



youth affairs council
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



Table of Contents

→	01	About YACSA
→	03	President's report
→	04	From the CEO
→	05	Meaningful youth participation
→	08	Robust youth sector
→	10	Quality youth affairs public policy
→	13	Leading youth affairs representation
→	15	Thriving youth affairs organisation
→	16	Treasurer's report
→	17	Board
→	18	Contact information

About YACSA

Our purpose

YACSA is an independent, member-based peak body representing the interests of young people aged 12-25 and the youth sector that supports them. At the core of our systemic advocacy is social justice and upholding young people's human rights.

Our vision

South Australia's young people are vital, valued, and respected members of our community.

Our mission

To advocate for and with young people 12-25 and the youth sector to achieve meaningful improvements in the quality of young people's lives.

Our values

Our values underpin and drive everything we do with and on behalf of young people and the sector that supports them.

Access & equity

We are committed to equitable access to resources, services and civic life.

Integrity

We are honest and transparent and are accountable for our actions.

Courage

We are courageous, thoughtful and purposeful in our advocacy.

Relationships

We foster strong relationships and engage collaboratively to achieve outcomes.

Diversity & inclusion

We treat people with dignity, value and embrace the richness of diversity, and appreciate intersecting experiences.

Respect

We demonstrate respect for all, always and without exception.

Our members

Our membership is comprised of young people, individuals 25+, organisations and Friends of YACSA and Life members.

What we do

Our advocacy is in our efforts to influence and persuade governments and others to create or establish policies, practices, and actions to achieve positive change for young people.

Our advocacy efforts and strategies include a diverse range of organised activities that align to four key functions:

- research, policy development, analysis, and advice
- consultation and coordination
- capacity building
- information dissemination.

Young people face discrimination every day by virtue of their age. Marginalised young people experience additional and intersecting barriers. The systemic discrimination and barriers occur at a societal and personal level and can impact young people's ability to live safe, full, happy lives inclusive of their fundamental human rights and freedoms. These include the right to:

- participate in decision-making processes
- live in a safe and supportive environment
- equitable opportunities and choices
- a share of community resources, including public space and facilities
- equitable and inclusive access to high quality services that meet their needs.

Advocacy may look different depending on the context and can occur across different levels:

- Macro: influencing legislation and public policy at a state (and sometimes, national) level.
- Meso: influencing public policy at a state operational level.
- Micro: influencing the design, content and implementation of government programs and services at the local level.

Influencing policy and practice change through advocacy activities can have significant positive impact for young people at a state-wide level and at times collective action with our jurisdictional colleagues can have national effect.

As a small organisation with limited resources, we need to be able to plan advocacy with and for our members as well as respond to issues and opportunities that emerge.

Our work is informed by our members and evidence. We engage and consult members about their issues and concerns and monitor external research, trends and political activity. We have a strategic plan and annual priorities (proactive), but our advocacy can also be responsive depending on the issue and how it presents, and both can take place concurrently:

- Proactive: we work proactively and collaboratively with government to influence legislation and public policy to represent the best interests of young people.
- Responsive: we respond to legislation, policy and public discourse reported in the media to influence policy outcomes and balance the public dialogue about young people.

We use a decision-making framework to assist us to focus our attention and resources where we identify issues, and assess key stakeholders, current capacity, appetite for change and the risks and benefits before acting.

President's report



I am delighted to present my fourth report as YACSA President. It's a privilege to continue to see YACSA at the heart of a thriving youth sector in South Australia, ensuring young people's views and needs are considered by decision makers.

At the 2023 AGM we presented our draft 2023-2028 strategic plan. Following this and broader consultation with our members, we have finalised this new plan. I'd like to thank Katerina Eleutheriou for supporting the board and staff in the development of this foundational document. We have a new business plan that aligns with the new strategic plan, and the team has created a new work plan.

Our third Australian Service Excellence Award audit is well underway, and the audit should be completed by the end of 2024.

The timeline of this audit has extended further than we initially intended, but we are incredibly satisfied to now have a full suite of contemporary policies with a revised schedule for review and a new board calendar.

