

# YAPRap

Newsletter of the Youth Action and Policy Association NSW Inc

Vol 18 No 5 May 2008

## Binge drinking plan

Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister

### The Rudd Government has announced a new national strategy to address the binge drinking epidemic among young Australians.

This national strategy will begin with three new practical measures to help reduce alcohol misuse and binge drinking among young Australians:

- \$14.4 million to invest in community level initiatives to confront the culture of binge drinking, particularly in sporting organisations; and
- \$19.1 million to intervene earlier to assist young people and ensure that they assume personal responsibility for their binge drinking;
- \$20 million to fund advertising that confronts young people with

the costs and consequences of binge drinking.

Binge drinking among young people is a community wide problem that demands a community wide response, including a new emphasis on young people taking greater personal responsibility for their behaviour.

The three new practical measures announced today will be funded by reprioritising existing government spending.

### The binge drinking problem

Binge Drinking imposes a huge toll on our community. The 2005 Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) Survey found that in any given week, approximately one in ten – that is 168,000 – 12 to 17 year olds

reported binge drinking or drinking at risky levels (defined in this report as seven or more drinks for males and five or more for females). For 16 and 17 year olds, one in five drank at risky levels.

A study of community football clubs in 2000 carried out by the Centre for Youth Drug Studies showed that:

- 13% of 18-20 year olds drank 13 or more standard drinks each time they visited the club;
- 83% left the club as the driver of a vehicle; and
- 70% of males and 30% of females believe drinking is an important tradition at their club.

(continued on page 6)



### In this issue:

News Hound _____	2	Youth drinking _____	8	Australian Youth Forum _____	13
School report _____	3	Cut red tape! _____	9	Anger _____	15
Learning Ground _____	5	Delegates for 2020 Youth _____		What's On _____	18
To stop the binge _____	7	Summit _____	12	Opportunities _____	20

# News Hound

## YAPRap

YAPRap is YAPA's monthly newsletter. YAPA is the Youth Action and Policy Association NSW Inc, the peak organisation representing young people and youth services in NSW.

© 2008 Youth Action and Policy Association NSW Inc

Opinions are the author's and not necessarily YAPA's.

## To subscribe

YAPRap is sent to members and subscribers. Go to [www.yapa.org.au](http://www.yapa.org.au) or contact us for details.

## Contributions

Contributions welcome from young people, youth workers and others. Email articles and listings to [info@yapa.org.au](mailto:info@yapa.org.au) or ring Nick Manning at YAPA to discuss your contribution. YAPA may also publish your contribution in other publications and on our website.

## Advertisements and loose inserts

We run ads in YAPRap and insert loose flyers, when space permits. Contact Nick Manning to discuss your ad or flyer.

## Deadlines for contributions, ads and loose inserts

(YAPRap is posted 2 weeks after the deadline.)

Monday 5 May

Monday 16 June

## YAPA NSW Office

146 Devonshire Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010  
Phone: (02) 9319 1100  
Toll Free: 1800 627 323  
Fax: (02) 9319 1144  
Email: [info@yapa.org.au](mailto:info@yapa.org.au)  
Web: [www.yapa.org.au](http://www.yapa.org.au)

## Executive Officer

Rey Reodica

## Finance & Administration Manager

Martair

## Policy & Training Officer

John Ferguson

## Youth Participation Project Officer

Lam Huynh

## Communications Officer

Nick Manning

## Administrative Officer

Joanne Bennett

## YAPA Western Sydney Office

Suite 7, Level 1,  
48 Macquarie Street,  
Parramatta, NSW 2150  
Phone: (02) 9687 1466  
Fax: (02) 9687 1229  
Email: [yapaws@yapa.org.au](mailto:yapaws@yapa.org.au)

## Regional Youth Development Officer

Kylie Gordon-Wilkins

## Administrative Officer

Joanne Bennett

## Flavoured cigarettes

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon today announced she would talk to state and territory health ministers about actions to address the sale of flavoured cigarettes. This will include consideration of the option of banning flavoured cigarettes. 2/4/08

## Teen Dental Plan

The Australian Government will invest up to \$360 million over three years in a Teen Dental Plan to make it more affordable for families to keep their kid's teeth in good health. The Australian Government's Teen Dental Plan will assist one million Australian teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 with dental costs, and will start on 1 July 2008.

## Truckies accused of child sex

Truck drivers have been accused of participating in a child sex trade using indigenous girls in a remote NSW town. It's alleged that girls as young as eight in Boggabilla have had sex with the drivers in exchange for cash. There have been no prosecutions because the girls refuse to testify, people aware of the cases said.

One unidentified girl told the broadcaster that she had two 14-year-old friends who had sex with truck drivers passing through town in exchange for about \$50.

Most of the girls sold their bodies so they could buy drugs like speed and ice, the report said. Source: [smh.com.au](http://smh.com.au) 14/3/08.

- Read full article - link at <http://tinyurl.com/yowarp>
- Watch ABC video report - link at <http://tinyurl.com/22vz2w>

## Inquiry into Children and Young People 9-14 Years in NSW

The Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Children and Young People is holding an inquiry about children and young people aged from 9-14 years in NSW. The inquiry will focus on:

1. the needs of children and young people in this age group
2. the impact of age, gender and disadvantage
3. the activities, services and support required
4. the impact of changing workplace practices (ie. the child's workplace or their parent's workplace) on children and young people.

Further information about the inquiry and the Committee, including the terms of reference, can be found at the NSW Parliament website [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au) (shortcut: <http://tinyurl.com/2ay28w>), or contact Jo Alley, Senior Committee Officer on (02) 9230 2363 or [childrenscommittee@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:childrenscommittee@parliament.nsw.gov.au). Submissions are required by Monday 5th May 2008, by post, fax or online. Jo stresses that submissions can be short and informal if you wish. 🐾



# Matthew's a bright spark

Melissa Matheson

## Matthew Brown is such a bright spark he's been given \$5000.

The 21 year old from Glenmore Park was awarded the grant from The Foundation for Young

Blacktown last year and plans to introduce it at St Joseph's, Kingswood this year.

"Most of them were from a Sudanese background," Mr Bowen said of the students. "When these

wanted to do volunteer work," Mr Bowen said.

The Spark Fund is open to individuals or small groups of young people aged 12-25 years with an innovative idea which

66 "When these kids come over here they're starting from scratch and they really do need a helping hand. We were able to do it a bit differently, a bit more fun."

Australians' Spark Fund for a volunteer program for disadvantaged schools in Western Sydney. The program involved young volunteers mentoring refugee primary school students over six weeks in basic literacy, numeracy, computer skills and leadership.


Mr Bowen launched the program at St Patrick Primary school in

kids come over here they're starting from scratch and they really do need a helping hand. We were able to do it a bit differently, a bit more fun."

Mr Bowen started his "social justice" work in high school. In 2006 he set up Chasing Rainbows, an organization that encouraged young people to volunteer in community projects. "I have always

makes a positive contribution to the community and enhances the participants' skills and experiences.

