



New South Wales
Youth Advisory Council

Annual Report 2002

2002



NSW YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

a n n u a l r e p o r t

2002

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ISBN 0 7313 1595 2



YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
NEW SOUTH WALES

The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MLC
Minister for Youth
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

31 March 2003

Dear Minister

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the NSW Youth Advisory Council's 2002 Annual Report.

The Council is committed to directly consulting with young people and increasing young people's participation in the community and government. This commitment is reflected in a range of the Council's activities in 2002.

The Council consulted with young people and youth service providers in 2002 to discuss how their suggestions and concerns informed the development of the NSW Youth Policy 2002-2006.

During this process, young people expressed a desire for greater participation in community and government decision making processes. The Council raised this issue, along with the Youth Policy more broadly, when members met with a range of Ministers in 2002.

The Council has appreciated your support throughout the year.

I would also like to thank the current and former members of the Council for their work and for the part they have played in ensuring that Council provides a link between young people and the Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roshana Sultan'.

Roshana Sultan
Chair

Membership of the Council

In 2002 the New South Wales Youth Advisory Council consisted of 12 part-time members appointed by the Premier. It receives ex-officio secretariat support from the Office of Children and Young People, The Cabinet Office.

Under the *Youth Advisory Council Act 1989*, at least half the Council's 12 members must be under the age of 25 years at the time of their appointment to the Council. This ensures that young people are speaking for themselves. Members must have experience, skills and qualifications that will enable them to make a positive contribution to the work of the Council. At the time of appointment, 11 members were under 25 years of age, and one member was 26.

Members of the Council in 2002 were:

Ms Janelle Barrett, Mr Glen Crump, Mr Simon Davies, Mr Tim Ireland, Mr Adrian Henry, Ms Angela Humphries, Ms Stacey Jacobs, Mr Joey Le, Ms Maggie Ma, Ms Maya Spannari, Ms Roshana Sultan and Mr Charbel Zoghaib.

The Premier appointed Mr Joey Le as Chair and Ms Roshana Sultan as Deputy Chair of the Council for 2002.

Council members are appointed in their own right, rather than as representatives of organisations or groups. The Premier sought a Council that was broadly representative of young people in New South Wales. In determining Council membership, he sought a balance of people from metropolitan, regional and rural areas; young men and women; young Aboriginal people; young people from non-English speaking backgrounds; and people with experience in a range of youth and community organisations.

Seven new members were appointed to the Council commencing in January 2002, to continue to the end of 2002. Five members of the Council continued their appointment from 2001, serving on the Council till the end of 2002. Joey Le and Ms Roshana Sultan were among those reappointed for 2002.

Council Members continuing from 2001

GLEN CRUMP

Age at January 2002: 19 years

Resides: Moree

Glen is a young Aboriginal man and is employed with Moree's Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program. Glen is chair of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Council and is a member of the Youth Task Force. While at school, he was a member of the local and district Student Representative Council as well as his local Police and Community Youth Club. In 1999 he was named both a Young Australian Citizen of the Year and Volunteer of the Year.

TIM WILLIAM IRELAND

Age at January 2002: 18 years

Resides: South Grafton

Tim is a young Aboriginal man in Year 12 at South Grafton High School. He is a coordinator/adviser with his district Student Representative Council and is a local coordinator with the Student Leadership Is for Koori Kids (SLIKK) program. Tim is a trustee on the Alamy Creek Crown Reserve Trust north of Grafton and is an adviser to the Department of Education and Training on leadership, Aboriginal and youth issues.

JOEY QUOC NGUYEN LE

Age at January 2002: 19 years

Resides: Bonnyrigg Heights

Joey is a young Vietnamese man currently studying for a Bachelor of Science (Medicine), Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at the University of NSW. Joey was awarded a University of Sydney Undergraduate Scholarship (2000). He is a member of 2nd Bankstown (LĐ Bach Viet) Rover Crew and Scout Group and past member of 1st Canley Heights (LĐ Van Lang) Scout Group. Joey is a volunteer with the Annual Lunar New Year, Mid Autumn Moon, and Children's Festivals.

