

Uncontested Nominations to AYAC's Policy Advisory Council

Name:	Ann Davie
Categories Applied for:	National Youth Organisational Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Ann has been with ACYS since October 2009.</p> <p>Prior to this, Ann worked with the Department of Education Tasmania in a variety of roles, primarily Communications/Website related.</p> <p>Her background is in software development, where she has worked with a number of videogame developers in the United States and Australia.</p> <p>Her driving interest in her work with ACYS is to provide information in an accessible, useful and enjoyable manner. In familiarising herself with the youth sector and it's many facets, it's become apparent that the need for comprehensive, authoritative and accurate information is essential to all those supporting the sector.</p>
About the Organisation	<p>ACYS provides support youth organisations, youth workers, youth researchers and young people themselves, as well as policymakers, researchers and practitioners in other sectors working with youth.</p> <p>The clearinghouse focuses on information about early adolescence to the early adult years (12 to 25 years).</p> <p>ACYS's mission is to contribute to the wellbeing of young people by providing comprehensive and up-to-date information about key issues and practices in the youth field for access by the community.</p> <p>ACYS achieves its mission by providing information on the complex and wide-ranging issues that affect young people today, and by disseminating news of research and developments on best-practice in the youth field, encouraging networking, discussions and collaboration.</p>

Name:	Meredith Davies
Categories Applied for:	National Youth Organisational Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Meredith Davies is the Youth Community Development Officer at the youth-led Multicultural Youth NT (MyNT). She graduated from RMIT with a bachelor degree in International Studies, and has been an active advocate for youth in the Northern Territory since completing her studies.</p> <p>Meredith is active on social and environmental justice issues, having volunteered as high school's coordinator with Amnesty International, volunteered in a youth-led leadership training organisation in Cambodia and has been a member of a great many campaign groups. She is also an active member of the Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network (DASSAN), the Anti-Nuclear Northern Territory (ANNT) collective, the Darwin Aboriginal Rights Coalition (Darwin ARC) and the Darwin University Environment Collective (DUEC). She has volunteered with</p>

	<p>the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory (MCNT) and the Melaleuca Refugee Centre, both of which I now have strong organisational ties with.</p> <p>Meredith wishes to represent the wants and needs of the very diverse young people that live in Australia.</p>
About the Organisation	

Name:	Polly Henry
Categories Applied for:	National Youth Led Organisational Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Polly Henry grew up in Gapuwiyak, an Indigenous community, in the remote area of Arnhem Land, before completing a degree in International Relations at the Australian National University.</p> <p>Polly has worked and represented young people with the United Nations on various projects since 2007. Her other achievements include participating in the 2011 Northern Territory Regional Engagement Road Trip and the UN Youth NT's policy campaign surrounding youth homelessness in the Northern Territory, where she was invited to speak on the issue at various events.</p> <p>Polly is particularly concerned about issues surrounding Indigenous disadvantage, homelessness, and youth engagement.</p>
About the Organisation	<p>UN Youth Australia, believing in the purposes and principles of the United Nations, aims to encourage young people to strive towards a greater understanding of global issues, and to educate them about the United Nations' structure, functions and future. Operating as a national network of young volunteers, UN Youth Australia is based firmly on a philosophy of best practice youth-for-youth leadership.</p> <p>UN Youth Australia aims to develop students' skills in vital areas such as debating, negotiation, leadership, problem-solving and understanding of international affairs in an accessible and supportive environment. By encouraging young people to discuss and debate important issues amongst their peers and the broader community, UN Youth Australia gives voice to the concerns of young people.</p> <p>Ultimately, UN Youth Australia plays a dual role as an educational and advocacy body for Australia's young people. As well as a strong educational focus, UN Youth Australia, along with the divisions, conducts various policy programs. We are strictly non-partisan, and focus on both advocating for youth issues as well as providing skills to young people to further advocate on issues they are passionate in.</p>

Name:	Siyavash Doostkhah
Categories Applied for:	State or Territory Youth Peak Representative
About the Nominee	Siyavash Doostkhah is currently the Director of YANQ. He arrived in Australia in 1987 as a young refugee and spent 5

	<p>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	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.