Applications are now open. Funding guidelines and application forms are available at [www.youngaustralians.org](http://www.youngaustralians.org) or call (03) 9670 5436.

[Article reproduced courtesy of the Penrith Press 14/3/08] 

## School report

### Students lose HSC lifeline

The NSW Government Board of Studies decision to abandon the HSC Advice Line could leave some students ill-prepared for their final exams. "This line gives expertise to all, irrespective of where they are in NSW. Cutting this service hurts the students who need it most, those

in poorer socio-economic areas or the country. With education such a priority in the federal election, it is disappointing that the State Government is dismantling something that is so necessary to so many" said a writer to the Herald. But Education Minister John Della Bosca said fewer students than ever called the line last year, which

proved students preferred to surf the web for their extra-curricular advice, or visit the Board of Studies website.

### School drug tests dismissed

Testing Australian schoolchildren for drugs would waste more  
(continued over page)



than \$350 million a year and unnecessarily set students against teachers, a year-long study has found. In its findings released today, the Australian National Council on Drugs said there was insufficient evidence to show drug testing at the nation's schools would have any benefits. "It wouldn't be reliable, it would be very costly and it's ineffective," said the council's Gino Vumbaca. "It has to be remembered that students bonding with schools depends on trust and nurturing relationships. Drug testing is only likely to break that down." [smh.com.au 26/3/08. Read full article – link at <http://tinyurl.com/2hybv> or google the headline].

## Consultation on raising the school leaving age

The NSW Government has announced a period of community consultation for its plan to raise the school leaving age to at least 16 years. The Government has a consultation paper and various multimedia presentations at [www.det.nsw.edu.au/reviews/schleavage/consult.htm](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/reviews/schleavage/consult.htm). Submit comments on the reforms by 30 June 2008 to: [leavingage@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:leavingage@det.nsw.edu.au) or School Leaving Age Review, GPO Box 33, Sydney NSW 2001.

## Long suspensions from school rise

NSW school principals are suspending one in 50 students for a week or more, mostly for

physical violence and persistent misbehaviour. Department figures show the number of long suspensions has increased by more than 2000 in the past three years. Last year there were 13,406 suspensions for at least five days, compared with 12,326 in 2006.

NSW Minister for Education, John Della Bosca, said school principals were taking tougher action earlier, reducing the need to expel as many students for bad behaviour. Last year 187 students were expelled for misbehaviour, compared with 243 in 2005. However, the total number of expulsions, including those for unsatisfactory school participation, rose from 299 to 308 last year.

Mr Della Bosca said there had been a steady decline in the number of suspensions for possessing illegal drugs and weapons. He said 88% of students sent to suspension centres improved their behaviour and did not return. [smh.com.au 17/3/08. Read full article – link at <http://tinyurl.com/yod3ca> or google the headline].

## Jail parents of truants, says lemma

Education and welfare experts have ridiculed Morris lemma's plan to send parents to jail if their children repeatedly miss school, saying the policy is "heavy-handed" and will only hurt the most disadvantaged students. "It is impossible for me to see how a threat like this is going to enhance the life prospects of a child," Professor Tony Vinson said. [smh.

com.au 2/4/08. Read the full article – link at <http://tinyurl.com/5fsay5> or google the headline].

## Over there! It's another get-tough policy

Parents in jail for having truant children? It is the old tactic of defusing other problems that the Government might have by making some sort of law-and-order announcement to capture the evening TV bulletins. Get a cheap headline early and it does not matter whether the announcement comes to fruition or not.

But... just how much responsibility should the Government take for truant children? After all, the Department of Community Services has contact with many of the children not attending school and there are officers in the Education Department dedicated to targeting truant children. The Government admitted yesterday there were about 50 to 60 prosecutions a year - half of which are withdrawn - and the average fine for the offence (when the maximum is \$1100) is \$200. So the courts don't seem to want to excessively punish these people. It is easy to conclude that this is a stunt.

And there was no evidence yesterday that the truancy problem has got any worse than in previous years, or that there was any pressing need for this initiative. [smh.com.au 2/4/08. Read full article – link at <http://tinyurl.com/5l4r4l> or google the headline]. 🐾



# Learning Ground

Paul Bibby

**Spend a day on the streets of Mt DrUITT and the size of the challenge facing the Federal Government in backing up its words of apology with real change starts to become clear.**

It's not just the young indigenous men sitting outside the bottle-o at 10am, or the single mothers who have two kids in the lock-up - although the Aboriginal youth unemployment rate of 45% and the over-representation of Aborigines in

volunteers are getting troubled kids of every colour and creed back on the straight and narrow through a program grounded in traditional Aboriginal culture.

For the past three years Learning Ground has given conventional counselling methods a back seat and created a modern-day tribal ground. The curriculum is divided not into school terms but into the different seasons as experienced by traditional Aboriginal communities.

"Traditionally winter is when you huddle together and talk and

from the program returned to school full-time and not one has been suspended. The schools have reported improvements in communication skills and one, Aaron Dargin, received a scholarship to continue year 11 and 12 at Chifley College.

Yet Learning Ground and other indigenous-based organisations have struggled to secure government funding, surviving on donations from philanthropic organisations. Ms Matthews has filled out numerous federal grant applications but been

“So entrenched have Mt DrUITT's ethnic violence problems become that few there believe the promises of the new government.”

jails are big problems.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to genuine reconciliation comes from the violent clashes between groups of young Aboriginal, white, Pacific Islander and African men on Friday and Saturday nights. "How are you going to talk to people when you've got two Pacific Islander gangs standing off at the bottom of your street?" said Penny Sorrensen, a local mother.

So entrenched have Mt DrUITT's ethnic violence problems become that few there believe the promises of the new government.

But in Macarthur Way, Bidwill, a small, committed community group is trying to turn the tide. A local indigenous leader, Winsome Matthews, and a small group of

share stories and wisdom. That was when you would learn about your heritage, your kinship ties and your obligations to your family and your community," Ms Matthews said. "We don't do that these days so the kids have lost that understanding and lost that respect."

The students are taught about reciprocal obligation by being initiated in an indigenous totem system - finding their totem and learning how it interacts with others. "If you're a child living in this country you have some kind of relationship to the natural world around you, it doesn't matter whether you're Koori, white African, Islander."

The methods may be unconventional but the program is working. Last year 19 students

rejected each time. "They told me, 'We can't give you funding because we have to admit what we're doing isn't working.'"

A University of Western Sydney education academic, Kell Knox, says programs such as Learning Ground have a vital role in reconciliation. "Government should look to Aboriginal culture to address the problems they're experiencing and that communities like Mt DrUITT are experiencing," he said. "The conventional Western way of doing things often doesn't fit with the way indigenous people do business. I think the apology has given us a brief window and somehow this sorry has got to get some traction."

[“Lessons in respect bear fruit in arid soil”, Sydney Morning Herald 11/3/08, with permission]



# Binge drinking plan

(continued from page 1)

In addition to the objective evidence on the costs of binge drinking, there is the untold impact on families and communities around the country.

