WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY 2013 ISSUE OF YOUTH FIELD XPRESS

After the lovely summer break we are now back into the swing of things, and have a large selection of news stories for you and your youth sector colleagues. The year 2013 is shaping up to be a big one for the youth sector!

As usual, there are more good stories out there than we can include, so please make sure you keep up to date with things happening in your area by checking out the relevant peak body in your state or territory. If you are new to the sector, you can find a listing of these at: http://www.acys.info/sector_resources/sector_contacts/by_topic Scroll down to the bottom of the page and look under 'Youth work' for these organisations.

There are lots of youth-specific conferences coming up in 2013; we have listed most of them here but please also check out our events page for other relevant happenings: http://www.acys.info/news_and_events/events

There will be some important changes happening here at ACYS during the coming year – see ‘ACYS news’ below for more on those – but YFX will continue to provide you with a monthly news and awareness digest of what’s happening in the youth sector.

Our eclectic news this month includes Grammy award-winning singer Gotye’s work with youth in Australia; skateboarding etiquette for youth workers (or indeed anyone!); what young people can do to curb food waste; and a no-alcohol nightclub (in Dublin).

We also keep you abreast of the serious issues facing our youth including gambling (see the AMA’s position paper on that under ‘Risk taking and safety’); surveys into forced marriage in Australia (see ‘Rights and legal issues’) and into the youth justice system (see ‘Crime and justice’); and drink driving (see ‘Risk taking and safety’).

Finally, you can read about the truly inspirational Young Australian of the Year, Akram Azimi, an Afghan refugee who has become a mentor for Indigenous Australians.
GIFT VOUCHERS NOW AVAILABLE

ACYS can now supply gift vouchers for either its book titles or subscriptions to *Youth Studies Australia*. These make the ideal choice to give as a prize or memento for anyone working within the youth sector. Book vouchers can be purchased for any value. For further information, please contact Sue Dilley on (03) 6226 2591 or email: Sue.Dilley@utas.edu.au

ACYS NEWS

The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies and the Australian Government’s Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations have reached an agreement for ACYS to supply youth clearinghouse services for a further two-and-a-half years.

ACYS will continue to produce a number of existing products, including *Youth Field Xpress (YFX)* and the ACYS website [http://www.acys.info](http://www.acys.info). Under the DEEWR contract, ACYS will also produce new products including webinars, podcasts and case studies, and upgrade the ACYS website.

ACYS is delighted that it will be able to continue to serve the youth sector for the next 30 months and looks forward to involving a wide range of stakeholders in a variety of ACYS projects.

However, the funding specifically earmarked for the *Youth Studies Australia* journal will no longer continue after the March 2013 issue. (See ‘March 2013 *Youth Studies Australia*’ below for details on the future of the journal.)

MARCH 2013 YOUTH STUDIES AUSTRALIA

As mentioned above, the Australian Government youth clearinghouse services funding for the journal *Youth Studies Australia* will not continue after March 2013. ACYS has committed to using non-government earnings to produce YSA as an online-only journal until the end of 2013. We hope to gain philanthropic and other funding to develop the journal further in 2014.

From the June issue onwards, subscriptions to YSA will be cheaper, and the journal will incorporate a host of new features, including more practice articles, more book reviews, a mobile version, social media links and a news section — all in a revamped format. We urge you to support the future of *Youth Studies Australia* as your youth studies journal by subscribing or re-subscribing at the new low rates.

In the March issue of *Youth Studies Australia* the lead paper looks at what prevents Indigenous young people from seeking professional help and how counselling support services can assist them to overcome these barriers. The following paper looks at young people’s perceptions of both the positive and negative outcomes of illicit drug use. The New Zealand research described in the third paper considers not only the preventative benefits of a parenting intervention program, but also the effects of participation on family functioning and positive youth development. Paper four looks at educational risk for hospitalised adolescents. The fifth paper provides a pertinent run-down on the use of generalist youth work practice in an industry-specific suicide-prevention program. The final paper provides an overview of youth development programs in Central Australian Aboriginal communities, with suggestions of the characteristics of more successful programs.

To subscribe to YSA at a new, lower rate, go to: [http://www.acys.info/ysa/subscriptions](http://www.acys.info/ysa/subscriptions)

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY HELP

Young people or those working with youth can find information and help following bushfires in several parts of Australia at: [http://acys.info/topics/grief_and_trauma/bushfire_relief_resources/](http://acys.info/topics/grief_and_trauma/bushfire_relief_resources/)
CONFERENCE ROUND-UP
Upcoming youth-specific conferences for your diary:

"History of Youth and Community Work" Conference, 8–10 March 2013, Leeds, UK. This conference is organised by the editorial board of the journal Youth & Policy. For further information, contact Tracey Hodgson at: conferences@youthandpolicy.org

‘New Agendas on Youth and Young Adulthood’ Conference, 8–10 April 2013, Glasgow, Scotland. This is the first conference organised by the Journal of Youth Studies; see the conference website at: http://www.youthstudiesconference.com/

South Australian Youth Workers’ Conference 2013, 17–18 April 2013, Adelaide. Conference website: http://www.sayouthworkersconference.com.au/ (Please note that this conference was originally scheduled for 26–27 September 2012 and has been moved to April 2013, although the website still has the old dates on it.)

Australasian Youth Justice Conference 2013, 20–22 May 2013, Canberra. This is the first such international youth justice conference; its theme will be: ‘Changing trajectories of offending and reoffending’. For further details, see the conference website: https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/youthjustice2013

‘No2Bullying’ Conference, 22–24 May 2013, Surfers Paradise, Queensland. Registrations are now open for this national conference; the theme is ‘Managing the impacts of bullying: Prevention, policy and practice’. Conference website: http://no2bullying.org.au

Tasmanian Youth Conference, 29–30 May 2013, Hobart. TYC13 will bring together youth workers, professionals and young people from around Australia. Further information coming soon; see the conference webpage: http://www.ynot.org.au/tyc13


AYAC 2013 National Youth Affairs Conference, July/August 2013, Adelaide. This will be the second national conference for the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition – the peak body for young Australians and the sector that supports them. Keep an eye out for updates at: http://www.ayac.org.au/ayac2013.html


Youth Health 2013 Conference, 13–15 November 2013, Fremantle, WA. More information will be available in coming months.