Along with our annual board skills audit, we conducted our first diversity audit. The addition of the diversity audit will allow us to properly identify barriers that may prevent our board composition from reflecting our membership and the broader community. Our audit highlighted that our board has a satisfactory level of core and general skills and a strong mix of specialist skills. The one skill area identified for the board to reflect on was IT, and we have begun to address this by outsourcing our IT.

I'd also like to acknowledge the work of my fellow board members, Vice President Claire Coleman, Treasurer Sara Baynes, Mytheli Parthiban, Jemma Taylor Cross, Lazaras Panayiotou, and Leo Taylor, and the dedicated YACSA team of Anne Bainbridge, Doug Werchon, Mallory Bradley, Georgia Thain, and Claire Faulkner. The dedication, quality, and consistency of the efforts of the Board and team allow us to continue to deliver on our core functions.

Tamsin Anspach
President (she/her)

From the CEO



It's been another big year at YACSA, and I'm delighted to present the annual report and highlight the work of the team and board during 2023-24. This is the first report that aligns with our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, and it was a pleasure capturing the depth and breadth of our work with and for our members in a more detailed report than previous years.

In addition to the highlights that follow, the YACSA team delivered training and workshops to young people and sector workers, consulted young people to inform our advocacy and local and state government plans, provided best practice youth participation advice to government and members, showcased young people's stories and contributions, delivered 12 state and federal submissions on a range of topics, updated our election hub to inform young people about the referendum and SA Voice to Parliament elections, and produced creative and informative content, and grew our reach and following across our socials.

I extend a sincere thanks to Doug, Mallory, Georgia and Claire for their dedication and efforts in delivering quality work with and for our members. Thanks also to the Board for their continued support and commitment to good governance.

I look forward to working with YACSA members, volunteers and stakeholders over the next 12 months as we continue our important role in representing the interests of young people and the youth sector in this state.

Anne Bainbridge

CEO (she/her)



Minister for Human Services, Hon Nat Cook MP, Board member, Jemma Taylor Cross, CEO, Anne Bainbridge and President, Tamsin Anspach at the 2022-23 AGM.

Meaningful youth participation

Young people have the right to participate in decisions that affect them. They are advocates, decision-makers, and drivers of change.

YACSA plans and facilitates tailored workshops, training, consultation and events for young people to promote best practice youth participation and build capacity. This year we worked with local and state government including delivering:

- Two training sessions on consultation for the City of Tea Tree Gully Youth Leadership Group as part of a council-wide consultation to inform the development of a youth action plan.
- Facilitation training for Youth Environment Council mentors for Green Adelaide.
- A recorded session, *Driving change, government and democracy* for the City of Onkaparinga Community Changemakers Toolkit as a follow up to our presentation at the Changemakers Summit in the 2022-23 financial year.
- A presentation to the Local Government Youth Development Network (LGYDN) on youth advisory committee (YAC) models and best practice youth participation.
- Five consultations for the District Council of Mount Barker and a survey to understand the needs and issues of local young people to inform Council's youth engagement activity.
- A youth forum for the City of Burnside to consult young people about what would make a difference in the area to contribute to the development of a youth action plan.

This year we partnered with sister peak, Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) to create a best-practice youth participation resource for youth sector workers and were pleased to host CEO, Tania Hunt and Project Manager, Jo Horton at YACSA HQ to progress the project which will include additional resource development, a webinar and an in-person training workshop for sector workers. The project will continue into 2024-25 as we refine and pilot the resources and training in SA.

We developed and published a survey to gather information from local government workers about the presence and structure of YACs at their council. The questions explored whether a YAC exists, how it is organised and operates, the selection process for members, and the group's role and impact. The work will continue into next year and the data gathered will help map the presence of YAC's, identify barriers and effective practices and provide insights for communities looking to establish or strengthen their own youth advisory bodies.

We also provided best practice youth participation advice to the Australian Human Rights Commission on methods to engage young people in SA in the national consent survey consultation, the SA Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence about youth engagement, The Barossa Council on YAC models in response to a young member's concerns about the lack of youth engagement opportunities in the area, and the University of Sydney about a research project that's looking to map youth advisory committees across the country.

We consulted the Port Lincoln headspace Youth Reference Group on their experience of the group and key issues for young people in the region and provided a summary of the discussion to the headspace consortium.