The Government is determined to work with communities, parents and young people to implement a National Strategy on Binge Drinking that includes a new focus on personal

sporting organisations' actions on responsible drinking into account in considering other government funding support. This program could also support local government working with community organisations to address high risk activities, and community organisations working with local police to address underage drinking.

- allowing police to confiscate alcohol or provide formal warnings.

When young people involved in binge drinking present to hospitals or fall foul of the law, the personal responsibility approach needs to be triggered.

This program will seek to support at least one pilot project in each State

The Government is determined to work with communities, parents and young people to implement a National Strategy on Binge Drinking that includes a new focus on personal responsibility.

responsibility. While the Australian Government has a number of initiatives aimed at targeting alcohol misuse in the wider community, there has to date been no coherent national approach to tackling binge drinking among young people.

## Community partnerships

The Rudd Government will strengthen partnerships with sporting and other non-government organisations to affect the environments that shape the culture of binge drinking among young people.

This will be a \$14.4 million grants-based program focused on binge drinking reduction at the sectoral and local level. This initiative could support projects such as sporting clubs and non-government organisations working together to educate and inform club members about the harms associated with binge drinking, or sporting clubs developing codes of conduct in relation to binge drinking.

The Government will also take

A grants round will commence from mid-2008. Funding is from the existing Community Partnerships Initiative and Rural and Regional Initiative programs.

## Earlier intervention to enhance personal responsibility

The Rudd Government will invest \$19.1 million to support innovative early intervention and diversion programs to get young people under the age of 18 back on track before more serious alcohol-related problems emerge. These early intervention initiatives will focus not only on cultures and environments, but also a new emphasis on personal responsibility.

This initiative would target young people under the age of 18 who have been involved in an episode involving alcohol and could include:

- requiring young people to participate in educational and/or diversionary activities; and

capital by the end of 2008. Pilots would require community buy-in from State and local governments, community and health organisations, and local police.

## Confronting young people with the consequences of binge drinking

The Rudd Government will invest up to \$20 million over two years in a hard-hitting TV, radio and Internet campaign that confronts young people with the costs and consequences of binge drinking.

This campaign will draw on the lessons of previous campaigns that have worked – such as those addressing smoking, the road toll and HIV/AIDS. This initiative will commence in 2008-09 and be funded from existing resources. Consistent with the Government's election commitments, this public information campaign will be evidence-based and non-political.

[edited version of media release 10/3/08]



# To stop the binge, take away rebellion

Erik Jensen

## **Kevin Rudd plans to “scare the living daylight” out of teenagers with a two-year ad campaign against binge drinking.**

Such a campaign started while I was at school. An actress sat in a darkened room, buttoning her shirt after a drunken encounter. In another commercial, a girl vomited, sticky with sweat and clinging hair. The tagline asked you to think about where binge drinking might take you, but all we took was the opportunity to tease a friend who looked like the girl. And onwards the binge drinking rolled, and it laughed and stumbled and got up and did it again.

Binge drinking is like the ads, but not always. It is more condonable without the tut-tutting of the camera; the unattractive parts more easily laughed off. An open-minded parent is there, sometimes not, and it never seems really dangerous. There are enough bottle shops - thanks to Coles and Woolworths - to be knocked back at one, and go to another. There is always an older sibling; a parent who is told everyone else buys for parties; someone nearby willing to take \$50 and keep the change.

Ads about binge drinking cannot exploit the unknown, as did the Grim Reaper campaign of the

1980s, and will never convince a youth already happily drunk. Much as we worship television, generation Y still believes it is smarter.

Youth binge drinking is the result of over-regulation. As in America, prohibition is a failure here.

In 1920s America the popularity of strong liquor surged because it was more efficient to smuggle. In Australia young people have the alcopop and the same motivation. A hipflask of vodka is easier to smuggle than a sixpack of beer, and more efficient, and the licensing encourages it.

NSW has some of the most stringent underage drinking laws in Australia. In 1996 the maximum fine for selling liquor to a minor almost tripled, to \$5500. From July those fines will double again or jail for publicans, and more than \$2000 for minors.

Backyards become speakeasies where the weekly party, the drinking, must be as muscular and worthwhile as possible.

It goes back, says the progressive observer, to Australia's convict heritage. It is about contraband, the need for warders to control convicts, the use of rum as currency, the inability to be responsible and the want to be excessive should the opportunity arise. With children more wealthy, and the parents contributing to this wealth at work,

the repression has boiled over and the convicts have stormed the mess. Once there they stay carrying the habit to adulthood.

John D. Rockefeller jnr had been a supporter of prohibition in America, but by 1932 he was forced to concede he was wrong. The same conclusion will no doubt follow as we force teen drinking to a place where it has to be a problem.

“When Prohibition was introduced, I hoped that it would be widely supported by public opinion and the day would soon come when the evil effects of alcohol would be recognised,” Rockefeller wrote.

“I have slowly and reluctantly come to believe that this has not been the result. Instead, drinking has generally increased; the speakeasy has replaced the saloon; a vast army of lawbreakers has appeared; many of our best citizens have openly ignored Prohibition; respect for the law has been greatly lessened; and crime has increased to a level never seen before.”

Kevin Rudd, a man who says he has been drunk only twice, is not going to solve the binge. His hope to control problem drinking through early intervention is positive but lacks sufficient funding. The scheme is glitter, ultimately - a

(continued over page)



# To stop the binge, take away rebellion


(continued from previous page)

little sparkle and a statement but nothing of substance to deal with the underlying issues. The \$53.5 million allocated is little more than the money Labor pledged to the Cairns School of Tropical Dentistry during the election campaign. That

was a stunt, and this has the same flavour.

The first step in combating binge drinking - unless you are Tony Abbott or John Cobb, and are stuck denying it is a majority problem - is to pull it out of the darkness. That is not by

talking about it or setting guidelines or running television commercials, but by allowing an environment in which drinking is not a clandestine pleasure where one feels obliged to get too much from the experience.

[Sydney Morning Herald 12/3/08 with permission] 

# Youth drinking: Families in need of support

Australian National Council on Drugs

**It is critical that there is much more support for families coping with young people who are either binge drinking or have issues with drugs.**

A new report highlights that the biggest problem Australian families are facing when it comes to substance misuse is young people binge drinking.

Family members should be able to get support and assistance in their own right, but many family members helping people with drug or alcohol issues frequently aren't getting the right information or support — and end up feeling isolated and confused.

Many Australian families are now

routinely faced with a young person with binge drinking problems — often creating enormous pressures on the family. An ANCD phone survey has found that many treatment providers in Australia do not have the resources to provide any direct services for family members who have a young person with alcohol or drug issues.

Figures now show that in any given week:

- approximately 1 in 10 (or 168,000) 12 to 17 year olds reported binge drinking/drinking at harmful levels (males were drinking 7 or more drinks on the day and females 5 or more on the day).
- 1 in 10 (or 31,325) 15 year

olds reported binge drinking/drinking at harmful levels.