For a full listing of all forthcoming youth-related events, go to: http://www.acys.info/news_and_events/events
Kids Like Us

This month we feature...

**NAME:** Kids Like Us

**LOCATION:** Bayside area of Melbourne, Victoria and online

www.kidslikeus.org.au

Twice-exceptional young people – those living with a disability such as dyslexia or Autism Spectrum Disorder and who are gifted or highly skilled in an area of human endeavour – often experience a number of social, mental and educational barriers in life.

A newly established organisation is seeking to assist these young people who almost always need significant, long-term support to fulfill their potential.

Kids Like Us (KLU) was founded at the start of 2012 after three twice-exceptional children presented the idea of an organisation to support, to provide opportunities and to raise awareness from a student’s perspective.

‘They identified a need for an organisation that children and young people could relate to,’ KLU innovator and advocate Catherine Kirby said.

The young people, in association with an experienced counsellor, formed KLU, which has a steering group of 15 twice-exceptional students aged from five to 20 years. They are working on key areas including education of teachers, understanding and awareness throughout society, research into why some students succeed while others fail, and having fun!

“We believe that by highlighting the learning and developmental differences experienced by the twice exceptional students to the wider community, and by training educators and parents, KLU will be able to alleviate the emotional pressures caused by continual, real and perceived, failure on these students (and their parents and teachers),’ Catherine said.

She said it was estimated that 3.5% of the student population was considered twice-exceptional, and that being twice-exceptional is generally genetic.

Education is a primary focus of the group as it is in the school-age group that problems seem to manifest and when they need the greatest support.

‘This student deserves a specific program designed to support them, one that nurtures talents and accommodates problems. If neglected, the discrepancy
between curriculum-based outcomes and the student's potential will widen daily,’ Catherine said.

‘If they manage to successfully navigate their way to tertiary education, apprenticeship or the workplace they are usually able to thrive.’

She said it was common for twice-exceptional children to have feelings of depression, humiliation and inadequacy, which can lead to further behavioural problems.

‘To ease the feelings of helplessness the gifted child will often look for ways to protect their self-esteem, this may result in acting out, clowning about or disengagement from curriculum-based tasks and school.

‘The long-term social goals of KLU are to make differentiated teaching the norm in Australia, and to spread acknowledgement of giftedness, dyslexia and twice-exceptionality.

KLU is a social enterprise.

If you would like your organisation to be featured in ‘The Sector’ please contact ACYS: Sarah.Nicol@utas.edu.au, phone: (03) 6226 2591.
The latest in our occasional series on outstanding work being done by or for young people at a local level looks at the work the Tasmanian Scouts did to help Blaze Aid build fences for farmers after the Tasmanian bushfires in January:

The following account was supplied by Neil Ruut, a Group Leader with Scouts Tasmania.

When Mother Nature unleashes her fury, it often brings out the best in people, particularly young people.

During the devastating fires in South-East Tasmania in early January, the local youth chipped in to provide assistance to farmers, homeowners and the community.

The Tasmanian Scouts, in particular the Kingston Venturer Scouts with assistance from members in Clarence, Hobart and Launceston, provided extensive assistance to the fire-damaged community of Dunalley.

Group Leader Neil Ruut said 65 young people helped remove nearly 50 kilometres of fire damaged fences, cleaned up boundary lines of debris, cleared rubbish from properties and delivered animal feed. They then assisted with the re-establishment of new fences on the affected properties.

‘The communities in which they assisted had been overwhelmed by the destructive nature of the fires,’ he said.
“The youth, due to the numbers involved, provided an essential primary role in clearing vast areas of damaged property in very short time frames, that would normally have taken the property owners or communities involved in some cases weeks or even months to complete, so the help was gratefully received.”

The participants worked alongside the volunteer organisation Blaze Aid and members of the local communities of Ellendale, Westerway and Bushy Park.

“The task was overwhelming emotionally, physically and mentally, but rewarding”, Neil said.

“It made participants realise that there are more important things than thinking about themselves and that helping someone at a time like this is by far the most rewarding thing you can do. Individuals, I believe, received far greater benefit than the people whom they completed their task for,” he said.

Neil said the young people were positive and worked hard as a team. Many are now actively seeking to return to the affected areas to complete more of this work.

Venturer Scouts participate in a number of activities from adventure sports such as abseiling, archery, caving and sailing to computing programs, visits to community-based groups and working with other youth groups.
**RecentlY published And Forthcoming Books**

**Boy racer culture: Youth masculinity and deviance**
by Karen Lumsden

Boy racers, in particular those from Aberdeen in Scotland, are examined in this new book, which delves into the background and motivations specific to this group. The author looks at moral panics surrounding the concept of the boy racer, feminine identities in what is traditionally a male-dominated subculture, and the modifying of cars (modding) by boy racers. Youth sociologists and criminologists will find it of particular interest.

**The sociology of youth culture and youth subcultures: Sex and drugs and rock ‘n’ roll?**
by Michael Brake

Originally published in 1980, this title has been re-released under the Routledge Revivals series (classic texts that have been out of print or unavailable). The development of postwar youth culture in a sociological context is examined, and the author goes on to consider the class base of youth subcultures.

**A political ecology of youth and crime**
by Alan France, Dorothy Bottrell and Derrick Armstrong

Our understanding of the relationship between youth and crime in the contexts of sociology, criminology, social psychology and education is enhanced by the research within these pages. The authors argue for an analysis of youth crime that includes the ‘important contribution that the young themselves can make to the theorising and understanding of their relationship with crime’.
Children and young people’s cultural worlds
by Sarah Bragg and Mary Jane Kehily


Childhood in the digital age is the topic of this book. Many adults are concerned about the ‘increasingly mediated, commercialised and globalised world’ our children are living in but this book challenges these concerns and examines the concept of childhood innocence. It has been described as ‘an excellent book for classroom use…and one that every serious scholar of childhood studies will turn to time and time again’. It includes chapters on youth cultures, transmedia childhoods and exploring children’s lives on-line and off-line.