The Minister for Human Services invited YACSA to consult with members of the Minister's Youth Advisory Council, to explore the group's functions and areas for improvement or change and identify training and development needs. We planned and facilitated the session and provided a summary of the discussion to DHS.

In late 2023, the State Government released the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan Discussion Paper for consultation, and we were invited to work with the Department for Trade and Investment and partners, including SAGE, Global Shapers, and the Commissioner for Children and Young People, to plan and promote a consultation for young people. The Plan is a comprehensive strategy for growth and a vision for sustainable development over the next 30 years and we were pleased to see a focus on youth engagement which included an online workshop and an in-person forum. YACSA contributed to the development of the program and attended the forum which attracted around 80 young people.

The team hosted stalls at Feast Festival's Picnic in the Park, the Australian Migrant Resource Centre's 2023 Youth Forum and Blackwood High School's expo sharing information about YACSA and surveying young people about what they like about living in SA and what would make it better.



Participation and Development Officer, Doug Werchon and Policy Officer Georgia Thain at the AMRC Youth Forum.



Vice President, Claire Coleman and CEO, Anne Bainbridge at Picnic in the Park.

We also developed and published surveys for young people on a range of topics including what matters to young members, housing, and the SA Youth Action Plan to inform our policy and advocacy work and we provided venue hire for the South Australian Youth Forum until October.

YACSA partnered with the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Local Government Youth Development Network to begin planning a Youth Advisory Committee Summit that will showcase and celebrate YAC's across SA and explore ideas and solutions to increase youth participation in local government. The Commissioner is the partnership lead, and a team of young people will also be involved in co-designing the summit which is expected to happen early 2025.

We provided a supporting role in the Health and Wellbeing Summit hosted by the Child Development Council (CDC) and attended a reception at Government House for the CDC's Charter Ambassador Program to celebrate young people's contribution to the program.

We also met with UNICEF Australia and promoted their Local Conference of Youth, an event hosted in partnership with the Monash Sustainable Development Institute for young people to contribute to the Child and Youth National Statement on Climate Change which formed part of the Global Youth Statement presented at COP28.

The Smashed Avocado Election Hub was updated with everything young people needed to know about the First Nations Voice to Parliament referendum and SA Voice to Parliament including:

- *Preparing for a referendum which included background, voting, disinformation and support for First Nations young people*
- *A referendum is coming*
- *Where can I get info on the referendum?*
- *Referendum timeline*
- *All the ways you can vote in the referendum*
- *How to fill out a referendum ballot*
- *YACSA's referendum day guide*
- *SA Voice to Parliament elections*
- *How to vote in the SA Voice to Parliament*
- *YACSA's Voice election day guide.*

Posts in 'Our News' on The Smashed Avocado were created to inform and educate young people including:

- *Yes, no, undecided – finding First Nations perspectives on the voice*
- *What are human rights?*
- *How did SA vote in the referendum?*
- *What can happen without a voice?*
- *What's important to SA young people – Mission Aus youth survey report summary*
- *What's happening around vaping?*
- *Update on the motion to establish a select committee on gender dysphoria*
- *Harmony day explainer*
- *First members of the SA First Nations Voice to Parliament*
- *Is the federal government really wiping student debt?*
- *Facts about gender services*
- *State budget update*
- *Voice to parliament - minimising harm in conversations*
- *SA Parliament Sitting Week wrap-ups (from February 2024).*

We revised the format of our young member updates and produced nine editions. These included promotion of external engagement opportunities for young people including the Australian Human Rights Commission Speaking from Experience consultation for young people who have experienced sexual harassment at work to inform the development of resources for workers and employers on creating safe workplaces and the South Australian Youth Forum annual Open Youth Workshop. We also promoted the SA SRC, Enabled Youth Disability Network meetings and peer workshops, YMCA SA Youth Parliament, Raise Our Voice Australia workshops, Federal Government Youth Advisory Groups, UN Youth SA's state conference, SA Youth Week grants, events and activities

YACSA young member, Haylie wrote a post for The Smashed Avocado, *Youth voice in regional communities* which highlighted a lack of youth councils and groups in regional areas and provided advice for young people who are in a similar situation about starting a group and getting involved in decision making through contact with local decision makers.

