



youth affairs council
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Actively supporting young South Australians

ANNUAL REPORT

2009 - 2010

This is the twenty-sixth Annual Report to be published by the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia. It covers activity between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010. The Auditor's statement included in the financial information covers the same period as the report.

Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
Level 1, Torrens Building, 220 Victoria Square, Tarndanyangga,
Adelaide SA 5000
Post: GPO Box 2117, Adelaide SA 5001

T: 08 8226 3080
F: 08 8226 3081
E: yacsa@yacsa.com.au
W: www.yacsa.com.au

Auditor: Edwards Marshall, Level 3, 153 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000
Banker: Bank of South Australia, 97 King William Street,
Adelaide SA 5000



President's Report

Membership based organisations are strengthened by those they work to represent; the number of 'hands' increasing capacity and the number of voices enriching discussion and providing ideas. The extremely successful 'Close Magill' campaign this year is one example of this structure in action. The wonderful outcome for some of the most vulnerable young people in our state was only possible through the unseen work involving phone calls, meetings, negotiations and advocacy, carried out by secretariat, members and others keen to see change.

Those involved in Policy Council this year have driven some creative changes to the function of the group. Beginning this year, and to continue into 10/11, are a series of forums aimed to provide members and the sector with information about specific issues related to young people and then for YACSA to facilitate discussions, collecting ideas, opinions and thoughts from members to inform the advocacy work of Policy Council. With such a huge spectrum of concerns facing young people I thank Policy Council members for their focus and persistence, usually working toward a very complex and distant end.

After nearly four years with the organisation, Jennifer Duncan (Executive Director) has won a fantastic position with UniSA, a great loss for us. Throughout her time at YACSA Jennifer was intuitive, focused, thoughtful and just in working to achieve the aims of the organisation. While the process of filling the ED position permanently occurs, David Winderlich is acting as ED to ensure that key tasks are completed. It has been a pleasure to have Lucas de Boer working again with YACSA; Lucas hit the ground running with inspirational competence. Finally, thanks to Andrew McHugh for his calm, considered and steadfast approach through thick and thin. I have a great deal of respect for the work of you all and sincerely thank you for your support this year.

I write this report as a representative of Management Committee, but I would like to thank these members of YACSA for their added commitment to the governance of the organisation. With some pretty significant staffing changes and location negotiations this has certainly been the toughest year, from a governance perspective, since I began my involvement. Thanks to Steven Ireland (Treasurer), Mark Henley, Jo Newell, Petria Ladgrove and Jennifer Duncan (previous ED) for their significant time contributions this year. A special thanks to Tom Steeples (Vice-President) who is a force of support and positivity. Finally, a thanks and unfortunate farewell to Jo Stolz. Jo's quick, strategic and lateral mind will be missed at Management Committee meetings, as will her passion for young people and her strong representation of regional South Australia.

Where to from here? We have some major tasks on the immediate horizon: the appointment of a new Executive Director, finalisation of inevitable accommodation changes, and of course the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of this magnificent organisation. I am confident that all of these tasks will be achieved successfully, will be just the right way to end an era and will send YACSA blazing brightly into its next 30 years.

Best wishes to each and every one of you. Thank you for your support of YACSA and for all the unseen and unrecognised work that you do as individuals to improve the circumstances and opportunities for young South Australians.

Sean Carey



Executive Director's Report

Preparing the Annual Report provides an opportunity to look back at the year that was but this year YACSA is celebrating its 30th anniversary so we have been looking all the way back to 1980. The longevity and efficacy of the organisation is testament to the commitment of the secretariat, management and policy council members, networks, volunteers, stakeholders and partners that have contributed over the years. To commemorate this anniversary, a potted history is included in this edition of the Annual Report.

The highlight for 2009-10 is undoubtedly the Magill Campaign. Following the announcement by the state government that funding for a replacement facility would not be included in the 2009 budget, YACSA with the support of SACOSS, coordinated what would become a public campaign which resulted in the state government's 23 September 2009 announcement to build a replacement facility for Magill, to open in the second half of 2011.

