

**THE NATIONAL PEAK  
BODY REPRESENTING  
YOUNG AUSTRALIANS**

# ABOUT AYAC

**We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, always will be.**

ABN: 98 468 177 911 E: [info@ayac.org.au](mailto:info@ayac.org.au) W: [ayac.org.au](http://ayac.org.au) A: 2/235 Queen St, Melbourne VIC 3000

---

**AYAC is the national peak body representing the interests of young people aged 12-25 years, and the wider youth sector.**

Serving in a leadership and advocacy capacity, AYAC provides policy advice to decision-makers on issues that impact young people and the sector.

As a member-driven organisation, our diverse membership encompasses young people, academics, youth policy experts, youth-led organisations, national/state youth peak advocacy organisations, and generalist welfare organisations operating across national, state, and local levels.

AYAC is actively involved in policy development, advocacy, research, consultation, and capacity building. Our approach is deeply informed by the insights of our members and supported by evidence, ensuring that policymakers and the community understand the impacts of how policies and decision-making affect young people and the youth sector.

AYAC is unwavering in its commitment to a nation where young people are respected and have the power to lead change for a better world.

# CEO'S REPORT

Joanna Rostami | AYAC CEO



JOANNA ROSTAMI

This year marks the first full year for AYAC as a funded peak body. It has been a year of rebuilding, establishment and growth for the organisation.

Through AYAC, young Australians have had considerable opportunities to have their voices heard and to participate directly in decision making. Continuing to empower and elevate the voices of young people is an achievement that AYAC is immensely proud of.

Throughout 2022-23 AYAC has participated in numerous consultations and committees, produced policy submissions and worked to represent and advocate for young people and the sector.

This year the AYAC team was led by Luke Ryken and then Diana Amato. Luke and Diana led a team that created new partnerships and progressed the strategic plan. Thanks also to Justine Landis-Handley, Media and Communications Manager, Marissa Pattison, Policy and Research Manager, Reece Moir, Engagement Lead for your contributions to AYAC.

AYAC's work is very much dependent upon the support of our membership base, and the many organisations and individuals who support us to achieve our collective goals for young people.

Thank you for your support of Australian young people.

This year, several members of the AYAC Board are concluding their terms. We extend our appreciation to these individuals for their valuable input to AYAC.

Thank you also to the Commonwealth Department of Education, Office for Youth, for their support during this past year. We also appreciate the positive working relationships we have with the Minister for Youth, Hon Dr Ann Aly, and staff.

Thanks also go to our philanthropic partners, the Myer Foundation and Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation for your ongoing commitment to young Australians through AYAC.

It is obvious that AYAC's networks hold high aspirations and expectations for what the organisation can achieve going forward. The Board, as well as the operational team, share these hopes and intend to make considerable progress in cementing AYAC's place as an effective national youth peak body in 2024. This will mean building upon previous work in policy and systemic advocacy, sector capacity building, youth participation and representation, as well as continuing to review and build our core processes, including a review of membership and constitution.

This is an exciting time for AYAC and one with considerable opportunities ahead.



# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Sarah Ramantanis & Caitlin Figueiredo | AYAC Chairpersons



SARAH RAMANTANIS



CAITLIN FIGUEIREDO

We are once again delighted to represent the Board of Directors of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) for the third year. It has been an honour to work alongside one another and amplify the important work of AYAC during a period of growth and stabilisation.

It has been a successful year during which we have continued our government relations, increased our media engagement, secured ongoing government funding and recruited new staff members. The board leadership team included ourselves as Co-Chairs and Stassi Austin as Vice Chair who led the integral work behind AYAC's Statement on the Voice. We prioritise and work with young people in everything we do and create a platform for young people to lead change.

AYAC has accomplished significant milestones during 2022-23 as we have formally established ourselves as a robust national youth peak. Since securing funding, AYAC has gone through a period of transition and careful evaluation and strategic planning at a board level to identify what we want to achieve in 2024 and beyond and how we are going to ensure longevity for the organisation. We thank all board members, supporters and leaders who tireless efforts and loyal engagement propelled AYAC forward to become truly powerful.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of a number of AYAC Board members who are completing their terms this year. Thanks to Stassi Austin, Caitlin Figueiredo, Justin Barker, Anne Bainbridge, James Delaney, and Maddi O'Gradey-Lee for your valuable contribution to AYAC.