Our Digital Communications Officer interviewed members of the SA Youth Climate Alliance (formally Adelaide School Strike for Climate) who were staging a week-long study-in on the steps of Parliament House. The demonstration was subtle nod to Australian politicians responding to student climate protests by saying young people should be in school, and called on parliamentarians to make time to speak to them about climate and education anxiety.

Robust youth sector

The youth sector is respected, supported and well-resourced to meet the needs of young people.

This year we established a new online Member Forum to discuss a topic of relevance with a guest and the YACSA team, and we hosted two events. Given our advocacy about operational failings impacting the rights of children and young people in the Adelaide Youth Training Centre, the first topic was youth justice, and Guardian for Children and Young People and Training Centre Visitor, Shona Reid was our guest. We provided a brief history of the training centre and YACSA's 'Close Magill' campaign which was followed by a presentation by Shona about her role and concerns about the treatment of children and young people in jail, and concluded with an informative and robust discussion. We were able to facilitate connections between members and had follow up conversations to dig a bit deeper into the issue.

The second topic was mental health, and our guest was Mental Health Coalition of SA's (MHCSA) Acting Executive Director, Kate Hawtin who provided a summary of the Chief Psychiatrist's Unmet Needs Study which identified the largest service gap in SA history. Members shared their experiences and concerns, highlighted gaps, and discussed what would help ensure better outcomes for young people. MHCSA used the information provided by members to inform their advocacy and invited attendees to a roundtable on rethinking mental health care support and investment held during Mental Health Month.

A highlight this year was the commencement of our youth sector mapping project which has been some time in the making. We created a survey to identify who works in what roles and where, what training and/or qualifications they bring to those roles, the level of demand on services and how that impacts workers and the young people they work with, and how workers are travelling with regards to capacity and wellbeing. We opened the survey to members before opening it up to the broader sector in late April and received an average of 10 responses a week until the end of June. We anticipate having rich data that speaks to sector development, commissioning, and professional development and training to inform our advocacy for a well-resourced and supported youth sector. The project will continue into 2024-25 and we look forward to providing a detailed account of the project and findings in next year's report.

YACSA contributed to the DHS Commissioning and Outcomes Program which seeks to reform governance, systems, structures and processes to ensure the delivery of effective and efficient community services in SA. We also met with the project team to discuss the YACSA sector mapping survey and how data from the survey could feed into the process.

The CEO met with the Minister for Human Services, DHS Deputy Chief Executive, and Executive Director Community and Aboriginal Partnerships to provide information about issues impacting the youth sector and young people.

We were delighted to visit members in Port Lincoln at the end of June to discuss key challenges and issues for young people and organisations and what would help service delivery in the region, and we returned with rich information about issues for young people, service gaps and waitlists, recruitment, and funding. Thank you to Country & Outback Health and West Coast Youth and Community Support for your hospitality and insights.



Participation and Development Officer, Doug Werchon, CEO Anne Bainbridge and WCYCS CEO, Narelle Biddell.

As always, we attended the following networks to provide YACSA updates and facilitate connections:

- Eastern Region Youth Sector Network (ERYN)
- Gawler and Districts Youth Worker Network (G&DYWN)
- Local Government Youth Development Network (LGYDN)
- Murraylands Youth Sector network (MYSN)
- Northern Youth Sector Network (NYSN)
- Regional Queer Youth Sector Network (RQYSN)
- Southern Youth Network Collective (SYNC)
- Southern Youth Roundtable (SYRT)
- Western Workers with Youth Network (WWWYN)
- Youth Barossa

Twenty-three editions of e-Bulletin were published for 783 subscribers and we increased engagement and our following on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn, maintained followers on Twitter and garnered nearly 7000 visitors across the Smashed Avocado and YACSA websites.

In January we began publishing a monthly member advisory in response to requests for more regular updates.

Quality youth affairs public policy

Public policy on issues impacting young people is equitable, inclusive and achieves positive and sustainable outcomes for young people now and for the future.

