



NSW Youth Advisory Council

Annual Report 2003

2003



NSW YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

2003

The Secretariat of the Youth Advisory Council can be contacted at:

Office of Children and Young People
Department of Community Services
Level 38, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 9228 4992
Facsimile: (02) 9228 3984
Email: yac@mail.cabinet.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.youth.nsw.gov.au

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**YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
NEW SOUTH WALES**

The Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC
Minister for Youth
Level 25
9 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

5 May 2004

Dear Minister

It gives me great pleasure to present you with the 2003 New South Wales Youth Advisory Council 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 2003.

In 2003 the Council liaised with a variety of youth organisations and provided advice to the Government in the development and implementation of policies that affect the lives of young people in NSW.

The Council appreciated your support throughout the year.

I would also like to thank the 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 'MLF', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Mathew Ferguson
Chair

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:

- to advise the Minister on the planning, development, integration and implementation of Government policies and programs concerning young persons;
- to consult with young persons, community groups and Government authorities on issues and policies concerning young persons;
- to monitor and evaluate legislation and Government policies and programs concerning young persons, and to recommend changes if required;
- to conduct forums, approved by the Minister, on issues of interest to young persons; and
- 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, administered the Act from 28 July 1995, after assuming primary responsibility for youth affairs, following the New South Wales March 1995 general election.

In April 2003, administration of the Act was transferred to the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Youth, following her appointment as the Minister for Youth.

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 and Minister on policies and programs which affect the lives of children and young people in NSW.

Membership of the Council

In 2003 the New South Wales Youth Advisory Council consisted of 12 part-time members appointed by the Minister. It received ex-officio and 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. In 2003, one member was over the age of 25 years.

Members of the Council in 2003

Ms Janelle Barrett, Mr Glen Crump, Mr Simon Davies, Ms Samantha Edwards, Mr Adrian Henry, Ms Angela Humphries, Mr Tim Ireland, Ms Stacey Jacobs, Ms Pamela Mileski, Ms Maya Spannari, Ms Roshana Sultan, and Mr Charbel Zoghaib.

In January 2003, Ms Pamela Mileski was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Mr Joey Le's resignation in late 2002. At the same time Ms Roshana Sultan was appointed as Chair and Ms Janelle Barrett as Deputy Chair of the Council.

Council members are appointed in their own right, rather than as representatives of organisations or groups. Generally the Minister seeks a Council that is broadly representative of young people in New South Wales. In determining Council membership, the Minister seeks 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.

Council Members

JANELLE BARRETT

Age at January 2003: 22 years

Resides: Revesby

Originally from Ballina, Janelle has studied Social Science and Community Welfare at University and works for the Department of Family and Community Services (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 Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) grants committee.

GLEN CRUMP

Age at January 2003: 20 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.

SIMON DAVIES

Age at January 2003: 20 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 by Deniliquin Council. He was also granted a Department of Education Scholarship to Japan. Simon represents the Council on the Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health Advisory Board (CAAH).

SAMANTHA JULIE EDWARDS

Age at January 2003: 22 years

Resides: Concord

Samantha is studying Law at the University of Sydney and has an active interest in a range of law and justice issues, especially those affecting children and young people. Samantha also has a keen interest in anti-discrimination law, family law and mental health issues. She has previously worked for the NSW Premier's Department and at Burwood Local Court. Samantha is currently on the Young People's Advisory Committee for Youth Week, a sub-committee of the Youth Advisory Council and is also the Research Officer of the Women Lawyers' Association of NSW.

ADRIAN HENRY

Age at January 2003: 20 years

Resides: Mosman (formerly Kiama)

Adrian Henry is studying at Southern Cross University and resides in Mosman on Sydney's Lower North Shore. Originally from the South Coast town of Kiama, Adrian is very active with the Surf Life Saving movement and has promoted the involvement of young people within Surf Life Saving Clubs on Sydney's northern beaches. Over the past one and a half years, Adrian has represented the Council on the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) grants committee, developing excellent skills in road safety administration. Adrian was a torchbearer during the Sydney Olympics, Kiama's Young Citizen of the Year in 2001 and was nominated for the Young Australian of the Year Awards.

ANGELA HUMPHRIES

Age at January 2003: 23 years

Resides: Blacktown

Angela has held a number of voluntary positions, including University Board Director, Student Senate undergraduate representative, external student's councillor and committee member of 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 Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) grants committee.

TIM WILLIAM IRELAND

Age at January 2003: 19 years

Resides: Belmore

Tim is a young Aboriginal man studying for a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Sydney. He has experience as a coordinator/adviser with his district Student Representative Council and as a local coordinator with the Student Leadership Is for Koori Kids (SLIKK) program. Tim gained employment halfway through the year at Randwick City Council, working as the Forum Coordinator for the Eastern Region Local Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum.

STACEY JACOBS

Age at January 2003: 20 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.

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 an Economics (Social Sciences) degree in 2001. She is currently employed as a barrister's 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 year 11 and 12 students in Business and Legal Studies.

MAYA SPANNARI

Age at January 2003: 27 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 2003: 21 years

Resides: Berkeley/Rockdale

Roshana is studying a Bachelor of Commerce degree via correspondence at the 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.

CHARBEL (CHARLIE) ZOGHAIB

Age at January 2003: 19 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

An officer from the Office of Children and Young People is an ex-officio member of the Council. Until June 2003, Ms Gail Le Bransky, Senior Project Policy Officer, Office of Children and Young People, was the ex-officio member of the Council. Since July 2003, Mr Tony Wiseheart, Senior Program Manager, Office of Children and Young People, has been the ex-officio member of the Council.