We were one of 142 invitees to the Jobs and Skills Summit and have facilitated multiple round tables with the Federal Youth Advisory Groups. We also launched the Parliamentary Friendship Group for Young People and are working closely with the Office for Youth on the Youth Engagement Strategy

In conjunction with the operation team, AYAC established a member network and youth-led network which enabled AYAC members to connect with various representatives from federal parliament and collaborate with the youth sector.

AYAC's success could not have been achieved without the extraordinary young people who play a vital role in painting the pathway for our future. The generous support of the Federal Government, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and the Myer Foundation are truly appreciated and enable AYAC to achieve real outcomes that benefit young people.

We encourage all Australians to get involved with AYAC to ensure young people are respected and have the power to lead change.



# WHO WE ARE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Chairpersons

Sarah Ramantanis  
Caitlin Figueiredo

### Vice Chairperson

Stassi Austin

### Treasurer

James Delaney

### Directors

Taj Pabari  
Maddison O'Gradey-Lee  
Rana Ebrahimi  
Jeremy Hunt  
Kate Munro  
Dr. Justin Barker  
Katherine Ellis  
Paul McDonald

## STAFF (1 JULY 22–30 JUNE 2023)

### Executive Officer / CEO

Luke Rycken

### Media and Communications Manager

Justine Landis-Handley

### Policy and Research Manager

Marissa Pattison

### Engagement Lead

Reece Moir

### Interim CEO

Diana Amato (May 2023–Sept 2023)



# MEMBERSHIP

As a member-driven organisation, AYAC brings together a diverse community of young people, peak and sector organisations, youth-led groups and individuals. Our work is strengthened by our membership fostering a community where together, we shape the future for young people and advocate for positive change.

**870 YOUNG PEOPLE**

**87 ORGANISATIONS**

**82 INDIVIDUALS**

# OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

## Funders



## Partnerships



# OUR IMPACT



**Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is the national voice and advocate for young people and the youth sector.**

We represent more than 4.6 million young people across the country. We're the national peak body and our members include young people, youth-led organisations and youth sector organisations that support and work with young people.

The small but mighty AYAC team reached new heights in 2022-23 through our successful government engagement and convened meetings of our member networks.



# ACHIEVEMENTS JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

**\$400,000**

GOVERNMENT  
FUNDING

**\$155,000**

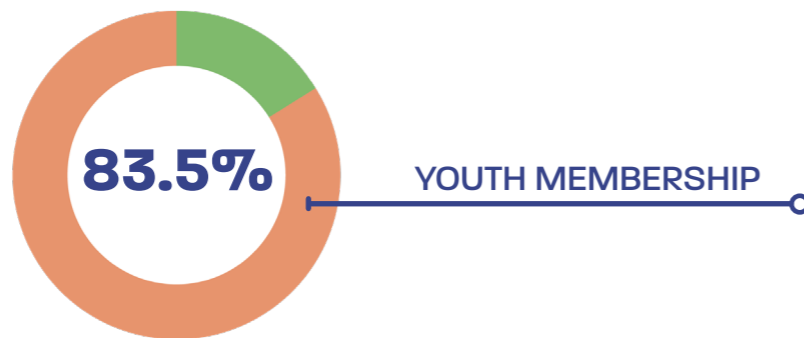
PHILANTHROPIC  
FUNDING



**FEE FOR  
SERVICE  
WORK**

**1039**

AYAC MEMBERS



**4.5M**

YOUNG PEOPLE AYAC  
REPRESENTS THROUGH



GOVERNMENT ROUNDTABLES

YOUTH CONSULTATIONS

**17**

YOUNG PEOPLE FROM  
ACROSS THE COUNTRY  
TRAINED IN POLICY, MEDIA  
AND ADVOCACY THROUGH  
THE 2022 AYAC FELLOWSHIP



**Conducted National Youth Polls:**

/ To understand young people's priorities for government and preferences leading up to the referendum and lowering the voting age.

**Consistent Advocacy:**

/ Advocated consistently to the government, emphasising the vital role of young people in Australia's advancement.