- 1 in 5 (or 54,116) 16 year olds drank at harmful levels.
- 1 in 5 (or 59,176) 17 year olds reported binge drinking/drinking at harmful levels.

As well:

- Less than 0.5% (or 1 in 200) 12 year olds drank at harmful levels in the past 7 days.
- 237,000 (or 1 in 7) secondary school children have used cannabis in the past 12 months.
- 67,000 (or 1 in 25) secondary school students are estimated to have used amphetamines in the past year.

The new report follows the



release last year of a major ANCD report that looked at number of children living in households where an adult has alcohol or drug issues. Since that time the authors have undertaken further analysis and now estimate:

- At least 451,000 children live in a household where they are at risk of exposure to binge drinking by one adult
- 78,000 children live in a household where there is at least one daily cannabis user
- 27,000 children live in a household where an adult is using methamphetamines monthly.

ANCD Chairman Dr. John Herron says much greater investment needs to be put into treatment and support to help families who

have young people with alcohol or drug misuse issues. He says the new report highlights that problematic substance use by a young person creates enormous pressures in the family.

Dr. Herron said “We are enormously concerned about the high rates of binge drinking. What this report clearly says is that drug and alcohol use by young people has become normalised and is often seen as a rite of passage to adulthood. It is clear from the report that parents have an important role in influencing what happens to their children. Adolescents are less likely to drink and engage in binge drinking if parents actively disapprove. Enhanced parental monitoring is the most effective strategy to

minimise the risk of adolescents ending up drinking at risky levels once they start to experiment — according to the report.”

[extract from media release 25/2/08]



## More information

The ANCD is the principal advisory body to Government on drug and alcohol issues. [www.ancd.org.au](http://www.ancd.org.au)

### The full media release:

[www.ancd.org.au/media/media113.htm](http://www.ancd.org.au/media/media113.htm)

### The report:

Supporting the Families of Young People with Problematic Drug Use: Investigating Support Options

[www.ancd.org.au/publications/research\\_papers.htm](http://www.ancd.org.au/publications/research_papers.htm)

# Cut the red tape! Paperwork and insurance hassles... and tips

## Dear YAPRap

Something you might want to look at - an issue the kids keep coming up against which I'm sure would affect many youth groups and individuals - public liability!!! My kids have asked their local shopping centre if they can have a small display box to collect old mobile phones on the desk of their information stand - they've been told they'd need public liability insurance for it! Obviously this isn't something kids can afford - or could legally be covered for. So what do kids do... probably just give-up!



Last year the kids thought everyone looked glum around the local supermarket just before Christmas so asked if they could play some carols on their flute and viola. They were told they couldn't because they hadn't completed

the appropriate 'health and safety' course!!!

It'd be interesting for kids to know that insurance is something they may need when doing public works and how (if possible) to get around it - the kids do their bushcare program through our local council by registering as a community group. This way they, and all the volunteers, are covered by insurance.

- **Mother of young activists**

(continued over page)



# Cut the red tape!

(continued from previous page)

## Dear mother of young activists,

That would have been very frustrating for those kids. They were trying to do a really good thing, to get those phones recycled, only to find they were blocked by some, apparently arbitrary, rules. Here's a couple of suggestions.

The kids probably needed to make the activity a 'partnership' with the shopping centre so that the shopping centre would work with the kids and take it on as a shopping centre activity. Then, maybe, the management at the centre would have been involved and been able to take responsibility for any of the 'risks' they might have been worried about. The shopping centre is responsible for anything done on their property so they will want a say in what happens.

Another way to do it may have been to do it as an activity of another group, like your school, or the scouts or maybe your local youth centre. I reckon most youth workers would think it was a great thing to do and would want to make the activity an activity of the youth centre. In that way the youth centre becomes 'responsible' and they can show the shopping centre that they have the public liability insurance they want.

**- Hugh Worrall at the NCOSS Insurance Project**

## Dear YAPRap

*I would also like to vent my frustrations from a local government level and from a former youth worker and organiser of youth activities...*

*We pay through the nose now, every time we want to run events etc, to put young people on a stage to perform we pay about 70 bucks per act (stupid really, an act could be 1 or 30 people and its the same), and the varying levels*

## Your turn

- ➔ Want to vent about red tape in youth activism or youth work?
- ➔ Got a question about insurance, duty of care or other legalities?
- ➔ Got a tip?

Send me a quick email:  
nick@yapa.org.au  
(02) 9319 1100 ext. 4

*of risk seem to have no impact often on the cost. And when you take events where we end up with up to 2 – 300 performers, this becomes more and more expensive.*

*Different NGO organisations in our area have different insurance packages meaning they can run certain activities etc and there is inconsistencies between what the services are able to provide for young people. Eg. one service regularly takes young people go-karting while another claims that their insurance won't let them. This is confusing for young people as they get confused as to what youth services can actually offer.*

**- Youth Development Officer, Sydney**

## Dear Youth Development Officer

It can be a headache trying to work out how to manage the risks involved with youth events and knowing what insurances you need to cover the risks. I must admit that when I was a youth worker I ran all sorts of things and didn't know if I was covered or not because I didn't know any better. Different youth services have different knowledge about how to run activities safely and what insurance coverages they

need. I don't think you have to give up on go-karting and under 18s band nights though.

Things have changed a lot since I was a youth worker. Funding bodies and management committees expect a lot more accountability and professionalism from community organizations – like they describe in the DoCS Good Practice Guidelines. The good thing about that, is that people are less likely to get hurt, and if people do get hurt they are properly supported and the organization is protected.

Different insurance companies specialize in different things. If you are not talking to a company that understands community organizations it is not always easy to get what you want. NCOSS works with the insurance broker AON Risk Services to make sure that the insurance they sell is made to cover the needs of community organizations. Event insurance is part of the NCOSS Community Cover insurance package. A good insurance broker, who understands the community sector, can put together the insurance that your service needs.

There are a few companies that specialize in insurance for community organizations. Here are three:

- AON provides NCOSS Community Cover – 1 300 363 764
- CRISP is associated with Meals on Wheels – 1 300 652 556
- Local Community Insurance Services are associated with local government – 1 300 853 800

The NCOSS website is a good place to find insurance information [www.ncoss.org.au/insurance](http://www.ncoss.org.au/insurance)

**- Hugh Worrall at the NCOSS Insurance Project**



## Up 2 Scratch hip hop workshops

I facilitate the Up 2 Scratch hip hop workshop alongside Christian Griffiths.

Please contact me for further information. - Robert Downer  
up2scratch@live.com.au

0411 219 514  
www.myspace.com/up2scratchworkshops

## Youth Event Safety Checklist

The Youth Event Safety Checklist aims to assist youth event organisers to make their youth event as safe and successful

as possible. Covers important safety concerns to address when planning youth events. Free. Download from [www.youthsafe.org](http://www.youthsafe.org)

or hard copies from (02) 9809 4615.

