

25- 26

ANNUAL REPORT

ayac. Australian Youth
Affairs Coalition



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. This report was prepared on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

As the national peak body for young people, we acknowledge First Nations young people as the future custodians of this land. We recognise the urgent need to actively engage in the essential work toward reconciliation and provide platforms for First Nations young people to lead positive change. AYAC remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart and stays true to its values of supporting the leadership and self-determination of First Nations young people.

Always was, always will be.

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CEO's Report

By Joanna Rostami

We at AYAC started the 2025-26 year quite optimistically. At this point we were several years into the re-establishment of the organisation, following refunding by the Federal Government at the 2022 election, and also supported by philanthropic grants in Vincent Fairfax Family and Myer Foundations. We could really see the growth and development in what we were offering the sector and young people, through our funding and additional work, and were feeling proud of this progress and our achievements. We were hopeful about what the coming year would bring and the direction that we were heading in.

Unfortunately, despite this optimism, the year took an unexpected turn, and our future prospects were suddenly compromised, with the last-minute change by the Minister for Youth to put our main source of funding out to an open tender. This took us by surprise, as the original commitment was intended to resource a national youth affairs peak body. As you are all now aware, our application to the tender was unsuccessful, and we now face an uncertain future once again.

This meant that much of our time and resourcing for the year has been diverted to advocacy, government relations and seeking funding for AYAC. Thank you to the many organisations and individuals who have supported us through this process, including through our proposed Coalition of Partners, by partnering with us on funding, joint advocacy and contributing to our efforts in other ways.

In the following pages you will read of our considerable achievements in the past year. This is impressive by the numbers alone – please see page 8 for a quick summary of our efforts across youth engagement, policy and research, sector services and more.

I would like to thank the wonderful AYAC team for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication this past year. Thank you to our current team of Dean Farquhar- National Youth Engagement Lead, Nellie Wotherspoon –

National Policy and Project Officer, Reyhan Aksoyoglu – Manager, Operations and Oz Malik – Communications Officer – who finished with us at the end of June.

Thank you to the AYAC Board of Governance for their continued support and leadership of AYAC. The Board has put in many hours over this past year on contingency planning and advocacy, as well as governance. They have been incredibly supportive of the staff team in what has been a challenging time, and this has been greatly appreciated.

A silver lining from this challenging year has been the demonstrated support towards AYAC from our members, stakeholder network and young people. We are also extremely grateful for the backing of our members, including the many young people, who actively support, encourage and engage in our work. It has been affirming to know how many of you value our work and the organisation. Our youth members in particular have shown grit and determination in their considerable contributions to our work.

Our appreciation goes to our funders and partners, including the Department of Education's Office for Youth, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, and the Myer Foundations for their support of Australian young people.

It is difficult for me to predict what this next year will look like for AYAC, however, one thing is clear to me – a national youth affairs peak body is still very much critical for Australia. Young people continue to face an equity deficit, and many challenges across cost of living, climate change, housing and homelessness, education and employment. Decisions that impact young people continue to be made without consulting and including their needs and views. There is still a need for independent, impartial youth representation, advocacy and consultation. The demand for AYAC's expertise, networks and advice from Government and the sector has not waned in recent times. There is still much work to be done, and I hope that AYAC will continue be able to do it.

Chair's Report

By Jemma Rule

I am pleased to present the 2025–2026 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC).

I would like to begin by acknowledging the significant contributions of our volunteer Board of Directors: Jane Hickey, Zeynep Yesilyurt OAM, Lena Nabizada, Maia Giordano, Rana Ebrahimi, Raghu Vijayan, and James McDougall. I thank them for their time, expertise, and commitment to ensuring we continue representing and advocating for all young Australians and the sector that supports them.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to the Board members whose terms concluded this year: Lucas Walsh, Stassi Austin, Caitlin Figueiredo, and Shannon White. We thank them for their passion, dedication, and ongoing support for our mission.