We attended several policy events and workshops including:

- An ARACY-hosted roundtable where National Children's Commissioner, Anne Hollonds, spoke about the need for a federal minister for children and corresponding Act to ensure child safety and wellbeing are made a national priority.
- *Children's Rights in Action: Innovations in Youth Justice* webinar hosted by the National Children's Commissioner and featuring the Oberstown Children Detention Campus Director, Damien Hernon. Oberstown is a national service that provides a safe and secure environment for young people on remand or sentenced to detention located in Dublin and is a best practice approach to youth justice.
- A two-day youth policy masterclass workshop with Orygen and Dr Alison Morehead. The workshop covered the policy making process in detail as well as sessions on building an evidence base and developing visibility, credibility and relationships to support advocacy. We also attended the Department of Human Services information sessions on coercive control legislation and ANROWS launch of *Attitudes matter: The 2021 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS): Findings for Young Australians*.

We contributed to a Mental Health Coalition of SA (MHCSA) roundtable about reframing mental health care support in response to a study by the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist that highlighted the largest mental health services gap in SA history, with 19,000 people with severe mental illness going without psychosocial support services. MHCSA presented findings of sector consultations on the impact of unmet need and participants discussed workforce and service design and evaluation requirements to meet psychosocial support service needs.

The CEO attended a one-day roundtable, *Shaping the future: A new approach to policy that works for young people*, in Canberra hosted by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC). The invitation-only event was opened by federal Minister for Youth, Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, and included representatives from each of the state and territory youth affairs peaks, academics, youth-leds and advisory groups, and the federal government's Youth Steering Committee. The roundtable explored youth policy in Australia, including international examples of leading practice, and focussed on three key themes including belonging, wellbeing and security.

YACSA contributed to a consultation on a new youth engagement strategy for the Australian Government hosted by the Office for Youth. *Engage! A strategy to include young people in the decisions we make* was released in March 2024 and included a few new initiatives but mostly focussed on existing events and activities rather than meaningful youth participation.

State submissions, consultations and reviews

- *Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2023*
- *Consultation on the State Disability Inclusion Plan*
- *Attorney-General's Department South Australia Review of Sexual Consent Law in South Australia*
- *Social Development Committee Inquiry into the Potential for a Human Rights Act for South Australia*
- *Office of Local Government (SA) Local Government Participation and Elections Review*
- *Consultation on the development of the South Australian Youth Action Plan 2023-2026.*
- *Legislative Council Select Committee Inquiry into Grocery Prices in South Australia*
- *Attorney-General's Department South Australia Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility - Alternative Diversion Model Discussion Paper.*

In addition to our submission, we met with a senior advisor and project lead from the Attorney-General's Department to discuss the *Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility - Alternative Diversion Model discussion paper* and we raised concerns about the approach. We were told the State Government doesn't have a position on the minimum age of criminal responsibility, which is alarming given the overwhelming evidence that jailing 10-13-year-olds does more harm than good. The discussion paper referenced experts such as the Australian Medical Association, Law Council of Australia and the Standing Council of Attorneys-General own report. The outcome of the consultation had not been reported at the time of the writing.

We also met with the South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance (SARAA) to discuss priority issues to include in our submission to the Social Development Committee's Inquiry into the Potential for a Human Rights Act for South Australia.

Federal submissions, consultations and reviews

- *Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs The Worsening Rental Crisis in Australia*
- *Department of Social Services Developing the National Housing and Homelessness Plan*
- *Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Crimes Amendment (Strengthening the Criminal Justice System Response to Sexual Violence) Bill 2024*
- *Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters Inquiry into Civics Education, Engagement and Participation in Australia and appearance at the public hearing*
- *Australian Law Reform Commission Justice Responses to Sexual Violence (Issues Paper 49)*
- *Australian Human Rights Commission Youth Justice & Child Wellbeing Reform across Australia project*
- *Review into the Reconnect Program.*

We continued to add to our knowledge bank of reports and studies related to social, economic, political and cultural trends that impact young people including:

- *An analysis of SA-based data from AIHW report, Youth Justice Supervision 2022-23*
- *Approaches to sexual health and relationships education*
- *Update and analysis of SA-based homelessness data from the ABS*
- *Justice Responses to Sexual Violence*
- *Primary prevention approaches for DFSV*
- *Australian Election Study data analysis (by age group)*
- *Productivity Commission – Inequality in Australia summary*
- *Young people’s median income data analysis (ABS)*
- *Youth Justice SA data via the latest Report on Government Services (RoGS).*

As a follow up to our 2022 FLO forum, we met with the Department for Education’s Director of the Flexible Learning Options Redesign to understand progress and inform members and stakeholders who attended. The update provided the most recent and accurate information about the redesign process, including the piloting of the new Tailored Learning program in 12 sample schools and encouraged providers to reach out to us with any current concerns or queries.

