

Contested Nominations to the AYAC Board of Governance

General Member Category:

Name:	Nathan Eva
Categories Applied for:	General Member
About the Nominee	<p>Nathan Eva is a PhD student and researcher in leadership and development, and lecturer in leadership and management at Monash University.</p> <p>Nathan's first introduction to youth engagement was through the South Gippsland Youth Council, where he served on the board, before moving on to serve as Vice President of the Mannix College Student Society, and later the Vice President of the National Association of Australian University Colleges.</p> <p>Nathan's achievements include authoring the youth leadership development program for Oaktree, and the completion of 'Youth Engagement in the City of Casey' for the Victorian Government. Nathan was rewarded with a scholarship to complete his PhD by the Australian Government. His research is also being reviewed by leading adolescence research journals throughout the world.</p> <p>Nathan is motivated by his experience and research to inspire and create change for young people. Nathan wishes to make the opportunities presented to him available to all young people for them to experience and excel.</p>

Name:	Karina Gray
Categories Applied for:	General Member
About the Nominee	<p>Karina Gray is the founder of Starwin Management in Northern Territory.</p> <p>After graduating from university with a Bachelor of Social Science (Major in Youth Work, Minor in Justice Studies) Karina has worked with young people in various urban, rural and remote places through out Australia. She has held positions on the Tiwi Islands Shire Council, Darwin High School, NT Department of Health and Families, Saint Mary's Football, Sporting and Social Club plus ABC Radio-Sport.</p> <p>After noticing a gap in the area, Karina established her own company Starwin Management which is dedicated to building and celebrating successful individuals in sport and community in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Karina is dedicated and passionate about improving the lives of young people, particularly in the areas of sport, travel and community development.</p>

Name:	Maureen Rodgers
Categories Applied for:	General Member
About the Nominee	<p>Maureen Rodgers is the Young Women's Project Officer for Centre for Multicultural Youth, and is a member of Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, and Youth Workers Association.</p> <p>Maureen has worked in multiple Local Government and not-</p>

	<p>for-profit youth services in the areas of residential youth work, program development and coordination, alternative education, information and referral, sport and recreation development, crisis intervention, youth centre coordination, event management, and case management.</p> <p>Maureen is active advocate for youth participation, peer education, and need for holistic, flexible, properly funded professional youth services.</p>
--	---

Name:	Lia Ursich
Categories Applied for:	General Member
About the Nominee	<p>23 year old Lia Ursich joined the Perth Youth Advisory Council (PYAC) in July 2009 adding to the already extensive list of youth organisation including the Inspire Foundation which she still currently takes a role of youth ambassador, promoting the organisation locally and nationally.</p> <p>Since late 2009 Lia has taken on the role of Chairperson of the PYAC. Lia aspires to through her involvement in the community sector, engage young people from all walks of life and reduce the stigma that is often attached to being a young person.</p>
About the organisation	<p>The Perth Youth Advisory Council (PYAC) is comprised of approximately 10 members who are between the ages of 18 & 25. We are a recognised channel for communication between the City of Perth and young people in and around the city and regularly participate in organised youth-oriented events in the City.</p> <p>The PYAC has established itself as a significant stakeholder in youth affairs. Through their efforts they have created a respectable profile with Federal and State governments, Ministers, youth peak bodies and non-government organisation and their peers in the community.</p> <p>The PYAC members are ladders in the community, representing and advocating for those who may be unable to contribute to the decision-making processes of society.</p>

Name:	Carla McGrath
Categories Applied for:	General Member National Youth Organisation Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Carla McGrath is an employee of the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) in Redfern and a proud Indigenous Australian woman from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. Although raised on the Australian mainland, Carla retains strong family and community ties to the Torres Strait Islands.</p> <p>Carla currently holds the position of Business and Program Development Manager with the NICE. The NCIE's vision is an Australia where young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians can create their own futures, with no limitations while remaining strong in their culture.</p> <p>Prior to working at the NCIE Carla worked for AIME, the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience, an organisation she had been involved in as a volunteer mentor prior to becoming an employee. Carla remains a member of the AIME board.</p> <p>In addition to working for AIME in 2009 Carla was also the</p>

	<p>National Indigenous Officer for the National Union of Students, a role that saw her advocating for the rights of the currently disproportionate number of Indigenous students that are enrolled at university. Carla's role was vital in order to strengthen the systems that supported Indigenous students through to the completion of their studies.</p> <p>In 2011 Carla was accepted as a delegate to the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. Carla also holds a position on the Management Committee of the NSW Reconciliation Council and is a member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel to The Smith Family.</p>
About the Organisation	<p>National Centre Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) is a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders can create their own futures, with no limitations while remaining strong in their culture.</p> <p>Located in the heart of Redfern, the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence is a place for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians from across the country to participate in life-changing programs in the pathways of arts and culture, health and wellness, learning and innovation and sport and recreation. The Centre hosts and facilitates programs for young people to help them achieve their dreams and aspirations.</p> <p>NCIE is an Indigenous organisation with local and national outreach.</p>

