

# Campaign for funding for the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

YAPA, and other members of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), are calling on young people and youth services to urge the new Federal Minister for Youth, Ms Kate Ellis, to move quickly to reinstate funding for AYAC as the national peak body for youth affairs.

Currently the Minister is conducting consultations and receiving submissions on a proposed new forum for young Australians to have a voice to government. According to the Minister, the new Australian Youth Forum replaces the National Youth Roundtable and will offer broader opportunity and scope for young people from across Australia to have their views heard by the Federal Government.

The Australian Youth Forum Discussion Paper is now available for your response. The consultation period is open to **Friday 30 May 2008**. As part of this consultation a series of meetings will also be held around Australia. There is more detail at [www.thesource.gov.au](http://www.thesource.gov.au).

To help you write a short letter to the Minister, YAPA has provided:

- *Just what is AYAC???* - a short article at [www.yapa.org.au/youth/latest/ayac.php](http://www.yapa.org.au/youth/latest/ayac.php) (or follow the links from our homepage)
- *YAPA template letter* - below - for you to modify and send on behalf of your agency.

Your letter can be short and it can be on paper or an email, but it must get to the Minister by **Friday 30 May**.

**[www.yapa.org.au/youth/latest/campaignayac.php](http://www.yapa.org.au/youth/latest/campaignayac.php)**

## Template letter on AYAC and the proposed Australian Youth Forum

Using the template letter on the following pages:

1. insert the date at the top
2. insert the name of your agency in the first paragraph,
3. add any additional points you'd like to make or take out anything you're not sure about,
4. insert your name and position, or email signature, at the end,
5. put your letter on agency letterhead or email,
6. then send it **to get there by 30 May**.

<i>Send to:</i>	<i>And also:</i>	<i>And cc to:</i>
The Hon Kate Ellis MP Minister for Youth PO Box 6022 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600	AYF Consultation Youth Bureau Location 136 DEEWR GPO Box 9880 Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601	YAPA 146 Devonshire St Surry Hills NSW 2010
OR		
Kate.Ellis.MP@aph.gov.au	youthforum@deewr.gov.au	info@yapa.org.au

INSERT DATE

The Hon Kate Ellis MP  
Minister for Youth  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Kate.Ellis.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Ellis,

**Re: Consultations on the proposed Australian Youth Forum**

*(INSERT NAME OF AGENCY)* wishes to place its support behind calls for the Federal Government to move quickly to reinstate funding for the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) for the development of the national peak body for youth affairs.

The recent federal budget announced significant funds for the Australian Youth Forum, which was announced last year as

“an independent youth peak body which will bring together youth representatives and youth workers to discuss, advocate and provide feedback to the Minister for Youth and the Government about how Commonwealth policies affect young people.” (Shadow Minister for Youth, Tanya Plibersek, Speech to the National Youth Affairs Conference, Melbourne 3 May 2007).

We understand that AYAC has a diverse representation across the country, unrivalled networks of young people and youth services (including all networks available via established state and territory youth peak bodies), youth participation at all levels of its governance structure and is recognised around Australia as the unfunded youth affairs peak.

These attributes mean that AYAC is best placed to use the outcomes of this consultation process to build the AYF model to make it the most effective, useful and responsive voice for young Australians.

We also appreciate that the discussion paper, “The Australian Youth Forum - A New Era in Youth Consultation”, says:

“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.”

This statement recognises that in working with wide and diverse groups of young people on a regular basis, youth services are in a unique position to develop broadly-based views on issues of concern to young Australians and raise these issues – even where particularly marginalised young people themselves may find this impossible.

It should also be recognised that youth services also hold ongoing relationships with young people that allow them to support clients to raise issues with government directly. Youth services will be pivotal if, as the discussion paper states, the

government is to listen to “the views of young people whose voices often don’t get heard through the more structured consultation measures”.

Being an independent and membership-based peak organisation, AYAC is in the most appropriate position to build credible and widely-supported mechanisms for the Australian Youth Forum to create a space for dialogue involving government, the youth sector and young people across the nation.

It is for these reasons that we support calls for immediate funding to be provided for the AYAC, to further develop the model for the AYF as “an independent youth peak body” that delivers the best possible outcomes for both the Australian government and the young people of Australia.

Yours sincerely,

*INSERT NAME & POSITION*

*OR*

*EMAIL SIGNATURE*