As well as providing regular policy updates via our fortnightly e-Bulletin and monthly member advisory, we published state government sitting week wrap-ups and a State Budget analysis on socials and The Smashed Avocado. We also provided information on youth justice policy and practice to member organisations and networks.



Kate Munro (Youth Action) Dr Justin Barker (Youth Coalition ACT) Sandy McKeirnan (YACWA), Anne Bainbridge (YACSA) Tania Hunt (Youth Network of Tasmania) and Lucy Demant (YACVic)

Leading youth affairs representation

Young people's interests are represented at every level and public perspective influenced through diverse mediums for maximum impact.

YACSA was invited to join the DHS concessions review committee that aimed to introduce changes to concessions to better support households on low and fixed incomes to meet cost of essential living expenses and we advocated for young people to have the same access to all concessions available to other population groups.

We were also an active member of the DHS SA Youth Action Plan steering group, which was tasked with identifying actions based on feedback provided through the public consultation and we attended three meetings during the reporting period. This work will continue into the new financial year and we look forward to providing a detailed account of the process and outcome in the 2024-25 annual report.

We were delighted to attend member events including an open day hosted by member organisation Kids First Whitelion, the opening ceremony of the Port Power Aboriginal Power Cup Carnival, and the opening and closing sessions of YMCA SA's Youth Parliament.

YACSA contributed to regular steering/reference groups including the Courts Administration Authority Community Reference Group, Youth Homelessness Strategic Group and Red Cross Youth in Emergencies Development Program Steering Group.

We attended a Child and Family Focus SA forum, *Protecting kids, protecting culture: How we can improve our responses to Aboriginal infants, children and young people* which included presentations by the Guardian for Children and Young People, Shona Reid and Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (CACYP). We also attended the launch of the CACYP report, *Holding on to Our Future* which was the result of a two year investigation into the removal and placement of Aboriginal children in SA.

The state and territory youth affairs peaks continued to meet regularly to share information and explore opportunities to collaborate and we all attended an Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and AYAC launch of Monash University's *2023 Youth Barometer, Understanding young people in Australia today* report hosted by the federal Parliamentary Friends of Young People. The event included a youth panel reflection of *Shaping the future: A new approach to policy that works for young people*, and a presentation of the findings of the Youth Barometer report by the Monash University's Centre for Youth Policy and Education Practice.

YACSA partnered with Volunteering SA&NT and the State Government to celebrate a young volunteer who had positively impacted the lives of others through volunteering. The award was introduced in 2023 and we were delighted to present the award alongside Hon Nat Cook MP, Minister for Human Services to Atiu Kuot Madut. Atiu played a meaningful role in helping young people identify their ideas, vision for their communities and discover their unique leadership style and capabilities as a peer leader with the Australian Refugee Association Youth Ambassador program.



Life member, Sue McNamara with Minister for Human Services Hon Nat Cook MP and CEO, Anne Bainbridge at the 2024 SA Volunteer Awards

We also attended the following events and activities:

- Our SAAY, SA Aboriginal Youth Public Speaking competition
- SA Child Protection and Family Support Symposium
- Amplify Youth Forum hosted by headspace Mt Barker
- A Youth Health Collaboration Forum hosted by the Australian Association for Adolescent Health
- A Youth Inc information session
- City of Salisbury Youth Summit
- The Australian Government's national Consent campaign stakeholder briefing
- YP+Me conference hosted by the City of Onkaparinga, City of Marion and the Southern Youth Network Collective
- Launch of SA Youth Week
- The Young Achiever Awards ceremony.



Board Member, Lazaras Panayiotou and President, Tamsin Anspach at the SAYW launch

Thriving youth affairs organisation

YACSA is an influential, sustainable, and respected organisation that is the leading source of knowledge and expertise on issues that impact young people and the youth sector.