MAYA SPANNARI

Age at January 2002: 26 years

Resides: Port Macquarie

Maya has a Finnish background. She studied Social Science at Southern Cross University and has completed Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessing. Maya has worked as a youth worker at Christo House Youth Refuge for three years, Links to Learning coordinator for two years and is currently the community development worker at Hastings Council. She was a semi-finalist in the Young Australian of the Year Award in 2002 and represents youth views on the Hastings Youth Advisory Council, Mid-North Coast Regional Forum and the Hastings Community Network.

ROSHANA JEAN SULTAN

Age at January 2002: 20 years

Resides: Berkeley/Rockdale

Roshana is studying a Bachelor of Commerce degree via correspondence at University of New England, holds a certificate III in Telecommunications and has TAFE certificates in Accounting, Baking, Community Services and Business. She works with a recruitment agency and at a local preschool. Roshana has been a volunteer with the RSPCA, Wollongong Hospital and Ethnic Meals on Wheels. She has participated in Young Muslim Women's Association projects, Young Women's Festival projects, the Cringila Youth Project, anti-war rallies and organised a food and clothing appeal for the refugees resulting from the war in Afghanistan.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS 2002

JANELLE BARRETT

Age at January 2002: 21 years

Resides: Cronulla (formerly Ballina)

Originally from Ballina, Janelle has studied Social Science and Community Welfare at University and works for the Child Support Agency (Commonwealth Government). While in Ballina, she was President of her school Student Representative Council, Chairperson of the Ballina Shire Youth Council and youth representative on the local Crime Prevention Committee. She won Young Citizen of the Year for Ballina Shire in 1999. Janelle represents the Council on the MAA grants committee.

SIMON DAVIES

Age at January 2002: 19 years

Resides: Deniliquin

Simon is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Medical and Applied Biotechnology at Charles Sturt University. He has been involved with the Flat Earth Festival and Indent Committees as well as Student Representative Council and Deniliquin Junior Council Experience. He was the inaugural chair of the Deniliquin Youth Action Group and in 2002 was awarded Young Citizen of the year for Deniliquin Council. He was also granted a Department of Education Scholarship to Japan. Simon represents the Council on the CAAH Advisory Board.

ADRIAN HENRY

Age at January 2002: 18 years

Resides: Coffs Harbour (formerly Jamberoo)

Adrian completed his HSC in 2001 and is studying at Southern Cross University. He was awarded an Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year 2001 (Kiama Municipality) Award and was a nominee in the Mayne Nickless Young Australian of the Year Awards. In September 2000 he carried the Olympic Torch in Kiama for his services to young people in his local community. He has an extensive background in youth-related issues. Adrian represents the Council on the MAA grants committee.

ANGELA HUMPHRIES

Age at January 2002: 22 years

Resides: Blacktown

Angela has held a number of voluntary positions including as a University Board Director, Student Senate Undergraduate representative, external students councillor and committee member on the Blacktown Youth Council. Angela maintains strong links with young people and has an avid interest in their representation in government and politics. In 2002, she participated in the working group for the advancement of young women with mental illness. Angela represents the Council on the MAA grants committee.

STACEY JACOBS

Age at January 2002: 19 years

Resides: Maitland

Stacey is undertaking a Diploma in Community Services (Youth Work) at TAFE. In addition, she is a mediator with the Community Justice Centre and an adjudicator with the Department of Education and Training. She has been a member of her School Representative Council and has participated in range of local council initiatives. She has been awarded Young Citizen of the Year and a Premier's Award for active citizenship.

MAGGIE MA

Age at January 2002: 20 years

Resides: Chester Hill

Maggie is studying Economics at the University of Sydney. She has received a wide range of awards including the NSW Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement, Premier's Award and Rotary Teenager of the year. She has also been involved in her Student Representative Council (as President) and has been a member of an education working committee.