Secretarial support was provided to the Council by Ms Jacki Hayes (to August 2003) and Ms Roslyn Harrison (from September to December 2003).

Work and activities of the Council

In 2003 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 Minister for Youth has 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.

Consultations with young people and youth organisations

The NSW Youth Policy 2002-2006, *Working Together, Working for Young People*, was launched in August 2002. In 2003, the Council revisited some of the communities that were part of the consultation process of the NSW Youth Policy, to provide feedback on how the issues have been addressed in the policy.

The Council visited Dubbo, Newcastle and Umina in February. Issues of interest included participation, transport, entertainment, public space, youth services and health services for youth.

Meetings with Government Ministers

In 2003 the Council met with Government Ministers to promote the concept of youth participation. The meetings also enabled the Council to brief the Ministers on the Council's work and discuss the concepts underpinning the NSW Youth Policy 2002-2006.

The Council met with the following Ministers:

- The Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Youth
- The Hon Michael Costa, MLC, Minister for Police
- The Hon John Aquilina, MP, Minister for Land and Water Conservation, and Minister for Fair Trading

In the House Forum

The Council organised and hosted the Youth Week 'In the House' Forum at Parliament House on 8 April 2003, to promote young people's participation in politics, government and changing society. The Forum involved around 150 young people from across the state and provided them with the inspiration to get involved.

The Forum was designed to increase youth participation in political arenas; provide access to resources and inspirational case studies; and educate young people about how they can actively make a difference in their communities.

NSW Shopping Centre Protocol

The Youth Advisory Council provided detailed advice on the Shopping Centre Protocol prepared by Mr Garner Clancy on behalf of the Shopping Centre Council of Australia. The Shopping Centre Protocol was launched by The Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC, Minister for Youth, in October 2003.

The goal of the Shopping Centre Protocol was to ensure that shopping centres are perceived as safe and accessible by the whole community. The Protocol also aimed to reduce inappropriate behaviours, rather than punish or marginalise individuals.

NSW Youth Website

The Youth Advisory Council assisted in the design and content development of the new NSW Youth website. The website was launched on 11 June 2003 by Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC, Minister for Youth.

The Youth website was revamped to enable young people from all over NSW to participate in interactive forums on issues of concern and to provide information and support for people working with young people.

The new website aims to keep young people in NSW informed about what the Government is doing for young people and where to go for information about issues, services and activities. The website also aims to encourage youth participation and hear young people's ideas on a range of issues.

Two new interactive services were added to the website:

- an on-line youth forum that encourages information sharing between Government agencies and young people
- a no-fee subscription service to encourage youth sector networking

The youth worker section of the website links to best practice information, research databases and information on models aimed at improving youth development; increasing connection to school and assisting youth at risk.

Review of the Youth Advisory Council Act 1989

During the year, a review was undertaken of the *Youth Advisory Council Act 1989*. The review was conducted by the Performance Measurement and Review Division of the Premier's Department. It was oversighted by a steering committee comprising representatives from the Youth Advisory Council, the Office of the Minister for Youth, the Office of Children and Young People and the Commission for Children and Young People.

Council members were involved at every step of the process; providing feedback on the review process proposed; providing information and comment to the review; providing advice on the outcomes of the review; and providing advice on how the findings of the review should be implemented.

Youth Advisory Transport Paper

The Council provided advice to The Hon Michael Costa, MLC, Minister for Transport Services, and a substantial briefing to the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC, Minister for Youth, on the issue of transport and young people. Council members consulted with more than 500 young people across NSW.

Issues raised included:

- community involvement in transport planning;
- concessions for young people who are not in full time study;
- a review of current discount or community transport options for young people;
- transport options for young people who have been drinking;
- costs associated with parking for young people; and
- passenger safety.

Council meetings

In 2003 the Council met on 20 January, 24 February, 15 March, 10 May, 13 June, 18 October and 4 December.

Council met with:

- The Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Youth
- Ms Kaylee Campradt, Policy Adviser, Minister Tebbutt's Office
- Mr Peter Connelly and Ms Jane Ford, Premier's Department
- Mr Stephen Robertson and Mr Dorian Sarkissian, Commission for Children and Young People
- Mr Garner Clancy, Shopping Centre Protocol Project
- Ms Linda Mallett, Children's Guardian
- Mr Ingo Kumic, Planning NSW

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 2003:

- National Youth Week Planning Group
- NSW Youth Week Advisory Committee
- NSW Youth Website Subcommittee
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Council
- Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health Advisory Board
- Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) Grants Committee
- The NSW Youth Interagency Taskforce
- Youth and Citizenship Project Reference Group for National Youth Affairs Research Scheme (NYARS) Project
- Crosscurrents Committee

Council members presented at the following conferences, seminars and forums:

- In the House Forum
- Priority Schools Funding Program - workshop on Aboriginal student leadership programs

Council members attended the following conferences, seminars, forums:

- Community Relations Commission Forum
- Dusseldorp Skills Forum Seminar on transport and young people in rural and regional Australia
- Mental Health Inquiry Forum
- Motor Accidents Authority Forum
- Alcohol Summit Youth Forum
- Excellence in Youth Awards - Baulkham Hills Shire Council
- Ninth Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect



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c/- Office of Children and Young People
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