Our operational team, led by CEO Joanna Rostami, has delivered an outstanding body of work to improve outcomes for young people. Building on strong foundations, our staff have worked tirelessly to deliver high-impact national advocacy initiatives, peak body collaborations, stakeholder partnerships, and youth engagement opportunities. Our deep appreciation goes to Dr Dean Farquhar, Reyhan Aksoyoglu, Nellie Wotherspoon, our placement students, and former staff member Oz Malik. We commend them for their dedication and efforts.

Across Australia, young people face unique, intersecting, and systemic challenges including in education, health, housing, and the economy. We recognise the vital role of AYAC as our national youth affairs peak body in amplifying youth voices and ensuring young people have a say in the decisions that directly affect their lives.

AYAC has navigated significant challenges following the loss of Australian Government funding earlier this year. The Board and staff are proactively assessing AYAC's position, direction, and opportunities while maintaining responsible resource management and an unwavering commitment to young people and the sector.

Throughout the year, AYAC has strengthened its contributions to inclusive, evidence-based, collaborative advocacy through youth civic engagement, sector capacity building, and policy work. Key initiatives include our CAMPAIGN program, Youth Brains Trust, National Youth Practitioners Network (NYPN), Raise Your Voice Blog, and Spotlight Series. This work has been supported by robust governance and risk management set by our Board.

Despite these difficult circumstances, I am particularly proud of the resilience of our Board and staff in responding to funding challenges, including through rapidly implementing a people-focused, values-aligned contingency plan while continuing our advocacy efforts and pursuing sustainable funding opportunities.

Looking ahead, AYAC remains committed to its purpose and will continue to adapt and respond to change, keeping young people and the sector at the centre of everything we do.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Australian Government, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, the Myer Foundation, fellow peak bodies, members, and supporters. Most importantly, we express our deep gratitude to the young people whose insights, leadership, and voices make our work – and impact – possible.

Who We Are

Young people are not simply the future of Australia – they are shaping our communities, economy and democracy today. Yet too often, the policies that affect them are developed without meaningful engagement with their experiences, expertise and aspirations.

A strong national youth peak helps bridge this gap.

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is Australia's national peak body for young people and the youth sector. We connect young people, governments, practitioners, researchers and community organisations to ensure policy is informed by evidence, lived experience and meaningful participation.

As an independent, member-driven organisation, AYAC provides a trusted national platform where young people are heard, the youth sector is strengthened, and governments are better equipped to make decisions that improve outcomes for current and future generations. Our members and subscribers include young people, youth organisations, youth-leds, practitioners and academics.

As the national peak body, AYAC has consistently advocated for the rights, wellbeing and participation of young people, while strengthening the capability of the organisations that support them.

Like many pieces of Australia's civic infrastructure, AYAC has experienced periods of growth and uncertainty. Following several

years of defunding, the Australian Government recognised the importance of rebuilding a national youth peak and reinvested in AYAC in late 2022.

Since then, AYAC has rebuilt organisational capability, renewed national partnerships and re-established itself as a trusted source of policy advice, research and youth engagement.

Today, AYAC once again provides Australia with a national platform that brings together young people, government and the youth sector to create better public policy and stronger communities. This document evidences our work across 2025-2026.



Our Team as at 30 June 2026



Jemma Rule
Chairperson



Lucas Walsh
Deputy Chairperson



Zeynep Yesilyurt OAM
Treasurer



Maia Giordano
Board Member



Stassi Austin
Board Member



Jane Hickey
Board Member



Lena Nabizada
Board Member

AYAC Staff

Joanna Rostami	Chief Executive Officer
Dr Dean Farquhar	National Youth Engagement Lead
Reyhan Aksoyoglu	Manager, Operations
Nellie Wotherspoon	National Policy and Project Officer
Oz Malik	Communications Officer

Our Record and Reach at a Glance



2080

members including young people, youth organisations, youth-leds, practitioners and academics in 2025/26



6000+

social media followers across Instagram and Linked In



44

newsletters to young people, practitioners and partners in 2025/26



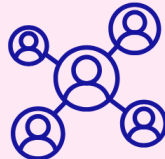
132

stakeholder meetings outside of funded work to offer advice and build sector coordination in 2025/26



2150

young people engaged through programs, workshops, consultations and surveys since refunding



495

sector professionals engaged through roundtables, workshops and training in 2025/26



5

submissions to government offering youth-centred policy advice in 2025/26



4

reports inclusive of policy advice, ministerial briefings and best practice insights in 2025/26

Ensuring Youth Voice is Heard

AYAC strives to build an Australia where young people's right to have a say on the matters that affect them is realised in practice through meaningful youth involvement in decision-making. Across all our work, we ensure that young people's voices are not only platformed, but are heard.