CHARBEL (CHARLIE) ZOGHAIB

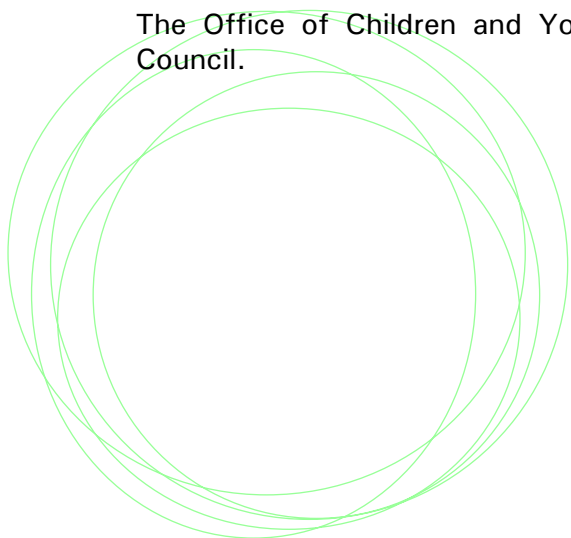
Age at January 2002: 18 years

Resides: Granville

Charbel is studying Commerce/Law at the University of Western Sydney. He was captain and Student Representative Council president at his school and through this he has represented Lebanese Youth in various capacities. In 2000 and 2001 he received the Youth Award from the Australian Lebanese Association of NSW for his community involvement. He served on the Commission for Children and Young People's Reference Committee in 2000-01.

Ex-officio members

The Office of Children and Young People provided secretariat support to the Council.



The role of the Council

The New South Wales Youth Advisory Council ("the Council") was established in 1989, under the *Youth Advisory Council Act 1989* ("the Act"), to ensure that young people participate in the development of Government policies and programs which concern them. The Act defines young people as "persons who are of, or over, 12 years of age and under 25 years of age."

The Council has the following statutory functions:

- (a) to advise the Minister on the planning, development, integration and implementation of Government policies and programs concerning young persons;
- (b) to consult with young persons, community groups and Government authorities on issues and policies concerning young persons;
- (c) to monitor and evaluate legislation and Government policies and programs concerning young persons, and to recommend changes if required;
- (d) to conduct forums, approved by the Minister, on issues of interest to young persons; and
- (e) to collect, analyse and provide the Minister with information on issues and policies concerning young persons.

Administration of the Council

The Premier, the Hon Bob Carr, MP, has administered the Act since 28 July 1995, after assuming primary responsibility for youth affairs following the New South Wales general election of 25 March 1995. During 2002, the Premier was assisted by the Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth, the Hon Carmel Tebbutt MLC, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services.

The Office of Children and Young People is responsible for providing secretariat services to the Council. The Office of Children and Young People was established in early 1997, as a branch of The Cabinet Office, to provide policy advice to the Premier on policies and programs which affect the lives of children and young people in NSW.

Work and activities of the Council in 2002

In 2002 the Council fulfilled its functions as specified under the Act through a variety of activities.

The Council is committed to directly consulting with young people and increasing young people's participation in the community and government. As a key body providing advice to the government on issues of concern to young people, the Council sought to reflect the concerns of a broad range of young people in New South Wales.

In addition to holding regular meetings with the Council, the Premier and Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth have been kept fully informed of matters considered by the Council through the regular provision of Council meeting minutes and briefings prepared by the Council or the Office of Children and Young People.

Launch of the NSW Youth Policy 2002-2006

In 2001, the Council consulted with over 500 young people and youth service providers in 17 locations across the state about the concerns and issues important to them. The information provided in these consultations was integral in determining the issues addressed in the Youth Policy and the Government's response to these issues.

The NSW Youth Policy 2002-2006, *Working Together, Working for Young People*, was launched by the Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth, The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MLC, in Wollongong in August 2002.

The Policy is arranged around six key strategies:

- ▶ giving young people the opportunity to participate in the community and to be involved in the decisions and processes that impact on their lives;
- ▶ supporting young people so that they can achieve their educational and employment goals;
- ▶ giving young people greater opportunities to participate in sport, recreational and developmental activities;
- ▶ providing young people with the information and services they need to help them to lead healthy lives, now and in the future;
- ▶ giving young people the support they need before their problems become acute and improving the safety of their environments; and
- ▶ working with young people and the community to improve planning, services and programs for young people.