Smile inside: Experiential activities for self-awareness, Ages 14–15
by Vanessa Lee


This book was developed from a prevention program initiated by Vanessa Lee to counteract bullying and to facilitate personal growth in teenagers. It is a handbook containing activities that allow 14- to 15-year-olds to ‘explore their identities, feelings, thoughts and behaviors’, and at the same time brings them to have an understanding of themselves and their relationship with the world. Among the topics covered are: empathy and respect; self-talk, emotions and coping; and goal setting.
NEWS STORIES FOR FEBRUARY

Our usual collection of wide-ranging news stories from Australia and overseas

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Important youth health forum to discuss alcohol issues

The NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health (CAAH) is holding a youth health forum in March to discuss the health issues and implications surrounding young people and excessive consumption of alcohol.

The morning forum, called ‘Hammered: Exploring alcohol – cultures, choices and strategies’ will feature, among others, speakers from the Brain and Mind Research Institute, the NSW Police, Anglicare and the Hello Sunday Morning initiative. It will be held on 13 March at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead in Sydney. Youth workers, medical practitioners and others will offer insights as to what can be done to tackle the problem, and Jamie Moore from Hello Sunday Morning will give a talk entitled ‘Social media could hold the key to changing the drinking culture’.

To register, go to the CAAH website (http://www.caah.chw.edu.au/events/) or phone: (02) 9526 1221. If you are unable to attend, presentations will be available from the CAAH website (listed under ‘Resources’) about two weeks after the forum has taken place. Previous forums on health topics and youth are also available from this website.

Source: email from the NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health, 12 February 2013.

Launch of new resource to educate young people to party safely

The NSW Government has launched a new online resource that is aimed at teaching young people to make responsible decisions about their behaviour and alcohol intake when they are partying or out socialising.

The resource, called ‘Out tonight? Party right’ is designed to be used within the high school curriculum with senior high school students. It supports the fact that young people can have a good night out without drinking alcohol.

Senior students at five high schools in NSW were consulted about the material in the resource; it contains videos and games as well as teaching resources and outlines the medical and legal implications of what can go wrong if young people drink too much alcohol.
The resource was launched by the NSW Minister for Hospitality George Souris in conjunction with Ralph Kelly, the father of teenager Thomas Kelly who died last year after allegedly being king-hit by a drunken young person in Sydney.

To access the resource, go to: http://www.partyrigh.nsw.edu.au/


Researchers find link between mental health issues and substance abuse

Around one in 10 young people aged 12 to 17 with mental health issues also drinks alcohol, smokes cigarettes and uses cannabis on a weekly basis, says Dr Daniel Hermens from the University of Sydney’s Brain and Mind Research Institute.

Researchers collected information from more than 2,000 young people aged 12 to 30, who attended headspace youth mental health clinics. The average age at which the pattern of substance abuse starts is 15, and becomes more common as teenagers grow into young adults.

Dr Hermens points out that people with mental health issues are significantly more likely to develop serious health problems and to die early. ‘Traditionally there have been mental health services, and substance abuse services, but both have been quite separate. Our study shows that we need to integrate mental health interventions with substance use interventions in order to help at-risk young people,’ said Dr Hermens. ‘More people have both mental health and substance use problems than either alone – in other words, it’s the rule rather than the exception.’

The article, ‘Frequent alcohol, nicotine or cannabis use is common in young persons presenting for mental healthcare: a cross-sectional study,’ is published in the journal BMJ Open: http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/3/2/e002229.abstract?sid=fc8971f0-5b06-496e-a238-4a88077c96de


ARTS, MUSIC AND CULTURE

Grammy award winner works with Aardvark!

Gotye (aka Wally de Backer), who won three Grammys for his music at a recent awards ceremony in Los Angeles, is less well known for his work with young people and the organisation Aardvark.

The name Aardvark is an acronym that stands for ‘All About Really Determined Very Amazing rocking Kids’. It is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that has provided a unique music program for young people with serious illnesses or disability since 2007.

In June 2012 Gotye and Monique Brumby were appointed as Aardvark music and sponsorship ambassadors after working with the organisation for over a year mentoring talented young musicians. Listen to Gotye talking about Aardvark’s work at: http://www.aardvarkworldwide.org/about-us

And watch him working with young people from Aardvark at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH9BrSypKp4 Twitter: https://twitter.com/gotye/status/263326067857690624


BULLYING

National anti-bullying conference taking place in May

The Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association is hosting the No2Bullying Conference in May, and registrations are now open.

Although this is not a youth-specific conference, as it covers issues such as workplace bullying too, there will obviously be a big emphasis on youth. One of the main topics will be cyberbullying, which organisers say has been ‘labelled the greatest threat to teenagers because of the way it leaves the victims with no place to hide’.

The theme of the conference will be ‘Managing the impacts of bullying: Prevention, policy and practice’. Keynote speakers include Professor Gillian Triggs,
President of the Australian Human Rights Commission; psychologist Evelyn M Field; and Dr Ben Edwards who manages the Growing Up in Australia project.

The conference will be held 22–24 May at Surfers Paradise; to find out more and to register, go to: http://no2bullying.org.au/ (Dates of the conference have changed from those originally planned due to fitting round NAPLAN testing.)

**Register now for National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence**

The third National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence will take place on 15 March this year, and schools are invited to register to take part by 1 March.

Schools will need to show how their anti-bullying policies meet the National Safe School Framework. The framework is the first of its kind in the world and offers guiding principles that can help school communities develop positive and practical student safety and wellbeing policies.

To register for the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, and access resources and information, see: http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

**Tackling peer sexual assault**

A short article that has recently been uploaded onto the Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) website examines the topic of peer sexual assault and what can be done to tackle it.

The article is by Dr Daryl Higgins, Deputy Director (Research) at the Australian Institute of Family Studies. He emphasises that young people who sexually abuse their peers may have been subject to similar abuse themselves, either by their peers or adults. Included within the article are downloadable resources on related topics.

To read the article, go to: http://aifs.govspace.gov.au/2013/02/06/peer-sexual-assault/ The ‘Current issues’ page of the CFCA website is constantly being updated with articles of relevance to those who work in the youth sector: http://aifs.govspace.gov.au/

**Youth judge blasts government departments in South Australia**

A Senior Youth Court judge in South Australia has used no-nonsense language to blast psychologists in the Department for Education and Child Development, and he says that ‘caring social workers had been handcuffed and vulnerable children left at risk of further harm’ because of the department’s actions.

He advocates for common-sense solutions to problems, instead of teams of departmental psychologists dithering as to what might be the best course of action to take. To read an
AYAC youth justice survey needs urgent input!