We work with partners to make sure that all young people can access opportunities across the youth sector. Opportunities are widely circulated across our social media platforms and organisational networks. Our over 1,400 young members also regularly receive updates on opportunities through newsletters.

At AYAC we believe in moving from voice to influence.

Recognition of First Nations Young People

AYAC recognises and values the histories, cultures, perspectives, and strength of First Nations young people, and actively works to promote cultural safety and the inclusion of young First Nations voices.

AYAC wholeheartedly respects the leadership and right to self-determination of First Nations people, and we also recognise that First Nations sovereignty has never been ceded or extinguished. In this spirit, and guided by the leadership, courage, and wisdom of Australia's First Nations peoples, AYAC has been proud to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for Voice, Treaty, and Truth since 2017.

Listening to First Nations young people will lead to better policy outcomes and advance progress towards safeguarding their inherent human rights outlined in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

It has been our great pleasure walking alongside First Nations young people in their advocacy journeys and ensuring their voices and lived experiences have helped shape policy and practice through our engagement this year

Social Media Minimum Age

AYAC joined leading voices in the youth sector and academia in voicing concerns about the potential negative impacts of a blanket ban on social media for under 16s. We were also critical of the limited consultation and absence of the meaningful consideration of the views of young people prior to the passing of the legislation. Following the passage of the legislation, we worked to ensure that young people were given a chance to raise their concerns with decision-makers about implementation and shape mitigations.

AYAC was approached by the Office of the eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) to lead its consultations with young people on the implementation of the SMMA legislation. Over 50 young people from across Australia participated in the consultations. The resulting report detailing their thoughts further shaped the industry guidance offered by the eSafety Commissioner, as well the online resource hub designed to support parents/carers, educators and young people adapt to the legislative change.

Following the consultations, AYAC partnered with PROJECT ROCKIT to convene a knowledge-sharing session with young people that enabled them to access advice from eSafety, identify misinformation and further raise concerns.

Online Privacy and Safety

Last year, AYAC supported Reset.Tech with the delivery of a series of workshops and consultations with young people on online safety and privacy. This included opportunities for young people to lead meetings with key decision-makers, including a meeting with Privacy Commissioner, Carly Kind. The evidence collected through the engagements also supported the development of a Children's Online Privacy Code. This year, AYAC carried the insights from this work into a consultation of a draft code with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

Australian Child Rights Taskforce

AYAC has been working with the Australian Child Rights Taskforce over the year to ensure that the perspective, experiences and aspirations of young Australians is carried forward into the civil society reporting on child rights to the UN.

Towards the end of the year, we began exploring how the expertise of young people and the youth sector can more actively shape the reporting process. Youth and sector consultations are already underway, and we are looking forward to sharing these insights in the year ahead.

Schoolyard Greenprint Project

In 2024/25, AYAC joined the Working Group charged with developing the School Yard Greenprint project. In this role, we supported the research team recruit its Youth Voices advisory group and connected them with our sector colleagues working in relevant areas.

Our staff also offered insights from their extensive experience of providing youth work programs in school settings throughout their time on the Working Group.

You can find the Schoolyard Greenprint reports [here](#).

Australian Government Office for Youth

This year AYAC continued to support the recruitment, onboarding and facilitation of the Youth Steering Committee charged with supporting the development and implementation of the Australian Government's, *Engage! A strategy to involve young people in the decisions we make*.