## Need a facilitator?

Are you a Coordinator with a new team? Do you want to help get your team working as one towards a common goal? Does your Interagency want to develop clear direction? I have developed a program that provides an exhilarating and enlightening process to improve a team's direction and cohesion in the work place. Using fun team

building activities and a range of exercises your team will discover more about themselves and each other and how they function as a team.

I am a qualified life coach with over 10 years experience working in the youth and community sector. I also offer professional coaching sessions that are fun and especially designed for young

people, young athletes and people who work with youth. If you are interested in discussing your group's needs please contact me on 0410 665 405 or email [info@liveyourpotential.com.au](mailto:info@liveyourpotential.com.au). - Mandy Loundar, Your Personal Coach, LiveYour Potential. [www.liveyourpotential.com.au](http://www.liveyourpotential.com.au)

## Free mental health DVDs

A set of 6 DVDs are available to borrow free of charge from most video stores throughout NSW, including many Blockbuster, Civic Video and Video Ezy outlets. 400 video and DVD stores in NSW provide this community service. The six DVDs, produced by MonkeySee Productions:

- 'Me Depressed? Don't Make Me Laugh: Overcoming Depression' – presented by

Spike Milligan

- 'Fight or Flight: Overcoming Panic & Agoraphobia'
- 'I Think They Think: Overcoming Shyness & Social Phobia'
- 'Manic Depressive Illness (Bipolar Disorder): A Guide to Living with it'
- 'Living with Schizophrenia'
- 'No More Bets Please! Overcoming Problem

Gambling' – presented by HG Nelson

More information on the DVDs or to find mental health support services in your area: Mental Health Association of NSW 1300 794 991 or [www.mentalhealth.asn.au](http://www.mentalhealth.asn.au). Information about depression, anxiety and related drug and alcohol problems: [beyondblue 1300 22 4636](http://beyondblue.org.au) or [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)



# Delegates for 2020 Youth Summit

The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Youth

**Today I announced the names of the 100 outstanding young Australians who will help shape the nation's future at the Rudd Government's 2020 Youth Summit.**

Delegates were drawn from across the community, including high schools, universities, industry, the arts and small business.

It was fantastic to witness such a huge response of over 1200 submissions to our call for nominations last month.

The quality and diversity of the delegates will bring a fresh

## YAPA member & YAPA EO attend summit

YAPA youth member Anthony Fowler from the Blue Mountains has been selected to attend the 2020 Youth Summit, along with YAPA Executive Officer Rey Reodica.

**Tim Goodwin**, 24 years old, from VIC: A former member of the National Indigenous Youth Leadership Group, Tim is very interested in the representation of indigenous

level of youth participation in the government sector.

**Felicity Harris**, 24 years old, from TAS: As a Regional Arts Development Officer Felicity works with a broad cross section of the community. Felicity, as a young mother, understands the economic and social pressures that come with raising a family and works on projects to engage rural mothers in the community. Winner of the Future Leader of Australia Award in 2001 she has spent time in Estonia working with rural children living in poverty.

The 2020 Youth Summit will be held in Canberra on 12 and 13

“The quality and diversity of the delegates will bring a fresh and innovative outlook to the task of improving our country's future.”

and innovative outlook to the task of improving our country's future.

Delegates include:

**Nicholas Rokkas**, 15 years old, from NSW: Nicholas is the youngest delegate selected to participate in the Youth 2020 Summit. He was named the 2007 Sustainable Living Champion after volunteering his time to work on several projects with a particular focus on the environment.

communities and has worked for a number of years on youth projects. In 2002 Tim was part of the Australian delegation to the United Nations General Special Session on Children in New York.

**Mohammad Al-Khafaji**, 17 years old, from SA: Mohammad is studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Software) at Adelaide University. As a refugee who has resettled in Australia he has been awarded for his academic success in science and mathematics. Mohammad is keen to see a higher

April, and give delegates aged 15-24 an opportunity to tackle 10 critical challenges for Australia's future.

10 participants from the 2020 Youth Summit along with co-chair, Hugh Evans, will be invited to attend Australia 2020 on 19 April, further strengthening young Australians' input into an important forum on the future of the nation.

The Rudd Government is committed to giving young people a stronger voice in government.

[Media release 25 March 2008]



# The Australian Youth Forum - a new era in youth consultation

## A Discussion Paper

The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Youth

**The Australian Government intends to establish the Australian Youth Forum (AYF) to ensure that young people and the youth sector have a framework for putting forward their ideas and concerns to the Australian Government. Its establishment will be led by the Hon. Kate Ellis, MP, Minister for Youth.**

This discussion paper forms the basis of a public consultation process about the Australian Youth Forum and how the Australian Government can improve the way young people and the youth sector are able to influence the policies, programs and services that impact on them.

This paper has been written as a guide to individuals and organisations wishing to make a submission. The Government is looking for input in two key areas:

1. What the role and functions should be for the Australian Youth Forum and how it should operate; and
2. The key issues affecting young people today.

### Introduction

A great deal of rousing rhetoric is often spoken about young people. Phrases such as: “young people are the nation’s future”; “they are a valuable resource”; “they should be consulted about issues affecting their lives” are easy to trot out.

But these sorts of statements can sometimes be received with caution and considered with some cynicism.

The Rudd Labor Government is determined to turn this rhetoric into a reality at a national level and challenge that cynicism and caution by ensuring that young Australians are actively involved in the conversations the Federal Government has about them.

This Government recognises that young people are not just the future; they are also important citizens, contributing in a variety of significant ways now. The Government also understands that young people have unique perspectives, useful insights and important opinions. Young people are the best experts on issues affecting them.

And this Government is aware that young people want more than token efforts when it comes to consultation;

they want to be involved in ways that are accessible and meaningful to them. They want their input to be given serious consideration by Government.

The Rudd Government also knows that the youth sector, those who work with and for young people in our community, have particular expertise in relation to the issues facing young Australians, and they seek greater opportunities to engage federally.

And the Government recognises that the current generation of young Australians are facing issues and challenges unique to their generation; the housing affordability crisis, the cost of getting a tertiary education, the impact of climate change to name a few. To prevent the widening of a “generational divide” in this country, the needs and issues of young Australians require attention at the highest levels of Government.

For these reasons, the Government will be fulfilling an election commitment by establishing an Australian Youth Forum and welcomes the input of young people, the youth sector and other interested parties in shaping their plans for the AYF.

(continued over page)



# The Australian Youth Forum

(continued from previous page)

## The Australian Youth Forum

The AYF will act as a formal communication channel for young people and the youth sector, replacing the previous government's National Youth Roundtable.

While the Government is seeking input into the precise model for the AYF through this consultation process, it has envisaged that the Australian Youth Forum will include the following elements:

- Youth participation—representatives aged between 15 and 24 to discuss issues of importance and advise the government in relevant policy development. The AYF will give young people real, meaningful opportunities to interact with Government about issues affecting their lives. Ongoing dialogue will be a feature of this. The AYF's youth participation will be inclusive; recognising the diversity of interests, cultures, needs and life circumstances of young people and ensuring that this diversity is reflected in the AYF. The Government intends that the AYF provide a range of different mechanisms for youth participation to cater for such diversity. The Government recognises that youth consultation needs to reflect emerging trends in technology and the changing social contexts of young people.
- Coordinating dialogue between youth sector organisations, autonomous youth services and the Government. The AYF will also provide feedback in relation to services and programs specific to young people.
- Be grounded in evidence and will draw on sound research including the latest literature and national

and international best practice. The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies will ideally work closely with the Australian Youth Forum so that members are made aware of the most up-to-date information and latest research.