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is seeking input from people who have had experience with the youth justice system to be included in a submission to the Australian Government’s Senate inquiry into justice reinvestment.

An online survey is now live and AYAC urges people with relevant experience to let them know what is not working for young people and what the government should be investing in to really improve the circumstances for young people within the justice system.

AYAC says that it is well known that incarcerating young people is ‘an ineffective approach to youth justice and addressing recidivism’, and that youth-specific programs are effective. It needs the responses of ‘on-the-ground’ services working with young people to tell the government what’s needed.

The survey closes on 1 March, so you have just over a week to get your opinions across to ACYS – all input will be highly valued. It will take about 20 minutes to complete.

To complete the survey, and for more information, go to: http://fluidsurveys.com/s/AYAC-justice-reinvestment_youth-sector-perspectives/?collector=5438


Source: Signposts, 22 January 2013.

DISABILITIES

Know the law and use it to help yourself: Workshops for young people with disabilities

The Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS), a service of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic), will be running interactive workshops about the laws that apply to young people with disabilities, and how young people can use the law to help themselves and others.

The workshops will be open to young people with disabilities (age 12 to 25) and their families, friends and carers. To express interest in these workshops, send an email to: ydasadvocate@yacvic.org.au with the subject line ‘Workshop EOI’. Dates and locations (in Melbourne) are still to be confirmed. Upon request, attendant support and Auslan interpreting will be provided at workshops.

YDAS is working on a new, accessible website to give young people with disabilities information about the law and their rights, and would like feedback and ideas from young people. The survey is available at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QD7BFC2. If you can’t access the survey, email: ydasadvocate@yacvic.org.au, and YDAS will make sure you can have your say another way.

Source: email from AYAC, 19 February 2013.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

New CanTeen resource for those working in the education sector

A new paper has been released by CanTeen that highlights the needs of siblings of cancer patients and recommends how those working in the education system can support adolescent and young adult siblings of cancer patients.

CanTeen’s series of Research to Practice papers translates the most recent evidence into best-practice recommendations for those working with young people with cancer. The papers, developed by CanTeen in conjunction with expert advisory groups, will be relevant to those working in clinical, service delivery, educational, advocacy and social policy settings.

Source: email from AYAC, 19 February 2013.
The latest Research to Practice paper, ‘Supporting adolescent and young adult siblings of cancer patients in the education system’, provides recommendations of supportive strategies that can be implemented by those working in the education sector.

Andrea Connell, Principal, Sydney Girls High School, commented on the release of the new paper:

‘Schools are grateful to receive advice and guidance about how to best support young people living with cancer, and equally, how to support siblings whose lives are affected in many ways. Experience has shown us that many teachers, classmates and friends are confused about the best means of providing support. CanTeen’s Research to Practice paper opens the door on a “closed conversation” and shows how schools can play an important role in assisting the wellbeing and outcomes of young people who have a sibling with cancer.’

To download the latest paper visit: http://www.canteen.org.au/default.asp?menuid=29

Source: email from CanTeen, 22 January 2013.

ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS AND LEISURE

Skateboarding etiquette for youth workers

The world of the skatepark can be a daunting and baffling place for many of us; one person who works with youth at skateparks is trying to demystify what she calls ‘these largely unsupervised environments’ and decode the unwritten rules that govern them.

Jemima Key runs skateboarding, BMX, parcour and scooter competitions and workshops for young people through Big Air School. She has brought together some of her observations on skatepark culture into a useful article for those who work with young people in outdoor environments.

To read the article about skateparks, go to: http://bigairschool.com.au/youth-service-provider-resources/ To find out more about Big Air School, which was founded in early 2012, go to: http://bigairschool.com.au/

Source: email from Big Air School, 9 January 2013.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Young people challenged to find ways to curb food waste

Oxfam Australia has set down a new challenge for young Australian designers and thinkers: it wants them to come up with innovative ways to reduce the staggering $8 billion worth of edible food that is wasted each year in Australia.

The food waste challenge is part of Oxfam Australia’s ‘Design for Change’ project, and has been partly funded by the NSW Government’s ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ grants program.

The idea is for young people to come up with ‘innovative design, marketing and communications solutions to the causes of food waste’. Once their ideas have been uploaded to the Design for Change website, they will also be linked with other emerging and established professionals with the chance to win prizes.

The six-week food waste challenge is the first in a series of challenges that will take place throughout 2013. For more information, and to participate, go to: http://www.designforchange.org.au/ You can also check out some of the innovative solutions that have already been posted on this site. Oxfam Australia has been running a Design for Change program in universities since 2007.

Source: Google Alert, 24 January 2013.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Raising awareness about organ donation through film

The FilmLife project aims to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation in Australia through the medium of film, and is now seeking entries from young people for its 2013 filmmaking competition.

The theme of this year’s DonateLife Week 2013 is ‘Make your wish count: Discover, decide and discuss organ and tissue donation’. The competition is funded through the Australian Government’s Organ and Tissue Authority Community Awareness Grants program.

Source: email from Big Air School, 9 January 2013.
In the words of the organisers: ‘We believe that more people need to be asking and knowing their loved one’s wishes, and we’re inviting passionate people to spark these conversations by creating films about organ and tissue donation’.

‘Whether you’ve been affected by organ donation directly or you’re keen to make your first steps into filmmaking that has a lifesaving impact, we want to hear from you!’

Awards will be given for Best Film, Best Interpretation of the Theme and the People’s Choice. You’ll get national exposure for your work through the DonateLife network and be in the running for a Canon 5D camera and over $2,500 in prizes! You can also attend a free workshop to help you bring your film to life.


Launch of report card on the wellbeing of young Australians

The 2013 Australian Research Alliance on Children and Youth (ARACY) Report Card on the Wellbeing of Young Australians will be launched in Canberra by Peter Garrett on 15 March 2013.

The report card will provide a succinct summary of the health and wellbeing of Australia’s young people in comparison to the best-performing countries internationally.

The launch will be followed by ARACY’s annual Fiona Stanley Forum and AGM. The focus for this year’s forum is: ‘Australia’s children and young people: What’s needed to become the top-ranked country for child wellbeing’.

Facilitated by ARACY Board member Dr Norman Swan, forum participants include:

- Kevin Andrews MP, Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services
- Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Greens spokesperson on Education and Youth
- Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Federal Member for Fraser

Registration for this free event is open until 11 March at: http://www.aracy.org.au/events/category/annual-forums Source: email from ARACY, 12 February 2013.