National Youth Organisation Category: (Please note – Carla McGrath has nominated to both General Member category and the National Youth Organisation Category – Bio is above)

Name:	Peter Newling
Categories Applied for:	National Youth Organisation Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Peter is the current Chair of the AYAC Board. He has been a representative on the Board since its inception in 2009, and was a member of AYAC's National Representative Council prior to that.</p> <p>Peter has worked in the youth work field for about 15 years. He was the State Manager for Youth Services for the YMCA in Victoria, before being poached by the National Office of the Y in 2004 to head up their Policy and Advocacy section. During his time with the YMCA, he has managed a broad range of youth services – from programs within the walls of juvenile justice facilities, counselling services, employment programs and mentoring – through to leadership development programs and the provision of youth opinion to government. Peter is also a qualified foster carer in adolescent foster programs.</p> <p>Peter is proud of the achievements of AYAC, since they were appointed to National Peak status. Some highlights for him have been the development of a well respected and dynamic staff team, the development of a very strong and constructive relationship with the Office for Youth, the ongoing development of a committed and engaged membership base, and the running of a very successful and inspiring conference earlier this year.</p> <p>Peter believes that the development of AYAC's Strategic Plan,</p>

	following wide consultation with members and stakeholders, was a pivotal milestone for the organisation – and is looking forward to working hard, along with the staff and his Board colleagues, to achieving the challenging goals we've set for ourselves.
--	--

Name:	Jane Harris
Categories Applied for:	National Youth Organisation Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Jane is a representative of Girl Guides Australia. Within Guiding I am a Leader of Youth in NSW. She works in a Unit of 20 girls, who are aged 7-10 and has been a Guide for 15 years. When she isn't Guiding, Jane is a full time student studying for a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts and is trainee accountant.</p> <p>Jane is a member of UN Women Australia and passionate about achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.</p>
About the organisation	<p>With 10 million members in 145 countries, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to girls and young women in the world.</p> <p>In Australia, Girl Guides enables girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members. We have been growing for over a century.</p>

State or Territory Youth Peak Representative

Name:	Georgie Ferrari
Categories Applied for:	State or Territory Youth Peak Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Georgie Ferrari is the Chief Executive Officer of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria. She has worked in the not for profit sector for the past 15 years, working in the areas of youth, health, housing, community education and violence in New Zealand, NSW and Victoria.</p> <p>Georgie is a board member of the Victorian Council of Social Service and the Pinnacle Foundation. Georgie has served on the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition Board for the last two years.</p> <p>A passionate advocate for young people and the youth affairs sector, Georgie holds a Masters in Policy and Human Service Management.</p>
	<p>The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria.</p> <p>Our vision is for a Victorian community that values and provides opportunity, participation, justice and equity for all young people.</p> <p>We are an independent, not-for-profit organisation. Our core funding comes from the Victorian Government's Office for Youth.</p>

Name:	Reynato Reodica
--------------	------------------------

Categories Applied for:	State or Territory Peak Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Reynato Reodica has been the Chief Executive of the NSW peak youth organisation, the Youth Action and Policy Association, since early 2007. He completed a Bachelor of Arts in Communication/Bachelor of Laws in 2006, having concurrently served on the NSW Ministerial Youth Advisory Council from 2004-2006.</p> <p>Reynato has been involved in youth development and advocacy for over a decade, working collaboratively with a broad range of stakeholders towards positive social change for young people. This has included regular involvement in planning and delivering forums, conferences and events for young people throughout this period.</p> <p>Reynato has a demonstrated interest in international youth affairs - particularly the areas of fostering youth participation and children's rights and is a Board Director of the National Children's and Youth Law Centre.</p>
About the organisation	<p>YAPA is the peak organisation representing young people and youth services in NSW. YAPA works towards a society where all young people are supported, engaged and valued.</p>

Name:	Siyavash Doostkhah
Categories Applied for:	State or Territory Youth Peak Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Siyavash Doostkhah is currently the Director of YANQ. He arrived in Australia in 1987 as a young refugee and spent 5 years in Townsville working in various capacities including work with Murri community at the local Drop In Centre, and working with homeless young people.</p> <p>In 1993, he took on the coordination role at the Deception bay Community Youth Programs Inc and worked in this small community on the outskirts of Brisbane for over 8 years.</p> <p>Since 2001, his focus has shifted to policy and advocacy, initially in my role as the Policy Officer for YANQ, and for the past 9 years as the Director of YANQ.</p>
About the Organisation	<p>The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc (YANQ) is the peak community youth affairs organisation in Queensland, representing individuals and organisations from Queensland's youth sector.</p>