The campaign received the 2010 Children's Law Award for Outstanding Contribution to Policy or Law Reform to Advance the Legal Rights and Interests of Children and Young People and I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work and commitment of the individuals and organisations that provided time, money and support to this successful campaign.

This year YACSA welcomed the Honourable Grace Portolesi to the youth portfolio and farewelled Jennifer Duncan as Executive Director. I'd like to thank Jennifer for her outstanding contribution to YACSA and her enthusiasm and commitment to youth affairs in South Australia and beyond. I'd like also to express our thanks to David Winderlich who acted as interim Executive Director during the transition.

And thank you to the members of Management Committee and Policy Council for their devoted commitment and effort and to our members and youth sector networks without which we couldn't do what we do.

Anne Bainbridge



GOAL 1: INFLUENCE THROUGH ADVOCACY

YACSA's greatest success during 2009/10 was the Magill campaign. Drawing together hundreds of individuals and organisations from across the community, YACSA spearheaded a campaign that forced the State Government to commit to closing the obsolete Magill Youth Training Centre, and replacing it with a facility that accords with human rights principles, and has a focus on rehabilitating young offenders. The campaign was an outstanding example of the strength of the youth and community sectors, and resulted in a great outcome for children and young people being held in secure care.

Throughout 2009/10, YACSA developed a number of robust and comprehensive policy documents for a range of audiences. These documents included:

- A submission to the Federal Government's National Youth Strategy Conversation
- A submission to the State Government's Liquor Licensing Act Review
- A submission to the State Government's Youth Health Services Review
- A response to the *Consent to Medical Treatment and Palliative Care (Parental Consent) Amendment Bill 2009*
- A submission to the Adelaide City Council's consultation on dry zones
- A response to the *Statutes Amendment (Recidivist Young Offenders and Youth Parole Board) Bill 2009*
- A submission to the Federal Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety
- A submission to the Federal Government's Classification Review

These formal submissions and responses were in addition to the verbal and informal advice and input YACSA has given to a range of other organisations, including the Health and Community Complaints Commission, the Office for the Guardian for Children and Young People, and Nunkuwarrin Yunti.

The networks and partnerships developed with these and other organisations - including other peak bodies in South Australia and interstate - have strengthened our advocacy capabilities, as has the work we continue to do in maintaining positive working relationships with state, local and federal governments, and other stakeholder groups within and outside the youth sector.

The past year has seen the appointment of two consecutive Ministers for Youth, and YACSA was able to forge a strong working relationship with both, as well as continuing to foster close connections with the Office for Youth. YACSA also maintained important links with the Department for Families and Communities, the Minister for Families and Communities, and those members of parliament and other decision-makers considering issues relating to young people and the youth sector.

After a planning day at the beginning of 2010, Policy Council members agreed on a new way of operating, shifting the focus of Policy Council from an advisory role to a more action-oriented body. As part of this shift, Policy Council members committed to holding a number of events throughout 2010, designed to raise awareness of and provide solutions to issues raised by the youth sector and young people.

During 2009/10 YACSA has increased engagement with the broader community through the media, with opinion pieces and letters to the editor featured prominently in *The Advertiser*, on topics including the outcome of the Magill campaign, the risks of the federal Youth Compact, media portrayals of young people, and arguing against changes to the graduated licensing scheme for learner drivers.

YACSA also continued to deliver training as part of the *Young People and Public Space* package, with a session for security guards run at Elizabeth Shopping Centre. These sessions include a significant proportion of educational and opinion-shaping material, hence their inclusion in this section of the annual report.



GOAL 2: A STRONG AND VIBRANT YOUTH SECTOR

YACSA works collaboratively with the sector to ensure that it sustains and contributes to strong and vibrant youth sector. This year has seen YACSA introduce and continue a range of initiatives in support of the youth sector.

The YACSA eBulletin continues to provide high-quality and timely information to our members, regarding youth sector programs, events, job opportunities and relevant research. The YACSA website is updated and maintained regularly, and provides additional information about YACSA's campaigns, events, and policies.

YACSA has quickly developed strong connections with Australia's federal youth peak, the newly-funded Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), and actively contributed to AYAC's activities, including coordinating a metropolitan and regional consultation for the Establishment Director regarding AYAC's role and function and representing AYAC on the selection panel for next year's Australian Youth Forum steering committee.