AYAC coordinated a series of online and in-person meetings in partnership with OFY. This included the facilitation of multiple trips to Canberra, enabling the group to provide feedback to government stakeholders and attend annual *Youth Meets Parliament* events. It also included supporting the group make two submissions to government on the themes of digital regulation and anti-bullying.

It was also our great pleasure to support OFY conduct the Australian Government's [National Youth Survey](#).

Parliamentary Friends of Young People

Utilising its position as the national peak, AYAC had convened three Parliamentary Friends of Young People (PFoYP) meetings since refunding. These meetings connect young people with policymakers and showcase the value of their perspectives to live policy debates.

The group reconvened in 2026, after being dissolved post-election cycle, with the topic of Young People and Social Cohesion. Three young people spoke about their experiences of social cohesion in Australia as young people from migrant backgrounds, and identified the following key areas where change and growth are needed:

- Addressing racism and exclusion directly to improve social cohesion and belonging.
- Regulating online environments to curb the rise of violent extremism.
- Examining differing interpretations of social cohesion and highlighting how the term is commonly weaponised against multicultural communities.

These meetings help educate and inform MPs and other stakeholders on key youth issues by platforming youth voices and creating a receptive space for dialogue and sharing.

Policy, Advocacy & Research

AYAC's purpose is to ensure that the lived experiences and perspectives of are heard by decision-makers. We have worked to make sure that young people have a valued seat at the table to speak to their experiences at meetings with decision-makers and larger

scale national policy roundtables. Alongside our ongoing consultative work, initiatives like You Ask the Questions and Raise Your Voice Blog enable young people's views to be platformed beyond election cycles. Our submissions to government, research reports and policy advice, centre the voices of those we work with.

Our government submissions have aimed to strengthen youth sector infrastructure and policy outcomes for young people across cost of living, education, employment, housing, youth justice, social security and digital technologies. Throughout the 2025–2026 financial year, AYAC authored and contributed to 5 submissions to government.

AYAC was also asked to present evidence at hearings for the inquiry into the operation and adequacy of the National Employment Standards under the Fair Work Act, Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee 2026 Report to Government, and in a consultation for the Second Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children.

With its small team, AYAC disseminated 4 research reports to key decision-makers in the past year, covering workplace rights, rights-based youth engagement, the SMMA and social cohesion.



Young People Feeling Heard in 2025-26

“Over the past two years, thousands of young Australians have shared their experiences, shaped policy, built leadership skills, and engaged directly with decision-makers because AYAC created those opportunities. These opportunities allow young people - in cities, in the regions, across different socio-economic brackets, and with different lived experiences to honestly and passionately share their stories.”

“For me true advocacy begins when someone like AYAC helps you find your voice and gives you the courage, knowledge, and confidence to use it for others. Thank you for nurturing my advocacy skills, strengthening my purpose, and empowering me to stand for meaningful change in my community.”

“Through my experience with AYAC, I’ve seen the value of having a national organisation that creates genuine opportunities for young people to contribute to policy, advocacy, and decision-making. AYAC has empowered young people to have honest and meaningful conversations with decision-makers while building skills that often aren’t taught in schools, such as civic engagement, advocacy, policy development, and community consultation.”

“AYAC has been instrumental in ensuring that young people are not only consulted but genuinely represented in national conversations. As a young Papua New Guinean- Australian, AYAC has provided me with opportunities to engage in leadership, policy and advocacy, giving me a seat at the table and demonstrating the value of investing in young people from diverse and underrepresented communities.”

Building Capability WITH Young People

AYAC draws on the expertise of professional youth workers across all areas of delivery, ensuring that capability-building responds to the needs, interests and experiences of young people. The AYAC team prioritises interactive, non-formal approaches that empower young people to actively shape the learning process. Our approach emphasises experiential, activity-based learning, enabling young people to learn through discussion, reflection and collaboration.

CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN is AYAC's signature advocacy program, combining political literacy workshops with practical application. Targeted primarily at those with more limited experiences of advocacy, CAMPAIGN begins with a series of workshops on values and beliefs, structures of government and advocacy techniques. Following the workshops, the group works together on a pitch for a youth-led event, which following feedback from sector professionals is to be delivered with the support of the AYAC team.