**Public Engagement:**

/ Presented to diverse audiences on youth issues.  
/ Contributed to forums, committees, and advisory groups.

**Government Collaboration:**

/ Supported the government's youth engagement efforts through steering committees and advisory groups.

**Media Engagement:**

/ Issued numerous submissions and media releases on key youth-related issues.

**Parliamentary Engagement:**

/ Hosted an inaugural Parliamentary Friends of Young People meeting.

**Project Partnerships:**

/ Progressed work with project funders, including the E-Safety Commission and CanTeen.

**Youth Programs Support:**

/ Conducted national surveys on youth engagement.  
/ Supported youth organisations in developing programs and projects.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

JAMES DELANEY | TREASURER



JAMES DELANEY

Dear members,

We are pleased to present the financial report for the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Overall, AYAC achieved a surplus of \$97,055. Our current year financial results include the following highlights:

\$363,636 in government support for youth engagement programs and initiatives;

\$36,636 in additional government support to setup a Youth Steering Committee for government; and

\$155,000 in philanthropic funding to support core operations.

We are very grateful for the ongoing financial support provided by the Australian government and our philanthropic partners. We are also very pleased to have secured these partnerships for the next financial year.

AYAC continues to focus on meeting the outcomes set out by the government and philanthropic partners and in achieving our vision through our work with young people.

Thank you all again for your continued support and we look forward to our continued work with young people and all our members.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## Director's Report

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

### Director's Report

Your directors submit the financial report of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

### Directors

The names of directors throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Committee Member	Position	Date Started	Date Ended
Sarah Ramantanis	Co-chair	07/02/2022	
Caitlin Figueiredo	Co-chair	9/12/2020	
Stassi Austin	Deputy chair	30/11/2021	
James Delaney	Director	03/05/2022	
Jeremy Hunt	Director	30/11/2022	
Justin Barker	Director	09/12/2020	
Kate Munro	Director	30/11/2021	
Anne Bainbridge	Director	July 2023	
Maddison O'Grady-Lee	Director	30/11/2021	
Paul McDonald	Director	30/11/2022	21/08/2023
Rana Ebrahimi	Director	30/11/2021	
Taj Pabari	Director	30/11/2022	
Isabelle Franklin	Vice-Chairperson	09/12/2020	30/11/2022
Katherine Ellis	Director	30/11/2021	11/08/2023
Sonia Arakkal	Director	09/12/2020	30/11/2022
Luke Rycken	Secretary	04/12/2020	21/04/2023

### Operating Results

The surplus for the financial year is \$97,055. (2022: Surplus of \$72,297)

### Principal Activities

The Associations objects are to pursue the following charitable purposes:

- To promote and protect the human rights of young people
- To promote respect, tolerance, and inclusion of young people
- To advance education by providing leadership training, support and opportunities to young people
- To advance the health and welfare of young people
- To promote laws, policies and practices which advance charitable purposes for the benefit of young people

The entity is incorporated under the Association Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT) and is an incorporated association. If Australian Youth Affairs Coalition is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$0 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. As at 30 June 2023, the total amount that members of the entity are liable to contribute if the entity is wound up is \$0.

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2023 can be found in this financial report.

This Director' report is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Bord of Directors on:

Sarah Ramantanis - Co-chairperson  
Date: 10/10/23

James Delaney - Treasurer  
Date: 10/10/23

## Statement of Profit or Loss

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
<b>Income</b>			
Other Income		28,658	26,586
Contributions (Members)		-	40,000
Contributions (Philanthropic trusts and corporations)		111,881	77,500
Grant Income		363,636	150,000
Service Fee		6,156	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>510,331</b>	<b>294,086</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Sundry Expenses</b>			
Accessibility		1,243	2,145
Accounting Fees		6,869	4,735
Annual Leave Provision Expense		(5,367)	5,367
Assets Purchased		9,050	-
Audit Fees		1,109	1,500
Bank Charges		239	116
Board/Governance Expenses		32	82
Business Planning, Reporting and Evaluation Costs		8,712	-
Computer Expenses		5,524	4,880
Consultancy Fees		1,033	350
Entertainment		219	-
Expense Claim Suspense		-	4
Insurance		6,125	2,735
Meeting Expenses		276	-
Membership Fees Paid		95	45
Office Expenses		89	-
Participation Expenses		1,161	-
Postage, Freight and Courier		9	14
Printing and Stationery		427	12
Publications and Information Resources		6,315	200
Rent		23,274	6,709
Secondment from YACVIC		-	125,958
Staff Expenses		1,498	418
Superannuation		26,240	5,186
Telephone and Internet		2,234	-
Training and Development (Staff)		95	-
Travel and Accommodation		24,537	2,047
Utilities		307	382
Volunteer Costs		27,991	7,050
Wages and Salaries		263,941	51,856
<b>Total Sundry Expenses</b>		<b>413,277</b>	<b>221,789</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>413,277</b>	<b>221,789</b>
	NOTES	2023	2022
<b>Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>97,055</b>	<b>72,297</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition  
As at 30 June 2023

	NOTES	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents		320,744	156,340
Trade and Other Receivables		-	415,000
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>320,744</b>	<b>571,340</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Other Financial Assets (Deposits Held)		4,320	3,580
Weel Expenses Account		767	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>5,087</b>	<b>3,580</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>325,832</b>	<b>574,920</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accrued Expenses		9,505	-
Superannuation Payable		6,181	4,033
Wages Payable - Payroll		-	-
Trade and Other Payables		2,634	4,770
GST Payable		2,944	32,720
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>21,264</b>	<b>41,523</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Annual Leave Provision		-	5,367
Grants in Advance - NYPP		-	441,136
Other Non-Current Liabilities		120,619	-
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>120,619</b>	<b>446,503</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>141,883</b>	<b>488,026</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>183,949</b>	<b>86,894</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
<b>Capital Reserve</b>			
Current Year Earnings		97,055	72,297
Retained Earnings		86,894	14,597
<b>Total Capital Reserve</b>		<b>183,949</b>	<b>86,894</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>183,949</b>	<b>86,894</b>



## Statement of Cash Flows

### Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
<b>Cash flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts from grants, contributions and donations		518,636	195,000
Receipts from customers		46,943	23,967
Payments to suppliers and employees		(400,936)	(212,512)
Finance costs		(239)	(116)
<b>Total Cash flows from Operating Activities</b>		<b>164,404</b>	<b>6,340</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>164,404</b>	<b>6,340</b>
<b>Cash Balances</b>			
Opening cash balance		156,340	150,000
Closing cash balance		320,744	156,340
Movement in cash		164,404	6,340

## Movements in Equity

### Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
<b>Equity</b>			
Opening Balance		86,894	14,597
<b>Increases</b>			
Surplus for the Period		97,055	72,297
<b>Total Increases</b>		<b>97,055</b>	<b>72,297</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>183,949</b>	<b>86,894</b>

## Directors' Declaration

### Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2023

In accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, the directors of the Registered Entity declare that, in the directors' opinion:

- The financial statements and notes, as set out in the previous pages, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
  - comply with Australian Accounting Standards; and
  - give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
- In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subs 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.



Sarah Ramantanis (Co-Chairperson)

Date: 10/10/23



James Delaney (Treasurer)

Date: 10/10/23

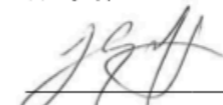
## Auditor's Independence Declaration Under the ACNC Act

### Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2023

To the directors of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

In accordance with Subdivision 60-C of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition. As the lead audit partner for the audit of the financial report of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023 there have been no contraventions of:

- the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



William Jonathan Griffin

APL Financial Pty Ltd

32 Business Park Drive  
Notting Hill, Victoria 3168

Dated: 5/10/2023

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Directors

## Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2023

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the registered entity is in accordance with the Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (the ACNC Act), including:

1. giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
2. complying with Australian Accounting Standards

### Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Registered Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ACNC Act, the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

### Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

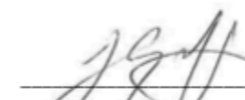
### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Registered Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



William Jonathan Griffin  
APL Financial Pty Ltd

32 Business Park Drive  
Notting Hill, Victoria 3168

Date: 5/10/2023

**ayac** Australian Youth  
Affairs Coalition