Survey of young women’s eating habits

A Newspoll survey of 200 women aged 18–24 for the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) found 60% have tried to lose weight in the past year. Of those, one in four had used a fad diet, with the lemon detox and liver-cleansing diets two of the most popular.

Almost half of the women who had attempted to lose weight in the past year would like to lose more weight. The survey found one of the hurdles young women face in eating well is that they perceive take-away foods as convenient and easily available, compared with making a meal at home. DAA Spokesperson Professor Clare Collins said: ‘With Australia in the grip of an obesity epidemic, and younger women particularly prone to weight gain, cooking a proper main meal at home could be the answer to improving diet and weight problems in this age group.’


Housing options for young people recovering from mental illness

A recently published AHURI research report looked into the ways in which young people with mental illness are supported into finding secure housing.

The project on which the report was based aimed to identify the ‘informal community resources, relationships
and supports’ that help young people suffering mental disorders trying to find secure and stable housing. It sought not only to identify the ways in which young people used these resources, but also ways in which these resources might be ‘mobilised in the design of novel housing and social inclusion initiatives for youth in recovery’.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, it found that the informal resources and community support used by these young people was extremely important and housing organisations should emphasise these ‘over and above the bureaucratic reporting mechanisms that are currently in vogue’. Social inclusion should remain a key focus of housing policy for these young people. Once again, a report has found that for young people with mental health issues (and in fact for anyone) enduring social connections are one of the most important factors in the equation.

Those working in the area of youth housing, as well as policymakers, will find the report of great interest. Download the 93-page report from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute website publications page at: http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/recent.asp

AHURI is holding a seminar in Hobart on 22 March to discuss the issue of housing for young people with mental health issues and other housing issues.

Panel members will include:

- Dr Cameron Duff, AHURI Research Centre—Monash University
- Dr Patricia Short, AHURI Research Centre—University of Queensland
- Mr Peter White, Director, Housing Tasmania

To register to attend, go to: http://www.ahuri.edu.au/ and click on the ‘Supporting access to housing’ event for Hobart. (Registration cost is $45.)


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**Important date to highlight youth homelessness**

Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2013 will be held on Wednesday 10 April this year, and once again will draw attention to the plight of young people who do not have a permanent home.

The YHMD website currently has some ideas about how organisations and individuals can support this initiative. This year YHMD is seeking people to become activists or advocates for the cause. And organisations are invited to become supporters or partners. For further information, go to the website at: http://www.youthhomelessnessmatters.net/

Nearly half of the 105,000 people who are homeless in Australia on any given night are under the age of 25.


**Reconnect program receives cash injection**

Reconnect is a well-established Australian Government program designed to support young people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. It has recently received a further funding boost following a departmental review of its services.

The $73 million funding will be used to support more than 100 Reconnect services across the country. Mark Butler, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, said that the funding ‘provides certainty to 30 specialist services which assist Indigenous Australians, newly arrived youth, people struggling with mental health issues, and young LGBTI Australians’.


Submissions wanted for homelessness workshop

Contributions are invited for a workshop on research into homelessness to be held at the University of Melbourne in July.

Recent contributions from cultural studies, human geography, history, sociology and critical theory indicate that there is a need to open new interdisciplinary directions in the field of homelessness research. This workshop – called ‘New perspectives in homelessness research: An interdisciplinary workshop’ – provides an opportunity to share new research directions and perspectives on understanding, representing and theorising homelessness.

This workshop aims to bring together scholars from across disciplines who are working to understand the complex topic of homelessness. The conveners welcome contributions on theoretical development in the field of homelessness research, and contributions on youth homelessness would be welcome.

The workshop will be held on 15 July. More information can be found at: http://crnballarat.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/workshop-FINAL.pdf

Source: email from David Farrugia, University of Ballarat, 23 January 2013.

MENTAL HEALTH

Membership now open for the International Association for Youth Mental Health

The International Association for Youth Mental Health is a membership organisation for professionals, researchers, health organisations, policymakers, young people and parents.

The IAYMH was established in 2012 to assist in advocating and collaborating for the mental health needs of young people across the world. The association’s mission is to:

"Change the way the global community thinks about young people and their mental health by ensuring that services are developmentally and age appropriate, and that young people have an active voice in determining what is best for them."

Membership is free and an application form is available from the IAYMH website: http://www.iaymh.org/

Source: email from Young and Well CRC, 11 February 2012.

More input needed for the WhatWorks4u website

The WhatWorks4u.org website was developed by Professor Tony Jorm and the Population Mental Health research team at the University of Melbourne; the team is now looking for more young people to have input into the site.

The website lets young people share what treatments have worked for their mental health problems and learn what treatments other young people have reported as helpful. Whatworks4u.org hopes to increase awareness of treatment options and inform treatment decisions based on what has worked for similar young people.

Launched in May 2011, the website has been up and running for over a year, with over 500 young people sharing what works for their mental health problems. This means the site contains lots of useful information on a variety of mental health treatments for a range of mental health problems. The information on the website includes user ratings and side effects of treatments, ranging from self-help treatments, to medications and different types of mental health professionals.


INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Nightclub minus alcohol opens in Dublin

An article in The Irish Times explored the growing ‘slow-burning sobriety movement’ that has been evolving in Dublin over the past few years, and publicised the opening of a new alcohol-free nightclub called Flux.

The nightclub is the latest in a succession of alcohol-free venues and social groups to make its presence felt on Dublin’s social scene. Joseph Quinn, the brainchild behind the nightclub and a Dubliner himself, said that although he was offered alcohol as a teenager, he thought it was ‘disgusting’ and that he ‘couldn’t see the point of drinking something that tasted so bad to me’. For more, go to: http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2013/0112/1224328742009.html

However, while 500 treatment ratings is quite a lot, the research team hopes more young people will visit http://whatwork4u.org to share what mental health treatments work for them. Young people who have experienced any type of mental health problem are invited to go to: http://whatworks4u.org and share their experiences.

This website was originally flagged in the June and October issues of YFX in 2011.

Source: email from Population Mental Health Group, University of Melbourne, 23 January 2013.

Survey: How well are young Australians?