This was the second iteration of CAMPAIGN, and evidence from monitoring and evaluation has been positive. Evaluation questionnaires across the programs show learning across government and advocacy, as well as communication, teamwork and leadership skill development.

Participants also provided positive feedback:

“From the first workshop, I felt supported and surrounded by peers who were equally motivated to learn. The structure of the program had a good balance between theory and practical stuff. The engaging workshops, working on the collaborative campaign

project, and reflections from the pitch were all highlights. I am feeling more confident and inspired to apply what I've learned and would recommend it to others to give it a try.”

Tellingly, all found CAMPAIGN fun and engaging, and would recommend the program to others.

You can check out the event led by participants below:

- [Swipe Right on Respect: Young People Building More Respectful Online Spaces.](#)

Following their event, members from CAMPAIGN have continued to engage with AYAC and have received feedback on their advocacy from decision-makers.

Australian Government's Youth Steering Committee

AYAC undertook a needs analysis with Steering Committee members and developed corresponding capability training. This year we delivered an interactive workshop to support the development of transferable skills concerning communication, teamwork and leadership.

The workshop included a discussion on the design of resources explaining youth perspectives on models of participation.

Further supporting skills development, AYAC facilitated additional sessions outside of official business that enabled the group make submissions to government on the themes of digital regulation and anti-bullying.

Feedback from the group on AYAC delivery was positive:

“It was great. We had a good community element. It was great to see how we can all work together and work towards what we agreed on... Each of us showed leadership by taking ownership of our parts and key areas.”

“The pitch was a great way to start in small scale what our teamwork will look like as we move forward as a group. You got a better understanding of those in the group and got to make better connections.”

AYAC’s work was also valued by parents and carers:

“My son was treated with respect and given the guidance and care to understand that his voice matters. His confidence grew with the support he had from the AYAC national team. AYAC gave clear expectations and gentle support, which enabled him to step into the role. He was prepared well and encouraged to ask questions on matters which were important to him. AYAC’s supportive nature bought out the best in the youth on the committee, continuous encouragement and a fun attitude led to great results.”

“AYAC seamlessly supported my son. I witnessed firsthand how the AYAC team built deep, meaningful connections with a highly diverse group of young people aged 12 to 25. Their kindness, encouragement, and intentional care created a safe, solid foundation that empowered these young leaders to be highly effective. AYAC has not only accelerated his personal development but has truly empowered him to embrace critical leadership opportunities and engage with government to advocate for his community.”

Arabic Welfare

AYAC offers bespoke fee for service training for young people, covering governance, participation and communications. Tailored to meet the specific needs of the young people in the group, the training calls upon a diverse range of non-formal engagement methods that centre dialogue, creative expression and practical learning.

We were delighted approached by Arabic Welfare to deliver advocacy training to the young people availing of their service. The group explored the ingredients for effective advocacy and engaged in a mapping of issues off their community activity that was presented to staff at Arabic Welfare.

Connecting and Amplifying the Work of the Youth Sector

AYAC takes its role in connecting and amplifying the work of the youth sector seriously. Every day we see the positive impact that workers across the sector make in the lives of young people. The youth sector provides an ecosystem of encouragement and support that enables young people to feel safe, supported and heard. Sharing expertise and fostering partnerships across the sector has been an important part of our work.

Advocacy of Youth Work

AYAC champions youth work as a valuable profession that makes a distinctive contribution to the lives of young Australians. Back in 2013, AYAC convened the youth sector to agree a national definition of youth work:

“Youth work is a practice that places young people and their interests first.