YACSA secretariat members continued to serve on the Board and Policy Council of the South Australian Council of Social Service throughout 2009/10. YACSA's involvement with SACOSS also extended to the development of discussion paper for SACOSS Policy Council regarding the Information Sharing Guidelines roll-out by the Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People.

YACSA has a strong commitment to supporting individual member organisations, reflected in our meetings with organisations like Kumungka Youth Service (to provide orientation support to Kumungka's new Executive Director) and the Sammy D Foundation (to provide organisational advice). YACSA also works to identify and address issues affecting the entire youth sector, such as the award modernisation process. YACSA worked with SA Unions to organise briefing sessions outlining the implications of the modernised awards on youth and community sector organisations, and worked with Reconciliation SA to recruit facilitators for the Reconciliation Schools Congress.

YACSA also provided support to the Youth Services Forum as the YSF underwent a number of changes during 2009/10. The YSF, which is a multi-agency forum of youth service agencies that are funded through the Community Connect Branch of the Department for Families and Communities (DFC), provides a forum for information sharing and exchange, as well as operating as a source of advice to YACSA and DFC on policy and sector development matters.

In 2009/10, YACSA launched its latest best practice product, *Ethical Youth Work - A DIY Guide for Developing Your Ethical Base*. Developed by Suzi Quixley, this resource aims to support individual workers and organisations to reflect on the ethics underpinning their practice in working with young people. YACSA continues to make available our other sector support products, including the *New Youth Worker Handbook* and *The Law, Youth Work and Young People Handbook*.

In keeping with this commitment to knowledge-sharing within the sector, YACSA also developed a presentation on campaigning - based on the successful Magill campaign - that was delivered by secretariat members at the 2010 SACOSS Conference, *Defining Strength: Delivering Innovation*.



GOAL 3: YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES BEING HEARD

Young people are fundamental to the work of YACSA and we strive hard to support the participation of young people in all areas of our work.

YACSA's work has shown that often the most effective way to gather the views and opinions of young people is to go to them, and hence many of YACSA's interactions with young people take place at external events. During 2009/10, YACSA attended, among others, the Kadina Youth Homelessness Expo, the CREATE *Race Around the City*, the Salisbury Interchange youth event, and a United Nations Youth Association forum focusing on juvenile justice issues.

In addition, YACSA continued to host semi-regular *Pizza & Politics* events, designed to give young people a chance to engage with decision-makers and political thinking in a casual environment. Two events were held in 2009/10 - a "Meet the Minister" session attended by then-new Minister for Youth Grace Portolesi, and a pre-election forum attended by representatives from major and minor political parties and independents contesting the 2010 State election.

YACSA also co-hosted a Young Workers' Forum with SA Unions and the Centre for Work Life Balance, as well as coordinating a consultation meeting with young members for the Establishment Director of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, and meeting with the 2009 United Nations Youth Ambassador, Chris Varney. YACSA also played an important role in facilitating consultations with young people as part of the Adelaide City Council Youth Policy Forum and Action Plan 2010-2014, and the Office for Youth's development of the *youthconnect* policy framework.

In conjunction with members of the Salisbury Youth Council, YACSA developed the *Make Time to Report Crime* project, comprising a booklet, poster, wallet card and online resources aimed at encouraging young people to seek help and report crimes committed against themselves and others. These resources were launched by the Victims of Crime Commissioner at the City of Salisbury Youth Interchange event, attended by young people and services from the Salisbury region.

YACSA continued to maintain strong connections with other youth participation bodies, including the Minister's Youth Council and the SA Youth Lobby. YACSA's Executive Director met with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the MYC to discuss opportunities for collaboration, and YACSA participated in a survey on grant funding distributed by the MYC. YACSA hosted the SA Youth Lobby's meetings during 2009/10, and also met to discuss issues relating to the changes in National Youth Week funding.



GOAL 4: A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

In 2009/10 YACSA's annual member survey was conducted once again, and the information received provided a clear understanding of the importance of YACSA's role in the sector: to disseminate information and being a point of contact for queries related to funding, resources, trends and activities in the youth sector. *YACSAround*, e-Bulletin, policy and advocacy and YACSA-hosted events proved extremely popular with our membership and will therefore be part of YACSA's work plan for the next reporting period.