As part of a project led by the Queensland University of Technology, the Young and Well CRC is gathering foundational data to build a better understanding of young Australians’ mental health and wellbeing.

This large-scale survey of 3,000 young people will contribute invaluable knowledge for the development of e-tools to support young people’s wellbeing.

Participation will involve completing an online survey, taking 20–30 minutes. There are questions about the participant’s physical, emotional, psychological and social health. There are also questions about mental health symptoms like depression, anxiety, substance use and suicide risk. At the end of the online survey 500 participants will be randomly selected to participate in an optional telephone interview about mental health disorders.

Please share the survey with young people you know or work with. Young people who complete the survey will receive a free movie ticket.

The survey is available from: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YoungWellQUIT

Source: Young and Well CRC Update, 11 February 2012.

PARTICIPATION, CITIZENSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING

Oaktree Foundation Roadtrip takes off soon!

The Oaktree Foundation, which is Australia’s largest youth-led poverty action organisation, is holding its Roadtrip 2013 in March to make sure the Australian Government does its fair share in the fight to end extreme poverty. Around 1,000 young Australians will be taking part. A big petition will be launched to coincide with the Roadtrip, and this will become live soon.

You can join the movement and have your name added to the petition at: http://roadtrip2013.com.au (Please note that applications for the Roadtrip have now closed and application information for this event will be removed shortly from the website.)

Oaktree has been recognised by the UN for its innovation and effectiveness in youth-led poverty action, and previous campaigns have included Live Below the Line and the 2005 Make Poverty History concert. To find out more about Oaktree, go to: http://theoaktree.org/about/

Source: email from Oaktree Foundation, 20 February 2013.

Afghan refugee named Young Australian of the Year 2013

Afghan refugee Akram Azimi has become 2013’s Young Australian of the Year for his mentoring work with Indigenous youth.

Arriving in Australia 13 years ago from Afghanistan, he went from being ’an ostracised refugee kid with no prospects’ to becoming his school’s head boy, and is now studying at the University of Western Australia. He hasn’t forgotten what it felt like not to belong, which is why he also mentors marginalised young Indigenous people in remote communities.

For three years, Akram mentored young Indigenous people in the Looma community in the Kimberley region, and he has mentored primary school students in the small farming community of Wyalkatchem, in WA’s wheat belt. Akram is also mentoring a Special Olympics athlete to help raise community awareness of disability issues.
Akram hopes to share Australia’s Indigenous heritage with non-Indigenous Australians through a student-run program he co-founded called ‘I am the Other’.

The Local Hero award went to indigenous community leader Shane Phillips, born and raised in Redfern in Sydney. He has done remarkable work in juvenile justice and Aboriginal deaths in custody. Shane is CEO of the Tribal Warrior Association, a non-profit organisation directed by Aboriginal people and Elders that offers training for employment and helps at the grassroots level with emergency relief for struggling families.

Shane is also credited with improving the relationship between his community and the police. Since the 2009 introduction of the ‘Clean Slate Without Prejudice’ program run in collaboration with the police, the number of robberies committed by local youth has declined by 80%.

(Source: Australian of the Year Awards website, http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/, viewed 6 February 2013.)

Australian Youth Forum helping raise the profile of youth issues

The 2013 Australian Youth Forum’s (AYF) steering committee has met for the first time this year to discuss how it can work to boost young people’s engagement in politics and raise the profile of youth issues.

Minister for Youth Peter Garrett congratulated the eight new members of the group, who are joined by two members from 2012. ‘I’m thrilled to meet this year’s AYF committee. It’s great to see young people getting involved and taking this chance to talk to the Government about important issues in their lives,’ Mr Garrett said.

New committee members will participate in a number of training and induction sessions, visit Question Time at Parliament House and join the 2012 Committee members to hear about their past experiences and ideas.

The AYF supports a range of initiatives, including the Young Australian of the Year Award, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition and the youth engagement category of the National Awards for Local Government.

Since the AYF was first formed in 2008, the forum has communicated with a diverse range of young people through events and online activities. More than 40 young people, aged between 15 and 24 years old, have represented young Australians on the AYF Committee. For more information about the AYF visit: http://www.youth.gov.au/ayf


RIGHTS AND LEGAL ISSUES

Contribute to research to end forced child marriage in Australia

The National Children’s and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC) is undertaking Australia’s first national research into forced child marriage. The aim of the project is to create a set of Best Practice Response Guidelines to assist organisations in responding to victims, and to provide educational resources for children and young people on the issue.

The project looks into the scale of the issue across each Australian jurisdiction, the state of current responses to a child or young person at risk, and the development of local good practice responses to guide future practice.

If you have had any experience with forced child marriage in your work, please contribute to the research by filling out the NCYLC survey at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/endforcedchildmarriage. The research period for this survey has been extended until 22 March 2013. The NCYLC would like to extend its thanks to those who have already taken part in the survey but urges anyone with relevant information who has not already done so to take part.

The NCYLC has also released a draft of the Best Practice Response Guidelines and is seeking feedback and comment from caseworkers and practitioners and other relevant stakeholders who have experience with child victims of forced marriage.

NCYLC’s draft Best Practice Response Guidelines on forced child marriage

Please provide any feedback by 1 March 2013. In particular, please address the following:
How useful are the Do’s and Don’ts?
Please provide any suggested changes and/or additions.
Is the language and format accessible and easy to read and understand?
Do the Guidelines provide sufficient information about forced child marriage?
Is the information clear?
Are the recommended steps to take in all cases feasible and useful?
Are the contacts and referrals useful?
Please provide any other feedback you may have about the Guidelines.

If you would like any more information about the project, or to provide feedback on the guidelines, please contact the Project Officer, Ms Tina Jelenic, on: (02) 9385 9855 or at: tina.jelenic@ncylc.org.au.

Source: email from NCYLC, 8 February 2013.

Young people in NSW speak out about the criminal laws that apply online

Last year, the National Children’s and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC) and Children’s Legal Service (CLS) of Legal Aid NSW teamed up to deliver a project called New Voices/New Laws. The project aimed to provide meaningful information to young people about the criminal laws that can apply to peer-to-peer sexting and cyber bullying, and to find out what young people had to say about these laws.