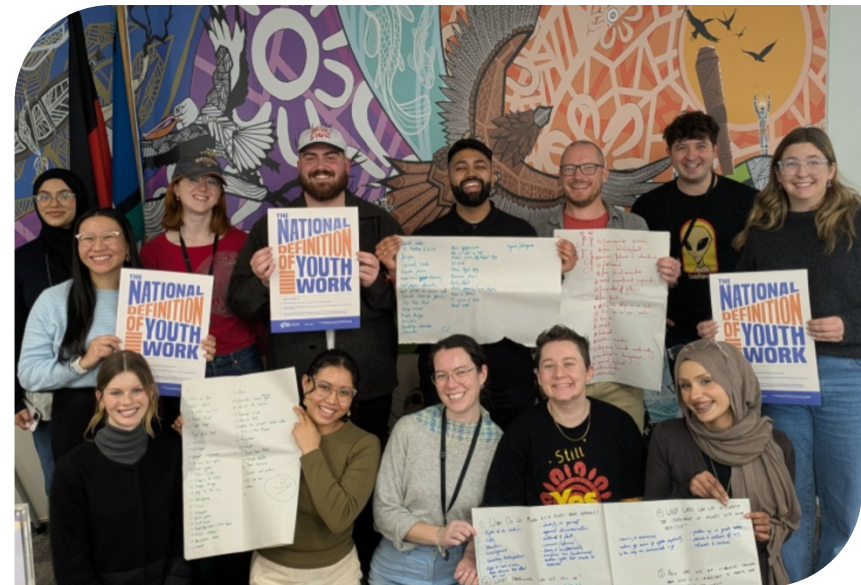
Youth work is a relational practice, where the youth worker operates alongside the young person in their context.

Youth work is an empowering practice that advocates for and facilitates a young person's independence, participation in society, connectedness and realisation of their rights.”

This definition has since proved important to the development of a professional identity among youth workers, enabling them to explain the values underpinning their work with clarity.

AYAC has sought to add to this clarity this year through its support of the Youth Workers Australia initiative to develop an agreed National Statement of Ethical Youth Work Practice.

A belief in the power of youth work informs everything we do.



Spotlight Series

The Spotlight Series was launched by AYAC in 2024 to enable experts to share their insights with the youth sector through an informal interview and Q&A.

This year we welcomed Katie Acheson for a series of workshops on the findings from her Churchill Fellowship, drawing on lessons on youth participation from across Europe. Attendees heard from a variety of leading academics, specialists and practitioners working nationally and internationally. Some of the topics focused on in the workshops include youth work practice, the ethical engagement of lived experience, safeguarding, and co-design.

National Youth Practitioners' Network (NYPN)

Later in 2024, AYAC established the NYPN to provide practitioners with additional opportunities to collaborate, share ideas and build sectoral capacity at a national level. This year, we brought sector leaders, academics, practitioners and young people together for 2 roundtable discussions.

The first roundtable focused on advancing the rights and inclusion of young people through rights-based youth engagement. The second convened a discussion on embedding and strengthening young people's rights in the workplace.

Through the NYPN we partnered with PROJECT ROCKIT and state youth peak partners to hold a series of knowledge-sharing workshops on the Social Media Minimum Age legislation. These workshops were also supported by eSafety, who ensured all information was accurate and up to date as new policy advice and resources emerged.

To further support the dissemination of insight across the sector, we published a series of sector blogs on NYPN Briefing, covering youth work practice, inclusion and systems advocacy.

Sector Training

AYAC delivered a training workshop with youth sector professionals on rights-based youth engagement. The workshops leveraged the expertise of AYAC staff and the finding of our recent report, A Shared Understanding of Rights-Based Youth Engagement: A Conversation Starter on Challenges and Opportunities.

A Word from Our Sector Partners

“Youth Workers Australia stand in solidarity with AYAC and the excellent work they have done. We enjoy a productive and active relationship with the national peak, partnering to build ethical practice, shared advocacy and sector connectedness. AYAC empower young people to participate as active citizens. It has been a pleasure to work together.”

Youth Workers Australia

“AYAC has been a crucial partner in helping us understand the public policy issues that matter to young people. It has provided us with key insights into their views and experiences and offers us guidance in how we support their participation and leadership.”

Australian Child Rights Taskforce

“As the national peak body for multicultural youth, MYAN proudly supports AYAC in its endeavour to ensure the voices of Australian young people are represented in the decisions that affect them and values its role as a critical partner in this work.”

