector. [You can see the resources young people helped us design here.](#)

Young people in NSW continue to live with the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. All areas of their lives have been impacted from education and how they learn, their mental health and wellbeing, their families and connections to communities and support networks, where they call home, and their employment and future career opportunities. Youth Action welcomes the announcements in the budget which address the impacts on young people through cost-of-living relief; reinvestment in the child protection system. [See more in our budget response.](#)

Youth Action completed a submission to the Inquiry into the equity, accessibility and appropriate delivery of outpatient care in NSW earlier this month. Over the past year, young people have spoken to us extensively about mental health and the challenges they have faced in accessing appropriate supports.

Our submission is grounded in the voices and lived experiences of young people across NSW who we have heard from through our consultations. [Read the submission here.](#)

In 2022, Jesuit Social Services commissioned Youth Action to facilitate consultations with young people 15 – 24 years of age in Western and South West Sydney. The aim was to capture their ideas, views, and experiences of employment to inform JSS programs, policies, and decisions about their provision of employment and unemployment support to young people in these areas. Youth Action heard from 81 young people across 8 locations. The report identified a range of recommendations that were informed by lived experience and co-designed with young people. [You can access the report on our website.](#)

As part of our Regional Tour, Youth Action has been grateful to be able to deliver trainings across Awabakal Country with the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie youth sector, with young people in Wiradjuri and Ngunnawal Land at the Hilltops Council Youth Forum, with the Regional Youth Support Service in Darkinjung Country on the Central Coast and spend time camping back on Wiradjuri Country with Down the Track at Lake Cargellico. If you are interested in us coming to your area, please contact Hareem Abbasi, our Capacity Building and Participation Officer at hareem@youthaction.org.au

