

A snapshot of sector responses from Netfest 2021

# COVID-19 WORKSHOP SNAPSHOT

YACSA received state government funding to help ensure the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts meet the needs of young people.

To better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the youth sector, YACSA held an interactive COVID-19 workshop at Netfest 2021 on what worked, what didn't, and what's next for the sector. The workshop included an update from the Hon Tammy Franks MLC, Chair of the state parliament COVID-19 Response Committee.

# 81

Sector participants

Representing:

- 7 youth sector networks.
- 35 organisations.
- 1 government department.



# 144

Ideas for what to focus on in a COVID-19 recovery plan

Top 3 responses:

- Mental health & wellbeing 43%.
- Employment/unemployment 34%.
- Housing/homelessness 16% & Youth participation in recovery planning 16%.

Ideas for what to include in a recovery plan:

- Better and faster access to mental health care and assessment.
- Activities for young people to connect post COVID-19.
- Youth employment in the regions.
- Safe, well paid and stable jobs for young people.
- Traineeships/apprenticeships that don't require a drivers licence.
- Driving lesson support.
- Transport.
- Safe, secure accommodation.
- Bridging of the digital divide.
- Input of young people into the recovery plan.
- Flexible, sustainable funding for the sector.



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## Things the sector identified as challenges in supporting young people during COVID-19

- Zoom fatigue.
- Inconsistent guidelines between organisations and other places like schools.
- Expectation that peer connection can still occur online in the same way it does in person.
- Not all young people wanted to meet online, and some couldn't due to limited technology and/or data.
- Managing teams remotely.
- Having to take on additional tasks due to the temporary closure of other external services.
- Inability to plan ahead.
- Additional paperwork and application processes to run activities.
- Lack of suitable alternative options when events and programs were cancelled.

## What the sector identified as working well

- Increased openness to creative ways to engage young people and meet them where they're at.
- Rethinking program delivery models.
- Flexibility to work from home and greater work/life balance.
- Use of video conferencing making regional involvement and partnerships more accessible.
- Flexibility in options for service delivery for clients.
- Increased Income Support.
- Additional COVID-19 funding providing extra support for young people.

## Things the sector would like to see continue

- Training opportunities via Zoom/webinars.
- Flexible service delivery: online, telephone and in person.
- Flexible working conditions.
- Focus on staff wellbeing.