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network

“A strong national youth peak is important not only for advocacy, but for identifying emerging issues, connecting expertise from across the sector, and helping governments respond to the changing needs of young people.”

“The national peak body plays a critical role in ensuring that the voices of young people are heard, that policy responses are timely and informed, and that investment is directed toward early intervention rather than crisis response.”

“AYAC performs an important role in the advocacy that ensures young voices are part of policy and decision-making in areas that affect them.”

State and Territory Partners

Communications

Grant Advocacy Campaign

Following the news of AYAC's defunding by the Australian Government's Office for Youth, AYAC launched an advocacy campaign across our social media platforms. Part of this campaign platformed the views of young people from across Australia on their thoughts about the funding cessation, the positive impacts AYAC has had on them, and the importance of Commonwealth funding for a national youth peak. Two media releases were also published outlining the details of the news and calling on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to stick to Labor's commitment to resourcing a national youth peak body. AYAC's CEO, Jo Rostami also spoke about the news in an interview by Western Australian youth-led radio station, Youth Jam.

e-Newsletters and Youth Brains Trust

Throughout the year AYAC has continued to build our connection with members, sector and young people through monthly e-newsletters. There are two e-newsletters that AYAC distributes, with one focused on information for general members and sector, and the other for our youth members, known as the 'Youth Brains Trust.'

These newsletters include training for both young people and sector workers, share opportunities for young people to get involved in consultations and other engagement opportunities, and provide updates on AYAC's work and upcoming events.

Social Media

AYAC remains active across social media with posts directed at both the youth sector and young people on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.



Treasurer's Report by Zeynep Yesilyurt

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report and the Audited Financial Statement for the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

The audit of AYAC's financial accounts was undertaken by APL Financials Pty Ltd, and were presented to and approved by the Board at its September 2026 meeting.

Despite a challenging operating environment, AYAC has continued its commitment to sound financial management and good governance. For the reporting period, the organisation recorded a surplus of \$8372.

Total income for the year was \$701,151, comprising:

- Government Grants: \$ 519,376
- Philanthropic funding: \$155,000
- Fee-for-service activities and other income: \$26,775

AYAC has met all statutory, regulatory and financial reporting obligations throughout the year.

We are grateful for the support of the Australian Government, our philanthropic partners, members, supporters and, most importantly, the young people who continue to engage with, inform and strengthen our work.

The year ahead presents significant challenges for AYAC following the loss of Federal Government funding. The Board and staff are carefully considering the organisation's position and opportunities as they arise, while continuing to steward AYAC's resources responsibly and remain focused on supporting young people and the youth sector.

I would like to sincerely thank the young people who have shared their experiences, ideas and leadership with us throughout the year. Your voices are at the heart of AYAC's work and remain the driving force behind our advocacy and impact.

I would also like to thank my fellow Board members, our dedicated staff, volunteers, members and supporters for their commitment, professionalism and contribution throughout the year. Their efforts have been critical to AYAC's achievements and impact.

Audited Financial Statements

Board Members' Report

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2026

Director's Report

Your board members submit the financial report of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Board Members

We gratefully acknowledge the Board of Governance members for their contribution the work of AYAC, including department members. The names of board members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Board Member	Position	Commencement Date	Term To
Jemma Rule	Chair, Young Person	18/12/2023	-
Jane Hickey	General Member	6/3/2025	-
Maia Giordano	General Member	6/3/2025	-
Stassi Austin	Young Person	30/11/2021	-
Lena Nabizada	Young Person	27/11/2026	-
Lucas Walsh	Deputy Chair	18/12/2023	10/7/2026
Zeynep Yesilyurt	Treasurer, Coopted Member	10/2/2026	-
Caitlin Figueiredo	General Member	9/12/2020	6/10/2025
Shannon White	General Member	18/12/2023	27/11/2025
Joseph John Shield (nee Akot)	General Member	27/11/2025	16/2/2026

Operating Results

The surplus for the financial year is \$8,372. (2025: Surplus of \$12,992)

Principal Activities

The Associations objects are to pursue the following charitable purposes:

1. To promote and protect the human rights of young people
2. To promote respect, tolerance, and inclusion of young people
3. To advance education by providing leadership training, support and opportunities to young people
4. To advance the health and welfare of young people
5. 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 2026, the total amount that members of the entity are liable to contribute if the entity is wound up is \$0.