YACSA remains committed to strong organisational governance and internal and external information-sharing, with monthly meetings of the Management Committee taking place, in addition to weekly staff meetings, monthly meetings with the Director of the Office for Youth, and quarterly meetings with the Community Connect branch of the Department of Families and Communities.

The staffing of YACSA received a good deal of attention throughout 2009/10, with the development of new position descriptions, the lodgement of the latest Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, a focus on internal processes and reporting, an emphasis on values within the staff team, and the recruitment and appointment of a consultant Executive Director. David Winderlich served admirably in this capacity from June-August 2010.

YACSA's regular organisational processes carried on as usual, including working with Bank SA to update account details and signatures, contracting Not-for-Profit Accounting Services (NFPAS) to process organisational finances and payroll, on-demand printing of sector support resources, and organising and hosting the 2009 AGM.

Information technology was also a key focus for YACSA throughout 2009/10, with a server upgrade taking place, the purchase of an additional staff laptop computer, and the reconfiguration of computers for new staff. It is anticipated this focus will continue into the next reporting period as the Member Communications Officer carries out an update of YACSA's website, and the secretariat continues to explore how YACSA can make use of social media to better engage and inform members and the broader community.

In the early part of 2009/10, YACSA began initial discussions with Sam Adams regarding the development of a project outlining and celebrating YACSA's 30-year history. Work on this project carried on throughout 2009/10, with the results to be showcased at the 2009/10 AGM.



About YACSA

The Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA) works to encourage young people, and those working with and for them, to achieve meaningful improvements in the quality of young people's lives.

YACSA was established by the youth sector in 1980. We are a state-wide, non government organisation with a broad membership base. Policy positions are independent and not aligned with any political party or movement. YACSA defines young people as being those between 12 and 25 years of age inclusive.

The Council has been recognised as South Australia's non-government youth affairs peak body since it began operations.

A peak is an organisation that has other organisations as its members and has been formed to represent the collective views and interests of its members to government, to the community and to other bodies. YACSA's constituents are youth workers, youth worker networks, youth services and organisations, as well as the young people of South Australia.

YACSA's governance structure is made up of a number of different committees, each of which has a role to play in guiding and managing YACSA's work.

The Policy Council is responsible for developing policy and giving policy advice, together with determining directions and strategies related to youth sector development. The Policy Council is made up of YACSA members and is elected by YACSA members at our AGM. There are twelve places for which individuals, young people and organisations can nominate, as well as a place for one representative for each of YACSA's affiliated youth worker networks. The Policy Council meets regularly with regional representatives participating in a teleconference. YACSA's President, Vice President and Treasurer are elected by the Policy Council.

The Management Committee is made up of seven to nine members of the Policy Council, who are elected by the Policy Council to oversee the financial, staffing, contracting, asset management and accountability functions of YACSA.

YACSA works to support and strengthen the South Australian youth sector. We do this primarily by providing support to our affiliated youth worker networks. These networks are usually based in a geographic region, although sometimes they are developed around a particular youth issue. Networks are composed of workers addressing the issues and interests of young people. Each network has a nominated YACSA representative who is the liaison person between YACSA and the network. These representatives are also members of YACSA's Policy Council. The sector support provided by YACSA includes the development of a monthly news report, facilitation of network planning days and forums, attendance at meetings, development of resources, training, management and advocacy on issues that are impacting or will impact on service delivery.

Youth participation is fundamental to YACSA's operations. Young people may join YACSA free of charge and become involved in representing their issues and interests through a range of mediums. YACSA also provides advice to other organisations and agencies on how they can include young people in their decision-making processes.