Between June and October 2012, NCYLC and CLS talked to over 1,000 young people in NSW. The outcome is a report that summarises the law and makes practical recommendations for reform based on the voices of young people. The report is available at: http://www.lawstuff.org.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/15030/New-Voices-Law-Reform-Report.pdf, and a youth-friendly, animated version of the report findings is available at: http://prezi.com/jiudkskuct0h/new-voices-new-laws-report/

In addition to facilitating law reform, NCYLC and CLS hope that the resources produced through this project will serve as useful tools for educators, youth advocates and young people as they continue to navigate the legal risks and responsibilities of digital life. Please see the ‘prezi’ (presentation) on the laws that can apply to peer-to-peer sexting and cyber bullying at: http://prezi.com/q6ah0jmsrhd/new-voices-new-laws-v5/ Please note that the prezi does not feature any sound or music.

NCYLC Director Matthew Keeley said that the prezi has had ‘a real effect on young people’s behaviour and attitudes, with 68.3% of students saying they are less likely to engage in sexting and cyberbullying now that they know these actions can be crimes, and 66.3% saying they feel more confident about being able to deal with these issues’.

Source: email from NCYLC, 8 February 2013.

RISK TAKING AND SAFETY

AMA articulates its position on youth and problem gambling

In early February the Australian Medical Association (AMA) released a position paper on the health implications of problem gambling, particularly as it affects young people.

The health effects of problem gambling outlines what the AMA says are the growing risks to young people, particularly young men, who are becoming addicted to online gambling in the form of sports betting.

‘Online sports betting is Australia’s fastest growing form of gambling, and has been associated with a rapid escalation in young males seeking treatment for problem gambling,’ AMA President Dr Steve Hambleton said, adding that for every problem gambler, up to 10 other people – family, friends, workmates and employers – felt the effects, in strained relationships, financial problems, reduced productivity, depression and substance abuse.

The AMA is calling for the government to undertake research to address youth gambling, with a focus on primary prevention and ‘denormalising’ gambling, as well as educational programs for school students to tell them about the risks of gambling.

Issues associated with problem gambling include mental health issues, substance abuse, stress-related illness
and issues to do with other family members caught up in the cycle of gambling – family breakdown, domestic violence, loss of employment and social isolation.

Download the position paper from the AMA website at: https://ama.com.au/position-statement/health-effects-problem-gambling


Young female drivers still not heeding the drink driving message

In a survey conducted by the insurance firm AAMI, female drivers aged 18 to 24 were found to be much more likely to drink and drive than they were a decade ago, and are clearly not heeding the message that it is dangerous to drink and drive.

AAMI’s Young Driver Index, based on a survey carried out in 2012, found that 14% of young women were likely to have driven while over the drink-drive limit, compared to only 8% a decade ago. But for young men, the picture is the complete opposite: in the 2012 survey 16% were likely to have driven while over the limit, whereas 10 years ago the figure was 29%.


An article in the online Adelaide Now suggests that young women may be copying Hollywood ‘bad girls’ such as Lindsay Lohan. Psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Gregg said that girls were much more likely to indulge in ‘taboo’ behaviour today than they were 10 years ago.


RURAL AND REMOTE YOUTH

Heywire winners produce great ideas

The 32 winners of the 2012 Heywire competition gathered in Canberra in early February to take part in a youth summit and to put forward to gathered politicians, stakeholders and other important movers and shakers their ideas on how to improve regional Australia.

One of the ideas that gained a lot of attention was the concept of Fresh Face Friday, which encourages young people not to wear make-up on a Friday to challenge the media’s concept of what a young and attractive girl (or guy) should look like. This idea has been around for a little while, but is a great initiative. Another idea involved forming a fund for regional youth to pay for projects that will improve the community. To read more, go to: http://www.abc.net.au/heywire/stories/2013/02/3685599.htm

The 2013 Heywire competition is now open and entries are being accepted up until 13 September 2013. Go to: http://www.abc.net.au/heywire/community/about.htm

Source: Google Alert, 15 February 2013.

SEXUALITY AND GENDER

Celebrating young women in Central Australia

As part of International Women’s Day on 7 March, the Northern Territory Government is holding an event at Alice Plaza in Alice Springs to celebrate women, including young women, in Central Australia.

If you would like to take part, or have ideas that could be developed around this theme, contact Valerie (Valerie.dearman@nt.gov.au) before 2 March. For further information, go to: http://www.ntyan.com.au/new/ntyan/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=777:celebrating-our-young-women-in-central-australia&catid=16:youth-events-opportunities&Itemid=165

Source: NTYAN newsletter, issue 146, February 2013.
**SUICIDE**

**Youth suicide rates ‘under-reported’**

The exclusion of child suicide rates from national data is stopping progress on developing suicide prevention programs, Queensland’s Commission for Children and Young People says. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not compile figures on the suicide of children under 15.

But the commission is calling on the ABS to change that. It has released its own data revealing that there were 27 suicides of children, aged 15 or younger, between January 2004 and December 2010 in Queensland. This accounted for 22.5% of all Queensland youth suicides.

Acting Commissioner for Children and Young People Barry Salmon says excluding child suicides from national data prevents an accurate picture of the problem being drawn. It also impedes allocation of appropriate resources to developing suicide prevention policies and programs.

In June 2010, in its *Hidden toll* report a Senate committee recommended including the suicide deaths of children under 15 in national statistics. The ABS has not implemented the recommendations because of concerns that the small amount of data may allow identification of an individual.


**Source:** Sydney Morning Herald, 11 February 2013.

**TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION**

**Resources to help young people navigate the mobile phone maze planned**

The National Children’s and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC) is working on an exciting new project to produce materials for young people so that they understand their rights surrounding mobile phones and phone plans.

Australian youth have one of the world’s highest rates of mobile phone ownership. However, mobile phone ownership comes with financial responsibility. The process of selecting affordable mobile plans can be confusing and overwhelming, and managing call and data usage can be difficult and complex, even for consumer-savvy adults. Studies have also shown that youth are particularly vulnerable to bill shock associated with mobile phone usage, which can easily lead to debt, resulting in anxiety, depression and other problems.

To address these issues, NCYLC is currently developing a set of resources to help youth navigate mobile phone usage and plans. The materials will include fact sheets that will make it easier for youth to:

- understand the terms and conditions of complex mobile phone contracts;
- manage their mobile phone usage; and
- know where to get help should they experience bill shock.