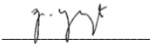
Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2026 can be found in this financial report.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Board Members' Report

This Board Members' report is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Governance on:



Name: Zeynep Yesilyurt

Position: Treasurer

Date: 02/09/2026



Name: Jemma Rule

Position: Chairperson

Date: 07/09/2026

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Statement of Profit or Loss

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2026

	NOTES	2026	2025
Income			
Government Grants	519,376	509,692	
Other Grants	155,000	231,901	
Service Income	26,775	35,078	
Other Income	-	1,091	
Total Income	701,151	777,762	
Expenditure			
Employee Benefits	526,673	570,293	
Program Expenses	2,247	4,401	
Administration Expenses	27,030	52,319	
Participation and Volunteer Expenses	95,479	69,333	
Travel Expenses	13,188	15,953	
Occupancy Expenses	8,009	14,947	
Communications and IT Expenses	15,171	32,611	
Meeting and Event Expenses	132	2,577	
Governance Expenses	878	525	
Depreciation	2,038	1,810	
Catering	1,933	-	
Total Expenditure	692,779	764,770	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	8,372	12,992	

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditor's report. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Statement of Financial Position

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition As at 30 June 2026

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2026	30 JUNE 2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	372,755	358,797	
Trade and Other Receivables	1,697	3,061	
Prepayments	1,768	1,182	
Total Current Assets	376,220	363,040	
Property, Plant, Equipment	1,757	3,795	
Total Assets	377,977	366,835	
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	38,579	48,785	
Contract Liabilities	77,500	77,500	
Leave Entitlement Provision	47,150	34,172	
Total Liabilities	163,228	160,458	
Net Assets	214,748	206,377	
Equity			
Accumulated Funds	214,748	206,377	

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditor's report. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Statement of Cash Flows

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2026

	NOTES	2026	2025
Cash flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from grants, contributions and donations		674,376	656,958
Receipts from customers		26,775	36,169
Payments to suppliers and employees		(623,597)	(696,122)
Finance costs		(120)	(136)
Cash payments from other operating activities		(63,476)	(48,164)
Total Cash flows from Operating Activities		13,958	(51,294)
Cash flows from Investing Activities			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		-	(1,635)
Total Cash flows from Investing Activities		-	(1,635)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		13,958	(52,930)
Cash Balances			
Opening cash balance		358,797	411,727
Closing cash balance		372,755	358,797
Movement in cash		13,958	(52,930)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditor's report. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Movements in Equity

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2026

	NOTES	2026	2025
Equity			
Opening Balance		206,377	193,384
Increases			
Surplus for the Period		8,372	12,992
Total Increases		8,372	12,992
Total Equity		214,748	206,377

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditor's report. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Board Members' Declaration

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2026

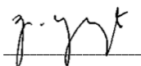
In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Governance of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, the directors of the Registered Entity declare that, in the board members' opinion:

1. 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:
(a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards; and

(b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 30 June 2026 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. In the board members' 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.



Name: Zeynep Yesilyurt

Position: Treasurer

Date: 02/09/2026



Name: Jemma Rule

Position: Chairperson

Date: 07/09/2026

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Auditor's Independence Declaration Under the ACNC Act

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2026

To the board members 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 2026, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2026 there have been no contraventions of:

(i) the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and

(ii) 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: 20-8-2026

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Independent Auditor's Report to the Board Members

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition For the year ended 30 June 2026

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 2026, 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 board members' 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 2026 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 board members 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 2026, 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 Board Members for the Financial Report

The board members 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 board members 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 board members 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 board members either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative

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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 board members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the board members' 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 board members 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: 20-8-2026

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Affairs Coalition