In addition to providing advice on the drafts of the document, the Council also participated in the Policy launch.

Consultations with young people and youth organisations

In 2002, the Council decided to revisit some of the communities that were part of the consultation process in 2001. The Council considered that just as it was crucial that the ideas of young people informed the development of the policy, it was also important that young people understand how the policy reflects their solutions.

The Council visited Port Macquarie in September and Moree in November. The consultations in Newcastle and Umina scheduled for December were postponed due to bushfires. The Council plans to visit Newcastle, Umina and Dubbo in early 2003.

Meetings with Government Ministers

The Council met with a range of Government Ministers in 2002 to promote the concept of youth participation. The meetings also enabled the Council to advise Ministers of the Council's work, outline some of the findings of the 2001 consultations and discuss the concepts underpinning the NSW Youth Policy 2002-2006.

The Council met with the following Ministers:

- ▶ The Hon Andrew Refshauge MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing
- ▶ The Hon Bob Debus MP, Attorney General
- ▶ The Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Special Minister of State, and Minister for Industrial Relations
- ▶ The Hon John Watkins MP, Minister for Education and Training
- ▶ The Hon Michael Costa MLC, Minister for Police
- ▶ The Hon Carl Scully MP, Minister for Transport and Minister for Roads
- ▶ The Hon Morris Iemma MP, Minister for Sport and Recreation
- ▶ The Hon John Aquilina MP, Minister for Land and Water Conservation, and Minister for Fair Trading

***So you want to be in politics?* Forum**

The Council assisted in the organisation of the Government's *So you want to be in politics?* Forum. The forum was held during National Youth Week in April 2002 and was attended by over 100 young people.

The forum gave participants an understanding of the broad range of options for participating in the political process and included speakers under the age of 25 who are involved in politics.

A similar forum focused on young people's participation in political and community decision making processes is planned by the Council for Youth Week in 2003.

Council meetings

In 2002 the Council met on 23 March, 19 April, 31 May/1 June, 26 July, 18 October and 4 December.

Council met with:

- ▶ Mr Bob Carr, Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship
- ▶ Ms Carmel Tebbutt MLC, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Juvenile Justice, and the Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth
- ▶ Ms Penny Sharpe, Ms Alison Ayres and Ms Kaylee Campradt, Policy Advisers, Minister Tebbutt's Office
- ▶ Mr Paul Bodisco, Adviser, Premier's Office
- ▶ Mr Tony Wiseheart, Strategic Projects, Premier's Department
- ▶ Mr Stephen Robertson, Commission for Children and Young People
- ▶ Ms Kristy Delaney and Ms Annie Pettitt, Youth Action and Policy Association
- ▶ Ms Carol Mills, Executive Director Housing Systems, Department of Housing
- ▶ Ms Pam King, Policy Manager, Department of Juvenile Justice
- ▶ Mr Gareth Seymour and Mr Dean Hart, Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Council
- ▶ Mr David Hunt, Policy Manager, Ministry of Police
- ▶ Ms Kelli Field, Policy Adviser, Minister for Police
- ▶ Mr Garner Clancy, Shopping Centre Protocol Project
- ▶ Ms Maree Thomas, Senior Principal Policy Officer, Office of Drug Policy, The Cabinet Office
- ▶ Ms Jean McSorley, Policy Officer, Social Policy Branch, The Cabinet Office
- ▶ Ms Rossi Lyons, Families First Project Leader, The Cabinet Office
- ▶ Ms Julia Martin, Ms Annie Tinney, Ms Louise Healey, Ms Kristin Schubert, Ms Rachel White and Ms Gail Le Bransky, Office of Children and Young People

Representation on committees

The Council represents the views of young people on a number of government and non-government committees.