After finalising the 2023-2028 strategic plan, we were pleased to work with a consultant to operationalise the plan for both the board and team which resulted in a comprehensive business plan and team work plan. We are excited that the team plan will provide the foundation for a revised data collection mechanism to expedite reporting to our members and funders. We also updated the business continuity plan and risk register to complete that suite of work to contemporise the plans and frameworks that guide our work.

Board members completed a board skills audit which highlighted a good level of core skills (understanding the role of the board and organisation) and general skills as well as a strong mix of specialist skills, with the exception of IT which in part informed our decision to outsource IT management (see below). We also completed a diversity audit to formalise our focus on ensuring YACSA is a diverse and inclusive organisation.

We have been working towards our third Australian Service Excellence Award (ASES) audit and while it's taken longer than we'd hoped, we anticipate it will be complete by the end of 2024. The process has involved an external review of our governance, compliance, HR and operational policies (28 in total) to ensure compliance and contemporary language and format. We now have a full suite of contemporary policies that are relevant to our work as well as a revised schedule for review and board calendar.

An area of focus for continuous improvement was cyber security and compliance with the federal government's 'essential eight'. We sought proposals from IT providers and contracted Concept Data to manage our IT and assess and establish systems to ensure compliance, and that work has begun. Onboarding will include decommissioning our physical server and moving to the cloud which will facilitate greater access for the team to work remotely as required. Once the work is complete, we will create relevant policies and procedures.

Working with Uni SA, we hosted a Master of Communications student to undertake a communications audit and branding strategy which will culminate in a communications proposal and logo options. The placement concluded in October 2023 and the board looks forward to considering the recommendations.

Treasurer's report



I'm pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the year ending 30 June 2024.

This year, all income areas saw an increase, reflecting a stable and positive period for our organisation. Our strategic efforts have positioned us well for the future.

After absorbing underspent grant funds from previous years, the financial statements showed a modest surplus of \$6,000 for the 2023-2024 year. Mid-year budget reviews revealed the opportunity to upgrade our webinar/conferencing system, as well as assess our IT controls and transition to a cloud-based server. Both of these have proven to be valuable investments.

Our success is a team effort and I extend a heartfelt thank you to our Board, CEO and Office Coordinator Claire Faulkner, and bookkeeper Belinda Voight from Business Bookkeeping Solutions. Their dedicated efforts all contributed to our strong and solvent position.

Thanks also to NRM Johnson for conducting the audit of our financial statements. A copy of the audited Financial Statements is available on the YACSA website.

Sara Baynes
Treasurer (she/her)



Minister for Human Services, Nat Cook MP, Digital Communications Officer, Mallory Bradley and CEO Anne Bainbridge at the 2022-23 AGM.

Board

Tamsin Anspach, President
 Claire Coleman, Vice President
 Sara Baynes, Treasurer
 Jemma Taylor Cross

Mytheli Parthiban
 Lazarus Panayiotou
 Leo Taylor

Members

Organisations

Brave Foundation
 Campbelltown City Council
 Carers SA
 City of Burnside
 City of Charles Sturt
 City of Holdfast Bay
 City of Marion
 City of Onkaparinga
 City of Tea Tree Gully
 Country & Outback Health
 Girl Guides South Australia
 Kids First Australia
 Lifeline Regional SA & Far West NSW
 Lighthouse Youth Projects Inc
 Mission Australia
 Mount Barker District Council
 Office of the Guardian for Children and
 Young People
 Power Community Limited
 Sammy D Foundation
 SHINE SA
 St John's Youth Services
 SYC Limited
 TAFESA
 The Duke of Edinburgh's International
 Award - Australia
 The Salvation Army
 Twelve25 Youth Centre - City of Salisbury
 UnitingSA
 Way of the Horse Coaching Inc
 West Coast Youth and Community Support

Whyalla City Council
 Workskil Australia
 YMCA Youth & Family Services
 Youth Options (Employment Options)

Friends of YACSA

Eastern Region Youth Network
 Western Workers With Youth Network
 Gawler and Districts Youth Workers Network
 Youth Barossa Network
 Southern Youth Network Collective
 Adelaide Hills Youth Services Network
 Local Government Youth Development Network
 Northern Youth Services Network

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