- Will include a capacity for the Minister for Youth to engage with young people around Australia on a regular basis in a series of face-to-face forums. And the Minister will be seeking the views of young people whose voices often don't get heard through the more structured consultation measures.
- Will communicate with the Minister for Youth. However, the Government also recognises that policies affecting young people's lives are developed across the full range of portfolios in government. It is envisaged that the AYF will channel feedback from young people and the youth sector to government more broadly.

## The consultation process explained

Consultations will occur from 17 March and will run through to 30 May 2008. In addition to these formal consultations, the Minister will also take into consideration an analysis of existing models of youth participation, relevant work of the National Youth Roundtable as well as discussion about the AYF to be held during the 2020 Youth Summit on 12 and 13 April.

There will be opportunities to participate in consultations in two ways:

- Through online submissions; and
- Through participation in group meetings.

Meetings will be held in every capital city and a number of regional centres. Details of the time and venues for each of these meetings will be published

on [www.thesource.gov.au](http://www.thesource.gov.au). To attend a meeting in these locations you must first register your interest (registration form will also be available on [www.thesource.gov.au](http://www.thesource.gov.au)).

Information on how to participate will be available widely, including via thesource website, on youth radio, youth specific websites and through existing youth sector agencies and other networks.

To make a submission, or register to attend a consultation meeting, simply go to [www.thesource.gov.au](http://www.thesource.gov.au). The results will be compiled in a concise report which will be published on [www.thesource.gov.au](http://www.thesource.gov.au).

It is expected that the Minister will make an announcement about the Australian Youth Forum soon after the consultation process has been concluded.

## Your Input

Your input is sought on:

- The appropriate role, functions and operation of the Australian Youth Forum; and
- The priority youth issues which would inform the work of the Forum.

## The National Youth Roundtable

Between 1999 and 2008, the National Youth Roundtable was the Australian Government's primary youth consultation mechanism. It brought together 45 young people aged 15 to 24 years from all areas around Australia and various cultural backgrounds to meet with representatives of the previous Australian Government to discuss and explore issues that impact on young people.

The Rudd Government is aware that there were a range of concerns and criticisms expressed about the



previous government's approach to youth engagement and consultation through the Roundtable.

The establishment of the Roundtable coincided with the previous government's decision to defund the Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition, the former national peak youth body.

In pursuing their election commitment to replace the National Youth Roundtable with the AYF, the Government will seek to build upon successful aspects of the Roundtable while expanding the Government's capacity to engage with young people and the youth sector in new ways.

## Next Steps

Through your responses, the Australian Government hopes to develop the Australian Youth Forum in a way that accurately reflects the needs and wants of young people and other key stakeholders.

Your feedback on what the key issues impacting on young Australians are, will help set a direction for the work of the Australian Youth Forum over the next 12 months, and inform Government youth policy and program

development.

Once the outcomes of these consultations have been taken into consideration, the Minister for Youth will make the final decision on how the Australian Youth Forum will operate. An announcement is expected to be made soon after the consultations process has been completed.

## How to provide feedback


Written submissions are required by close of business on Friday, 30 May 2008 and should be emailed to: [youthforum@deewr.gov.au](mailto:youthforum@deewr.gov.au) or by post to: Australian Youth Forum Consultation, Youth Bureau, Location 136, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, GPO Box 9880, Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601.

## Where to find out more

Enquiries about this discussion paper can be directed to: Gabrielle Burrell, Section Manager, Youth Consultation (02) 6212 9117 or [Gabrielle.burrell@deewr.gov.au](mailto:Gabrielle.burrell@deewr.gov.au)

## The fine print – confidentiality

Unless you request that your submission be treated confidentially, submissions may be made publicly available on Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) websites as part of the consultation process. In addition, you may wish to note that, because DEEWR may be required to release your submission by the operation of law, judicial or Parliamentary body or government agency, the Department can give no undertaking that your submission will never be made publicly available.

If you would like your submission to be kept confidential, please indicate clearly at the top of your document or in a covering note. If only part of your response is confidential, please put that part on a separate page. 

## More information

This discussion paper and a questionnaire are online [www.thesource.gov.au](http://www.thesource.gov.au)

# Oh boy - answers on anger

Julie Szego

**After years of trial and error, a psychologist and author says he has a way to bring angry teenage boys back to civility - gently.**

Michael Currie was conducting a meeting for aggressive teenage boys at a Newcastle high school about two years ago when things got out

of control. This fact alone was hardly unusual given Currie, who approaches school principals with the plea "give me all your problematic angry boys" and often cops a degree of suspicion in return. The episode is only memorable because of Currie's handling or, more accurately, his mishandling of it.

As Currie tells it, his actions that day broke every rule in his book, *Doing*

*Anger Differently: Helping Adolescent Boys*, which draws on years of learning on the job.

Two boys from Currie's drama group had leapt onto a window ledge and were yelling obscenities at a passing sports class. Currie's first thought was how badly this incident would reflect on him as the adult who  
(continued over page)



# Oh boy - answers on anger

(continued from previous page)

was supposed to be using creative methods to get these boys behaving properly.

"I was suddenly scared that I would be hauled in front of the principal too," he says with a wry laugh. "So I took one of the boys outside and said in a fairly animated way, 'You can't do that, you just can't do that!'"

Forbidding, playing the cop, imposing authority - Currie advises parents and other authority figures to avoid this reflex response. Yes, you are sometimes obliged to lay down the law and say, "no, you can't do this", but the stance should always be explained. But here was Currie flatly forbidding, "and the problem with this kid was that forbidding wasn't working - he had seen too much of it. And then the boy went quiet for a while, but then he returned to the group and played up even worse. So from then on it was a matter of me trying to put a cap on my anger so that both of us could start to work together and not just use words as a weapon."

This is one of the challenges for adults dealing with a teenage boy whose dark moods are creating perpetual conflict at home or school: anger is contagious and must be resisted. As with much of Currie's advice, the tip seems sensible. But while the theory may sound simple enough, making it work in the heat of reality, as Currie attests, is another matter entirely.

So how should he have handled the boy in his drama class? Currie ambles through an imaginary conversation that he begins with an open, non-judgmental, "So what was the story with you guys up there?"

Once the boy describes what took place on the ledge, Currie might try to unravel the reasons. Maybe the boy had clashed with a parent that morning or had been humiliated in a



physical education class the day before and wanted revenge.

"Then I might say something like, 'Well, yeah, I can understand why you wanted to get back at someone, but the problem is that if you boys keep doing that then the principal will ask me questions and say, well, why should I let you keep doing this class? And you boys say you enjoy being together in this class ...'"