Name:	Nadine Liddy
Categories Applied for:	National Youth Led Organisation Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Nadine is currently the National Coordinator of the NMYAN – the National Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network. Having worked in the youth and multicultural sectors for almost 20 years, she has been a caseworker with refugee and newly arrived young people working in the areas of torture and trauma, education and training and housing/homelessness.</p> <p>Nadine has worked extensively in policy and advocacy, both in Australia and overseas, and is the current Chair of AYAC's Policy Advisory Council. She was also a research consultant and author of the Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project's <i>Australia's Hidden Homeless</i> report.</p>
About the Organisation	The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) is a nationally recognised body that represents migrant and newly arrived young people, in order to advance their rights and interests. As a national network, the MYAN is comprised of representatives from each of Australia's states and territories who work in the multicultural youth sector at the state/territory level. The MYAN was established in 2005 in response to an identified need for a national advisory and advocacy network for multicultural youth issues and is currently auspiced by the Centre for Multicultural Youth in Victoria.

Name:	Alice Tudehope
Categories Applied for:	State or Territory Peak Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Alice Tudehope is the Manager of Policy and Projects at the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic). Previously she had worked in the Victorian public service for the past 11 years. In each of Alice's roles in Treasury, Premier and Cabinet, Department of Human Services, she has sought to meet the needs of young people, who experience disadvantage.</p> <p>Some of the most successful and fulfilling policy work Alice has been involved in recently at YACVic has been:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and advocacy against the possible introduction of Minimum mandatory sentencing for 16 to 17 year olds; • Research into the effectiveness of the Jobs Services Australia model meeting the needs of young people with multiple barriers of disadvantage; and • Contributing to the development of the Victorian government designing and testing new ways for services to work together collaboratively to support vulnerable young people aged 10 – 18 years. <p>As a member of the Policy Advisory Committee Alice would like to continue this tradition of creating reform for and with young people. She have been especially impressed with the way the committee managed the sensitive issue of the National Chaplaincy program. The end result was a fairer generalist student support program that now employs qualified people based on the actual services young people need.</p>
About the Organisation	The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate on young peoples issues in Victoria. Their vision is for a Victorian community that values and provides opportunity, participation, justice, and equity for all young people

Name:	Hannah Donnelly
Categories Applied for:	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative
About the Nominee	<p>Hannah Donnelly is a Wiradjuri woman from the Kamilaroi communities of Tingha and Inverell, at age eighteen she moved away from home and community to pursue tertiary education and has just graduated with a Bachelor of International and Global Studies at the University of Sydney. Hannah is now working at the Australian Human Rights Commission in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Unit.</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth participation and advocacy are determining motivations for Hannah. Hannah has participated in the Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN) Youth Climate Camp and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2011 in New York. This year she coordinated and managed a youth event on constitutional reform at the 45th Anniversary of the Gurindji Walk Off in the Northern Territory and spoke as a social justice ambassador at Deadly Days festival for Aboriginal and Torres Strait high school students.</p> <p>Hannah hopes to continue her youth advocacy and aspires to strengthen a national level of representation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth.</p>
About the Organisation	<p>Hannah is associated with numerous organisations, and has included each here:</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples Organisations of Australia The Indigenous Peoples Organisations of Australia (IPO) is an affiliation of organisations and individuals who are involved in advocacy and protection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the international level. The</p>

	<p>IPO Network provides an opportunity to address local and domestic concerns through the international human rights system.</p> <p>The IPO provides a space to assist members in preparing for international meetings through the United Nations in their role of promoting, monitoring and protecting human rights.</p> <p>National Congress of Australia's First People</p> <p>The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples is the new national voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As a company the Congress is owned and controlled by its membership and is independent of Government. Our first elected Board took office in July 2011. Together we will be leaders and advocates for recognising our status and rights as First Nation peoples in Australia.</p> <p>This video is a brief introduction to the United Nations Indigenous Youth Caucus (UNIYC). Within our regional there is also the Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network.</p> <p>International Indigenous Youth Networks</p> <p>This video is a brief introduction to the United Nations Indigenous Youth Caucus (UNIYC). Within our regional there is also the Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network.</p>
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Name:	Ani Wierenga
Categories Applied for:	National Youth Organisation Representative
About the Nominee	Ani Wierenga is a Senior Research Fellow, based at the Australian Youth Research Centre, the University of Melbourne. As a youth worker and then sociologist, Ani has been active in the youth sector for 23 years. Her primary focus has been on research and teaching which supports effective policy and practice with young people, in their wellbeing, learning and active social participation. Ani explores these topics through research projects with young people, communities, governments, departments, and non-government organizations, and also through post-graduate teaching. She is the author of <i>Young People Making a Life</i> , published in 2009 by Palgrave Macmillan.
About the Organisation	The Youth Research Centre, established in 1988, is located within the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. The Centre is committed to research that benefits young people, where possible involving them in research. It is also committed to improving practice in the education, youth, health and community sectors. This is achieved through its research and development programs, as well as its role in teaching and research training.

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</p>

	about achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.
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>