Youth Workers’ Association

2016 – 2019
Strategic Plan
VISION

The Youth Workers Association raises the profile of qualified youth workers through collaboration, advocacy and celebration.

Youth Work is valued and recognised as a highly skilled distinct professional discipline that is underpinned by human rights and social justice.

WELCOME

The Youth Workers’ Association are proud to present our 2016-2019 Strategic Plans.

Since 2008 the Youth Workers’ Association (YWA) was revitalised with a new board and since has been actively participating in policy discussions, international study tours, participation in international conferences, implementation of numerous professional development sessions covering contemporary sector issues and more. Since its inception in 2008 the board developed a business model and are currently looking at the future sustainability of the YWA by building a financial model of membership.

Major achievements to date:

- Financial members
- Professional Development days
- Membership discounts
- Keeping members informed
• New website
• Strategic Planning session
• A major conference in collaboration with Victoria University’s Youth Work program in 2016.
• Meeting with Minister Jenny Mikakos.

This strategic plan is designed to build on these achievements to work towards and achieve our strategic vision. It contains six areas, each containing a set of objectives and related tasks. This plan will be reviewed annually by the YWA board of management and report on its progress and achievements at the AGM. We invite members to consider how they may like to participate or contribute to any of the goals we have set ourselves.

Come and join us to continue to profile this unique profession that makes such an important contribution in the lives of so many young people. We need to have a voice as a profession if we are to be strong advocates for social justice and change for young people.

Written by Mel Vella – Treasurer
AREA ONE: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE YOUTH WORK SECTOR

Recognising the existing strengths and challenge areas of the sector as well as the work and effort of other organisations in building the capacity of the Youth Sector.

TASKS

- Write and promote x4 media releases during the year to respond to emerging issues, give voice to youth workers and celebrate/promote professional Youth Work
- Celebrate International Youth Work Week and keep up to date with NYWW Activities and promotional activities.
- Participate on the Australian Youth Action Coalition Board and other Youth Peak bodies.
- Recognising the important role of Youth Workers by contributing to the initiatives that aim to award outstanding youth workers.
- Establishing recognition processes for good Youth Work courses that meet the benchmarks.
AREA TWO: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH WORKERS

Uphold the high level of professionalism within the Youth Work profession.

TASKS

- Youth Work Conference - Make a contribution to the state wide and national youth conferences where requested and encourage participation by our members;
- Collaborate with youth peak bodies and other organisations that aim to provide professional development opportunities for Youth Workers.
- Develop a series of position Papers or Fact Sheets – for website.
- Disseminate information about professional development opportunities to YWA members.
- Providing input for youth peaks and other organisations about the Professional Development needs and wishes of YWA members and other Youth Workers.
- Respond to the needs of members by providing training and professional development opportunities.
AREA THREE: MEMBERSHIP

Engage and provide networking, professional and sector development opportunities to a larger number of qualified Youth Workers, the YWA, as a member driven organisation.

TASKS

- Youth Work Conference - Make a contribution to the state wide and national youth conferences where requested and encourage participation by our members;
- Collaborate with youth peak bodies and other organisations that aim to provide professional development opportunities for Youth Workers.
- Develop a series of position Papers or Fact Sheets – for website.
- Disseminate information about professional development opportunities to YWA members.
- Providing input for youth peaks and other organisations about the Professional Development needs and wishes of YWA members and other Youth Workers.
AREA FOUR: ENGAGING IN POLICY AND PRACTICE DEBATES

To ensure that the opinion and knowledge of qualified Youth Workers is represented in important policy and practice debates.

TASKS

- Provide opportunities for members to contribute to important community consultations such as the Royal Commission Institutional Child Abuse.
- Policy work around school transitions with the John Kian Foundation.
- Contribute to Victorian Youth Policy development.
- Provide Youth Sector peak bodies, government and other stakeholders with the YWA’s input in area concerning the Youth Work profession.
- Share the collective knowledge that exists within the YWA with the sector by presenting at conferences, publishing in journals etc.
- Support and contribute to evidence based youth policy development
- Taking any opportunity to promote the professionalization of the Youth Work sector to relevant State and Commonwealth Government departments.
AREA FIVE: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

Acknowledging the rich history, existing research and variety in Youth Work practice and policies across Australia and in other parts of the world.

TASKS

- Expand and provide support to professional youth workers across Australia. For YWA to become a National Youth Workers Association.
- Participating in international networks, such as the Commonwealth Youth Programme.
- Disseminate information about overseas Youth Work practices, policies and research to YWA members.
- Participate on the committee of the newly formed Commonwealth Alliance of Professional Youth Work Associations.
AREA SIX: COMMUNICATION AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Minimising the risk of valuable information going unnoticed and increasing the YWA’s visibility and capacity.

**TASKS**

- Annual Strategic Planning Days. Review this strategic plan and allocate timelines and specific tasks.
- Maintain regular communication with YWA membership through the website blog, email and social media.
- Continue and expand the membership discount program.
- Utilise the position descriptions that have been developed for clarification of Board of Management roles.
- Continue to transition to a paid membership model to allow the YWA to grow and be more productive.
- Working towards finding sponsors and donors from the private sector.
- Develop relationships with providers of Youth Work studies to explore ways of promoting the YWA.
- Develop a promotional strategy.