During 2009-2010 YACSA's secretariat has comprised:

Executive Director	Jennifer Duncan
Deputy Director	Hamza Vayani
Project and Administration Officer	Michelle Smith
Project and Finance Officer	Emily Davis
Member Communications Officer	Andrew McHugh
Project Officer (contract)	Lucas de Boer
Administration Officer (contract)	Kasmira Gregory
History Project Volunteers	Erica Krueger Sam Adams



**Management Committee and Policy Council Members
1 July 2009 - 30 June 2010**

Management Committee Members

Chair Sean Carey (President)
Deputy Chair Tom Steeples (Vice President)
Treasurer Rosh Devi (Treasurer)
Jo Stolz
Petria Ladgrove
Mark Henley
Jennifer Duncan

Policy Council Members

Young Members

Sean Carey (President)
Lucas de Boer
Lisa Hammond
Magdalene Keji
Michaela Wauchope

Individual Members

Anne Bainbridge
Sue McNamara

Organisational Members

Jo DeSilva YWCA
Felicity Schievenin Adelaide City Council

Youth Sector Network Representatives

Shannon O'Farrell Central Workers Youth Action Network
Arwen Anderson Eastern Regional Youth Network
Georgina James Local Government Youth Sector Network/PYN
Renee Moss Murraylands Youth Sector Network
Lesley Hodgson North Eastern Youth Services Network
Vera Miller Peterborough Youth Network
Jo Newell Port Augusta Youth Focus
Amy Lorusso Port Pirie Youth Sector Network
Michelle Baden Riverland and Mallee Youth Sector Network
Ben Smith South West Youthworkers Network
Lucretia Sperring Southern Fleurieu Youth Network
Jane Crowe Southern Youthworkers Network
Diana Ciampa Western Workers with Youth Network
Ginette Darke Whyalla Youthworkers Network
Jan Huckel Yorke Peninsula Youthworkers Network
Sue Williams Youth Barossa



Treasurer's Report for 2009-2010

I am pleased to report that YACSA had a notional surplus for the year ended 30 June 2010.

YACSA, like any not for profit organisation strives to make every cent count. The Management Committee understands that for every cent we are able to reduce our overheads and administration expenses, we are able to invest more in the youth sector in South Australia. The process of reviewing expenditure is ongoing and can often be a thankless task but we are committed to this process. We have many partners in the private sector that have helped us, and continue to help us, for that we are very grateful.

The period ahead does present a unique set of challenges, but with any challenge comes opportunity. In order to remain a financially sound organisation we believe that YACSA will need to continue to manage its current financial resources effectively and grow its revenue base so that we are not just reliant on our major funding sources. In doing so, we believe YACSA will be better able to do what it strives to do, and that is support of the youth sector in South Australia.

Many thanks for your support in the 2010 year, we look forward having it in the year ahead.

Steven Ireland

A full set of audited statements is available from YACSA on request and is posted on the website with this Annual Report.



EdwardsMarshall

Level 3, 153 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 2163 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone +61 8 8139 1111
Facsimile +61 8 8139 1100
info@edwardsmarshall.com.au
edwardsmarshall.com.au

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
OF YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Youth Affairs Council of South Australia Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of Members of the Management Committee.

The Responsibility of the Members of the Management Committee for the Financial Report

The members of the Management Committee of the entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The members of the Management Committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, ensuring that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by members of the Management Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the members of the Management Committee's financial reporting obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



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Level 3, 153 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 2163 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone +61 8 8139 1111
Facsimile +61 8 8139 1100
info@edwardsmarshall.com.au
edwardsmarshall.com.au

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
OF YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC (CONT)**

INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional accounting bodies.

AUDITOR'S OPINION

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Youth Affairs Council of South Australia Inc as at 30 June 2010 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

We have obtained all of the information and explanations required from the Association.

Edwards Marshall
Chartered Accountants

Noel Clifford
(Partner)

Adelaide
South Australia

Dated 22 October 2010



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YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	301,819	159,447
Trade and Other Receivables	4	461	203,795
Other Current Assets	5	248	1,014
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		302,528	364,256
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	9,342	12,853
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		9,342	12,853
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 311,870	\$ 377,109
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	7	168,589	246,953
Financial Liabilities	8	-	-
Short Term Provisions	9	11,157	23,714
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		179,746	270,667
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long Term Provisions	9	11,607	24,189
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		11,607	24,189
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 191,353	\$ 294,856
NET ASSETS		\$ 120,517	\$ 82,253
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained Earnings		120,517	82,253
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		\$ 120,517	\$ 82,253

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.