September

with Young People

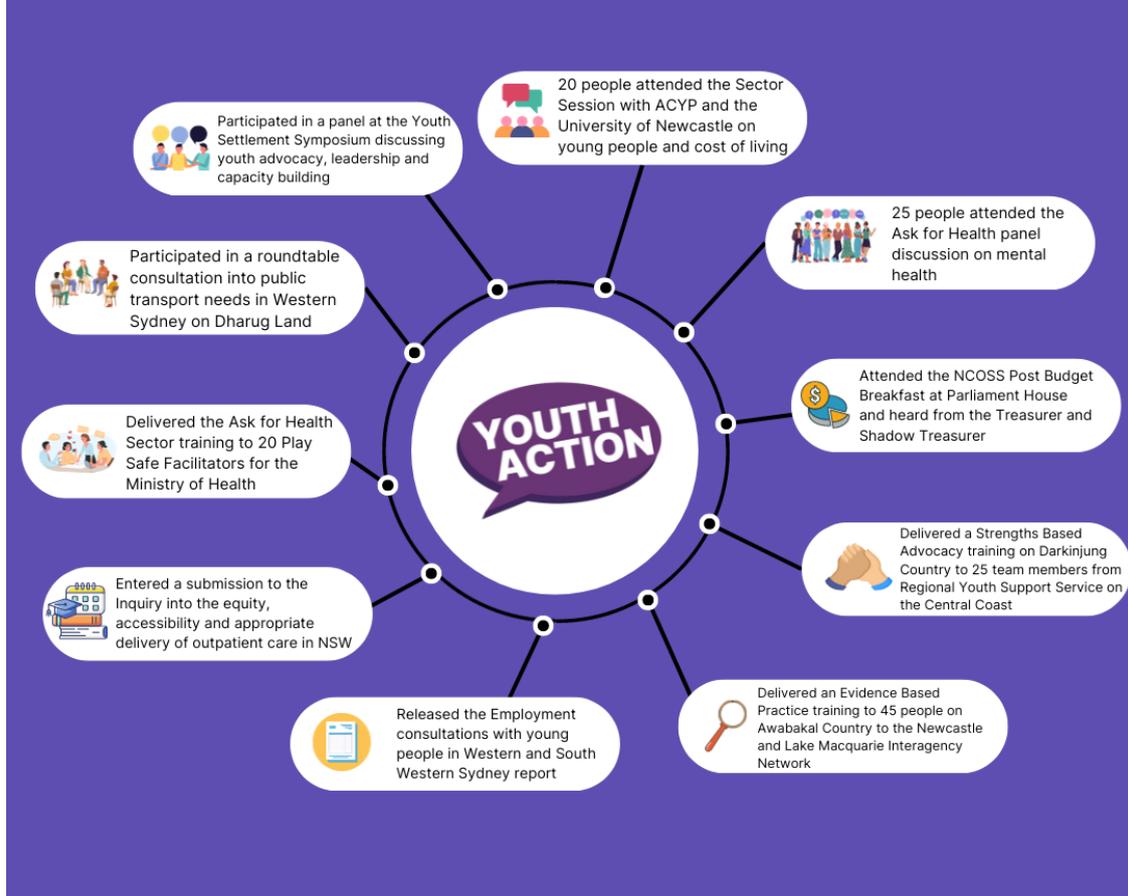
Highlights



September

with the Youth Sector

Highlights



Opportunities

Ask for Health Training

The Ask for Health project is offering free training for service providers and young people to learn about Health Literacy. Since January, the Ask for Health Team have presented this training to schools, services, councils and with the Ministry of Health's young consultants and youth sexual health teams. 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 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. If you would like to know more about the Ask for Health Project, please contact Jazzie Quinn, our Health Literacy Project Coordinator at jazzie@youthaction.org.au or by phone 0456 584 314.

[Learn more](#)

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](#)

Young People

Western Sydney Youth Forum

The Western Sydney Local Health District Youth Forum will be held on the 27 October, in the WECC at Westmead Hospital. There will be a mental health panel which will involve young people with a lived mental health experience sharing their story and answering questions, and two members of WSLHD executive for young people to communicate their gaps and priorities in the healthcare system. The

forum will allow young people to provide feedback on gaps and priorities aligning with the Young People's Health Strategy, which is WSLHD directive on healthcare for young people, to provide opportunity for social engagement with other young people, and to reflect on what mental health and wellbeing means to them.

[Learn more](#)

Youth Job Fest

Asuria is having a Youth Job Fest on 9 November at the Park Royal Hotel in Parramatta. The event is for young people between the ages of 15-24. This free event promises an action-packed day with food, music, activities, sports, and so much more. Young people will have the opportunity to learn about new sectors and jobs, explore education and training options, seek advice on apprenticeships and traineeships, and even partake in on-the-spot job interviews. Places are limited and registrations are essential.

[Register here](#)

Department of Education- Skills and Pathways Youth Advisory Committee!

Careers NSW is looking to recruit young people for their DoE Youth Advisory Committee as a paid role. The YAC will support the larger directorate, Skills and Pathways, to centre the experiences and voices of young people as part of the DoE's programs and projects. They are looking for young people, between the ages of 15-21, who may be interested in meeting monthly with the Department of Education team to provide insights into their current experiences and challenges in education, training, and/or employment, and assist them in ensuring that their work will be meaningful and impactful to young people across NSW. The Expression of Interest period closes on Friday 13 October 2023.

[Register here](#)

Youth Sector

Community and Youth Sector Insight Survey

The survey is designed for parents, carers and anyone who works with young people aged 12-24. The survey's aim is to hear from a community-wide perspective about what is working well for communities as they support young people and what issues adults are seeing as most important to young people in their community. Feedback from the survey is going to inform policies to better support young people in the future. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. The survey closes on 18 October.

[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](#)

Opportunity to provide wellbeing support to NSW public school students through the Department of Education

The National Student Wellbeing Program is a Commonwealth-funded initiative to support the emotional wellbeing of students and the broader school community through the provision of pastoral care and/or wellbeing support services through a school chaplain or student wellbeing officer. It replaces the former National School Chaplaincy Program 2020-2022. Participation in the National Student Wellbeing Program is voluntary for both schools and students.

[Learn more](#)

News and Resources

Former Tasmanian Shadow Minister for Youth, Joanna Siejka Rostami, Named New CEO of AYAC

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) has announced the appointment of Joanna Siejka Rostami as its new CEO. As the former Shadow Minister for Youth (Communities and Veterans Affairs) in Tasmania, Joanna brings extensive experience and a deep understanding of developing, influencing and effecting policy change. Joanna Siejka Rostami will officially assume the role of CEO on October 9, 2023.