Council members were represented on the following committees in 2002

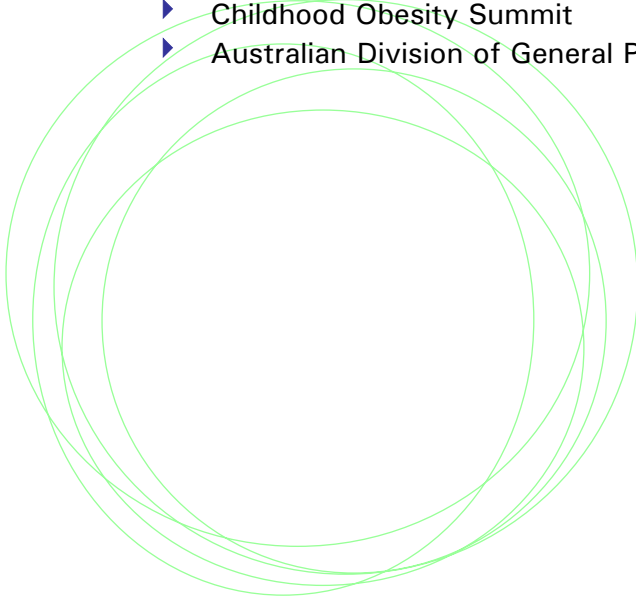
- ▶ National Youth Week Planning Group
- ▶ NSW Youth Week Advisory Committee
- ▶ NSW Youth Website Subcommittee
- ▶ The NSW Youth Interagency Taskforce
- ▶ Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Council
- ▶ Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health Advisory Board
- ▶ Motor Accidents Authority *Arrive Alive* Grant Scheme Advisory Committee

Council members presented at the following conferences, seminars and forums

- ▶ Adolescent Health Conference
- ▶ *So you want to be in politics?* Forum
- ▶ Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Youth Health Forum
- ▶ Commission for Children and Young People Forum on children and young people on boards and committees
- ▶ Launch of the NSW Youth Policy 2002-2006
- ▶ Moree Youth Advisory Council meeting
- ▶ Bathurst Youth Advisory Council meeting
- ▶ Joint Department of Industrial Relations and WorkCover launch of the *Starting Work? Know your legal rights* booklet

Council members attended the following conferences, seminars, forums

- ▶ International Conference on Drugs and Young People
- ▶ Youth Action and Policy Association forum on public space
- ▶ Premier's Reception for Women
- ▶ NSW State Student Representative Council committee meetings
- ▶ Community Relations Commission Forum
- ▶ Childhood Obesity Summit
- ▶ Australian Division of General Practice's Youth In Mind Conference



The Council in 2003

The term of all 12 members of the Council was to have expired at the end of 2002. However, the Premier extended this term to July 2003.

In September 2002, Ms Maggie Ma resigned from the Council and Ms Samantha Edwards was appointed to fill this vacancy in December 2002. In November 2002, Mr Joey Le resigned from the Council and Ms Roshana Sultan was appointed as Acting Chair of the Council and Ms Janelle Barrett as Acting Deputy Chair.

In January 2003, Ms Pamela Mileski was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Mr Le's resignation. At the same time, the Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth appointed Ms Roshana Sultan as Chair and Ms Janelle Barrett as Deputy Chair of the Council.

2003

Incoming Council Members for 2003

SAMANTHA JULIE EDWARDS

Age at January 2003: 21 years

Resides: Concord

Originally from South Australia, Samantha is studying Economics (Social Sciences)/Law at the University of Sydney. She has previously worked at Burwood Local Court (NSW Attorney-General's Department) and at the NSW Premier's Department. Samantha is the Tertiary Student Issues Officer for the Women Lawyers' Association of NSW and from 2003 is serving on the NSW Crime Prevention Council. She has a keen interest in law and justice, as well as adolescent mental health.

PAMELA MILESKI

Age at January 2003: 22 years

Resides: Kogarah

Pamela is a final year student completing a law degree at the University of Sydney. Pamela also completed a Economics (Social Sciences) degree in 2001. She is currently employed as a barristers assistant and has had extensive experience in implementing youth programs while in high school and in her community. She has volunteered for Amnesty International displaying a keen interest in human rights and international law. Pamela has also volunteered her time to tutor years 11 and 12 in Business and Legal Studies.





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