In other words, acknowledge the source of the boy's anger but stop short of appeasing it. And use self-interest to encourage a sense of ethics and responsibility - shelve the "put yourself in their shoes" line for the time being.

Currie's book, aimed primarily at parents, offers no quick-fix for rewiring the exploding adolescent. Rather, he advocates a sustained effort over months or even years.

The effort, writes Currie, who sees public and private patients and teaches at the University of Newcastle, "can be sustained by an adult's understanding of the nature of anger and its genesis, by taking an authoritative but not authoritarian stance, by drawing out knowledge implicit in the boy's speech, and by intervening where necessary following a set of principles rather than rigid rules".

Angry boys are often locked in a

"poor me" narrative of victimhood, believing themselves to be constantly wronged by others - a belief Currie has also encountered in violent men. In his earlier years of practice, he was approached by (usually) mothers dismayed by their "obedient, loving boys suddenly turned into raging men". The boys, for their part, tended to insist everything would be fine "if only she'd just shut up".

How do you shift such a boy to a less paranoid, more critical and more self-reliant mind-set? Currie says his method for encouraging change goes beyond the recently popularised "anger management" approach. Getting an angry teenager to defuse his rage through deep breathing and positive thinking might quell the emotion, but it leaves the root causes intact.

His own clinical work throws up some sociological triggers for the anger of today's adolescents. "Aggression as a problem is expressing itself differently now," Currie says. He thinks consumerism and a growing culture of entitlement may be fuelling adolescent frustration. "I wonder if there's been a lot of 'You can have this, you can have this', but not a lot of talk about what you have to do to get this. There are a lot of adolescents whose dreams have been brutally crushed and who find there are no glittering riches at their feet. If a boy has dreams that are not within his orbit or not able to be realised, then they think, 'Well, why not lash out - what do I have to lose?'"

Other triggers for teen anger spring from "the fragmentation and remaking of families these days". "This provides a different and possibly more complex backdrop to the problem," Currie says. A lot of pain and loss stems from the pushing aside of fathers (whether or not fathers themselves bear any



responsibility for their separation from children is another question). As families fracture, boys grapple “with this issue of who is a father, and they ask, ‘Do I have one, two, three fathers?’”

Such a predicament can expose an adolescent to intense anxiety and vulnerability, as a case study from Currie’s book illustrates. Currie says: “It is the case of Greg, who comes from a family of car mechanics of the rather unauthorised kind, if you get my meaning.

“He tells me about how everyone - his father, uncles and so on - have always been interested in cars. But then he also tells me, ‘I’m going to get a criminal record, because just look at how everyone in the family has one’. So the question he’s really putting to me is, ‘How can I avoid that fate?’”

Greg went to see Currie because he had been giving a substitute teacher a hard time. When the teacher had asked Greg what he wanted to be, the boy replied, “a dole cheat”. The substitute teacher’s bad luck was that she had replaced a Mr Warren, someone who in Greg’s words “was able to teach us even though we didn’t want to learn”.

Greg was even able to confide in Mr Warren his secret wish to become a mechanic. Clearly, Mr Warren acted as a kind of father figure to Greg. “Boys realise themselves within relationships,” Currie says.

Currie, 41, realised his own ambitions by combining different passions. Born and raised in Melbourne, he had a Catholic education and later, at his father’s urging, enrolled in a science degree at Melbourne University. When he saw that psychology was on offer, he “greeted the word with quite a degree of excitement”.

He was also inspired to enrol in an arts degree, studying English and philosophy.

After university, he did a stint as a community worker before taking a radical about-turn by studying music

(double-bass and percussion). A decade passed with Currie studying and working as a musician.

When he moved to Newcastle and reconnected with psychology - eventually completing a PhD on his work with adolescents - Currie was seeking to merge the fields of mind and music. He started the school-based intervention with adolescent boys by running a Latin American percussion group - a way of warming up and gaining trust before the therapeutic work could start. “I find universally that boys love getting together in a group and beating drums really loud.”

He wanted to investigate how the natural progression of adolescence could be used to help these angry boys, to break the transition from “frustrated, difficult child to frustrated, difficult adult”.

Was Currie himself bitter in adolescence? “Yes,” he says, “any adolescent is angry really to some extent. Anger is a deforming monster but also a natural ally, which allows a boy to say things that otherwise wouldn’t be said.”

Anger helps teenagers differentiate themselves from others, especially parents, “which is not to say parents should be worried if their child isn’t angry enough”. (Currie is the father of twin girls, aged nearly three.)

Currie thinks the key to unlocking the potential of almost every angry adolescent involves identifying a goal or dream. “Sometimes you have to dig to find the dream, and the problem, of course, is that adolescents don’t like being dug ...”

Asked about his most heartening success story, Currie tells of John, who consistently rebelled against school rules. In one incident, he and some other boys took part in a serious assault on a classmate. When he described the incident during one of Currie’s group therapy sessions, he was all chuckles: “That little bastard ... he got it bad, man. It was so good ...

he had to go to hospital.”

Currie saw John was thriving on the idea of himself as above the law but he had also grown weary of being labelled a troublemaker. He began to see the value in accepting limits on his conduct. Slowly, his sense of being persecuted and misunderstood began to wane.

He eventually decided to leave the school, where his bad reputation was too entrenched, but after a few months at a new school missed his friends. So he wrote to his former principal asking for a fresh start. This was granted and John held up his end of the bargain. “This was a profound shift for him,” Currie says. “By asking to return to his old school, John put himself back in the centre of his life.”

Even if your son’s rage is more simmering than explosive, Currie suggests listening to him and gently guiding him towards better insight. And whatever you do, keep your cool.

[Reprinted with permission from Sydney Morning Herald February 9, 2008]



## More information

Michael Currie provides psychoanalytic treatment privately and at a public mental health clinic, the Centre for Psychotherapy, in Newcastle. He teaches at the University of Newcastle, and is presenting at the Family and Community Strengths Conference in Newcastle in April: [www.pco.com.au/family](http://www.pco.com.au/family).

Melbourne University Press

[www.mup.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.mup.unimelb.edu.au)

- *Doing Anger Differently: Helping Adolescent Boys* by Michael Currie. \$34.95 ISBN: 0-522-85476-1
- *The Doing Anger Differently Manual: A School Group Program for Talking About Aggression* by Michael Currie. \$29.95 ISBN: 0-522-85543-1



# What's On

---

**21 April 2008, Cooma, 5 May 2008, Bega, 19 May 2008, Moruya,  
26 May 2008, Queanbeyan  
Australian Muslims (free workshop)**

For Community Service Providers – Staff, Volunteers, Board Members: What do you know about Islam and the life of Australian Muslims?

\* What are the family roles for Muslim men, women & children? \* What are the aged-care sensitivities for elderly Muslim people? \* What are some Muslim prayer, fasting and food preferences? \* What are the expectations around clothing and modesty? \* What does Islam, the religion of Australian Muslims teach? \* How representative is the media portrayal of Australian Muslims?