In the next few weeks, NCYLC will be conducting a survey to determine the greatest needs, problems and priorities of young mobile phone users. Be the first to know when their survey is up by joining the NCYLC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lawstuff.australia. If you have any suggestions that you think may help NCYLC to develop these useful materials, please email them at: projects@ncylc.org.au

**Source:** email from NCYLC, 5 February 2013.

**Online safety: Parents need their children’s input**

A report published in early February by the Young and Well CRC has found that online safety for young people is most effective when parents are supported by their children’s computer expertise.

*Enhancing parents’ knowledge and practice of online safety* is a 37-page report based on an intergenerational ‘Living Lab’ experiment that looked at exactly how parents interacted with young people when sitting at a computer having been asked to research aspects of online safety.
Despite the small scale of the study (seven parents and three young people aged 18–20 took part), it was able to provide useful results about the ways in which young people interact with adults when discussing online safety.

The main findings of the study were:

- Parents and young people approach the issue of online safety differently.
- Young people’s expertise is a resource parents can use to support their children’s online safety.
- Parents rely mainly on ‘offline’ strategies to ensure their children’s online safety.
- Parents benefit from speaking and interacting with younger people and this too can help them guide their own children.

Download the report from the Young and Well CRC website at: http://www.yawcrc.org.au/ The research was carried out in partnership with the University of Western Sydney and supported by Google.

Source: email from Young and Well CRC, 5 February 2013.

**TRANSITION**

**Research forum on transitions to work: bookings open now**

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) is hosting a one-day research forum on findings from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) with a focus on youth transitions.

The event, called ‘Are we there yet? Youth transitions in Australia’, will be held at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney on Thursday, 11 April 2013. Key topics include the impact of schools, student aspirations, gap years, financial wellbeing and pathways to work.

Those with an interest in research and policy on youth transitions — from government, the not-for-profit sector, school and tertiary education providers and administrators, and peak youth bodies — are encouraged to attend.

For more information and to register for this event, visit the LSAY website: http://www.lsay.edu.au/newsevents/events.html

Source: NCVER email newsletter, 7 February 2013.

**YOUTH WORK**

**National AYAC 2013 conference: abstract submissions and registrations opening soon!**

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) will shortly release the details of its second national conference — to be held July/August 2013 in Adelaide. The exact date will be confirmed very soon.

The AYAC 2013 National Youth Affairs Conference will bring together 400 youth researchers and academics, policymakers, sector representatives, young leaders and changemakers into one event that aims to showcase the depth of Australia’s youth affairs sector.

AYAC 2013 abstract submissions and Uber-Earlybird registrations will open on 28 February. More details and updates are available on the conference website: http://www.ayac.org.au/ayac2013.html The Round 1 calls for abstracts submission deadline is 1 April, while the Round 2 submission deadline is 29 April.

The AYAC 2013 conference will be an opportunity for the corners of the youth affairs sector to connect, have fun, hear more about what we can learn from the latest research and innovative programs, learn from each other and influence the national debate on young people and youth affairs.

AYAC is Australia’s non-government youth affairs peak body representing the interests of young people and the sector that supports them. With the federal election to take place on 14 September this year, it will be more important than ever that AYAC 2013 provides a platform for emerging youth issues to find their place on the national agenda.

The conference will contribute to AYAC’s key goals of driving research for better practice, advocating for change, supporting the sector and building youth participation.

Source: email from AYAC, 15 February 2013.
Victorian youth workers to discuss ethics, duty of care

The first in a series of free, youth work practice forums in Victoria for 2013 is called ‘Duty of care, mandatory reporting and youth work practice’, and will take place in March.

The forum participants include Paul McDonald, CEO of Anglicare; Bernie Geary, Commissioner, Children and Young People (Vic); and Jen Rose from the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic). It will take place on 6 March at Kensington; to register, go to: http://www.youthworkpractice.eventbrite.com. Closing date for registrations is 28 February.

This event is a joint initiative of the Youth Workers Association and YACVic.

Source: YACVic Update, 12 February 2013.

Tasmanian youth conference for your diaries!

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) will be holding its biannual conference at the end of May 2013, and a call for papers will be put out in early March.

The conference will be held at the Derwent Entertainment Centre in Hobart’s northern suburbs on 29 and 30 May, and is open to young people as well as to anyone who works with young people or has a professional interest in the youth sector, whether they are based in Tasmania or on the mainland. Registrations will open next month. Some background details are available from the YNOT website: http://www.ynot.org.au/tyc13

Anyone who would like further information at this early stage can email: admin@ynot.org.au or phone: (03) 6223 5511.

Source: email from YNOT, 15 February 2013.
### Upcoming Events

This listing contains events posted on the ACYS website as well as current calls for papers.

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<td>YACWA Youth Sector Leaders Breakfast with Andrew Cummings (AYAC)</td>
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Are we there yet? Youth transitions in Australia - LSAY National Research Forum  
Location: Sydney  
Type: Conference, seminar

15th Apr 2013  
National Social Inclusion and Complex Needs Conference  
Location: Canberra, ACT  
Type: Conference, seminar

17th Apr 2013  
South Australian Youth Workers Conference  
Location: Adelaide, SA  
Type: Conference, seminar

18th Apr 2013  
Health in Difference 2013: Our Bodies, Our Minds  
Location: Melbourne, Victoria  
Type: Conference, seminar

9th May 2013  
Online Youth Engagement and Participation (Un)Conference  
Location: Melbourne, Victoria  
Type: Conference, seminar

9th May 2013  
Street Violence, State Violence, Symbolic Violence - how does youth and community work respond?  
Location: Scotland, UK  
Type: Conference, seminar

20th May 2013  
Australasian Youth Justice Conference  
Location: Canberra  
Type: Conference, seminar

CALLS FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS, ABSTRACTS AND WORKSHOPS

22nd National VET Research Conference 'No Frills' Submission  
Deadline: 12th Mar 2013  
Location: Mooloolaba
Thank you to Sue Headley, Barbara MacCana and Sarah Nicol for editorial assistance with this issue of YFX.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!
Contributions for consideration should arrive before the 10th of each month, so please send news for our next issue by 10 MARCH 2013 to: information@acys.utas.edu.au

Contributions for the ACYS online news service and events calendar may be submitted anytime to: information@acys.utas.edu.au

Feedback form: www.acys.info/contact_us/feedback
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