An opportunity to learn more about Australian Muslim families through the life of an Australian Muslim who has worked in many fields and has raised a family in Australia: Kerri Hashmi - Former Secretary of the Muslim Women's Welfare Association. Contact: Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre on (02) 6238 2682 or info@qmlc.org.au

**22 April 2008, Milperra  
Partnerships in Crime Prevention Seminar**

9:30am - 1pm. UWS School of Social Sciences and CHD Partners ([www.chdpartners.com.au](http://www.chdpartners.com.au)) present this free seminar. While there is much rhetoric regarding the benefits of partnership approaches to crime prevention, they can be notoriously difficult to establish and sustain. Practitioners working in and students interested in crime prevention, criminal justice, policing and local government sectors will benefit from the diverse presentations at this seminar. Email [garner@chdpartners.com.au](mailto:garner@chdpartners.com.au) to register.

**28 April 2008, Sydney CBD  
Effective Advocacy Skills and Strategies**

Three skills-based programs in one day covering lobbying, negotiation and media skills and strategies. Contact: Public Interest Advocacy Centre - PIAC on [www.piac.asn.au](http://www.piac.asn.au) or [piac@piac.asn.au](mailto:piac@piac.asn.au) or 02 8898 6500

**29-30 April 2008, Sydney  
CRIAH 2008 Conference**

Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health: Strong Foundations...Strong Future. Contact: Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC) on [www.ahmrc.org.au/eventsnews.htm](http://www.ahmrc.org.au/eventsnews.htm)

**7 May 2008, Surry Hills  
Random Acts of Counselling**

Learn about counselling and practice basic counselling skills in an experiential workshop - \$145. Contact: P&P Training & Consultancy [p.p.training@ozemail.com.au](mailto:p.p.training@ozemail.com.au) or (02) 9949 9407 or 0414 635 738



### **13 May 2008, Surry Hills**

#### **LGCSA Youth Division**

Quarterly meeting, 9.30am – 1pm. Organised by Local Government Community Services Association. All council youth development officers and youth workers welcome. Contact Nick Manning [nick@yapa.org.au](mailto:nick@yapa.org.au) (02) 9319 1100

### **May-October 2008, various locations**

#### **NSW Ombudsman workshops**

Includes some of these sessions: Introduction to the Ombudsman, Frontline Skills for Complaint Handling, Effective Complaint Systems, Resolution Options, An overview of investigating.

14 May, Liverpool, 17 June, 18 June, Lismore, 30 July, Queanbeyan, 13 August, Newcastle, 2 September, Sydney, 16 October, Orange. Cost: \$148.50. Contact: 02 9265 0400 or [nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au) or [www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/trainingworkshops/onlineregform.html](http://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/trainingworkshops/onlineregform.html)

### **15-16 May 2008, Sydney CBD**

#### **Law for Non-Lawyers**

A practical two-day introduction to the law and the legal system. You will also learn to identify when there is a legal aspect to a problem, and locate a range of legal services and resources. Contact: Public Interest Advocacy Centre - PIAC on [www.piac.asn.au](http://www.piac.asn.au) or [piac@piac.asn.au](mailto:piac@piac.asn.au) or 02 8898 6500

### **10 June 2008, Sydney**

#### **Results Accountability 101 Training**

The Fiscal Policy Studies Institute (USA) and The Family Action Centre offer Results Accountability Training presented by founder Mark Friedman. \$363 (incl. GST) Lunch provided plus Trying Hard is Not Good Enough book, Results Accountability Workbook and other handouts. Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle 02 4921 6403 or [www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/fac/trainingconsultancies/resultsaccountabililty.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/fac/trainingconsultancies/resultsaccountabililty.html)

### **10 June 2008, Sydney CBD**

#### **Advanced Media Skills Training**

This one-day workshop is run by journalists and will equip you to face the media. The workshop covers media releases and conducting radio and television interviews. Contact: Public Interest Advocacy Centre - PIAC on [www.piac.asn.au](http://www.piac.asn.au) or [piac@piac.asn.au](mailto:piac@piac.asn.au) or 02 8898 6500

**There is a lot more what's on at [www.yapa.org.au](http://www.yapa.org.au). To submit your own event for what's on, email the details in one paragraph in the body of the email (no attachments) to [info@yapa.org.au](mailto:info@yapa.org.au) with the subject line: whats on.**



# Opportunities

## Play Now Act Now

- Do you live in NSW?
- Are you aged 16 to 25?
- Do you know how to party smart?
- Do you want to have the chance to share in \$12,000 in cash and prizes?

Then start filming, writing or designing NOW.

Play Now Act Now is a film,

graphic design and writing competition for young people aged 16 to 25 in NSW. Play Now Act Now recognises that young people do and will drink alcohol and use other drugs, and sets out to minimise the harms associated with this.

This year's theme is party smART. Finalists from each

category will be showcased at an Award Presentation and on the 2008 DVD & Education Resource. Deadline: 25 July 2008. Contact: Katrina Douglas on 02 9356 1818 or [partysmart@metroscreen.org.au](mailto:partysmart@metroscreen.org.au) [www.playnowactnow.net.au](http://www.playnowactnow.net.au) or [www.myspace.com/182108657](http://www.myspace.com/182108657)

## Red Cross asks Generation Y to take the challenge!

Young people aged 12-18 years are being asked to put their imaginations to use to help their community, as part of a state wide youth challenge program. The EnergyAustralia Red Cross Youth Challenge calls on young people to get creative and implement a project that makes a positive difference to the world in which they live. The projects need to demonstrate

one or more of the youth goals of Red Cross including protection of health and life, service to the community, international friendship and understanding and promoting the role of Red Cross.

The most outstanding projects will be recognised at an awards ceremony in September where winners will be announced across nine categories. Once

students register, they receive an information pack and ongoing support to assist them with their project. Youth Challenge is also open to non-school groups. The closing date for entries is 31 August 2008. To register or for more information, visit [www.takethechallenge.com.au](http://www.takethechallenge.com.au) or contact Kate Dixon at Australian Red Cross on 02 9229 4283.

## Who do you know with a big heart?

Nominations for the NRMA Helping People Awards 2008 are now open. We are celebrating volunteers in our community by giving them a chance to receive some fantastic holiday breaks and donate \$5000 to their charity! They could be your next-door neighbour, a friend, or a fellow volunteer who selflessly gives

their time for a charity or not-for-profit organisation. If you know someone in NSW or the ACT who deserves recognition, nominate them today. Award Categories & Prizes

1. Community Volunteer Award (25-59 years old)
2. Seniors Volunteer Award (60+ years old)

3. Environmental Volunteer Award (25-59 years old)
4. Young Volunteer Award (17-24 years old)

Entries close 30 May 2008. 02 8222 2112 or [www.mynrma.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/mynrma/hs.xsl/helping\\_people\\_awards.htm](http://www.mynrma.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/mynrma/hs.xsl/helping_people_awards.htm)

