

Child Friendly Cities & Communities Network



Meeting Minutes

Date: 27 March 2024

Time: 9.30am – 11.00am

Location: Zoom

CFCC (Child Friendly Cities and Communities) Network Purpose:

We've come together as a network because we can imagine a world where children are supported and empowered to be active citizens, and individually and collectively, we can make a difference. In our network, we will discover new ways to lead our colleagues and our communities to become child friendly and share with each other examples of good practice.

Meeting Chairs: Hulya Gilbert (La Trobe University), Lisa Banfield (Mission Australia), Amy Treyvaud (City of Ballarat)

Meeting Theme: Why should we listen to young people?

Minutes:

Amy welcomed participants, delivered Acknowledgement of Country, and explained the CFCC Network Purpose and Charter

Amayah Rowe – City of Ballarat Youth Ambassador presented

'Thank you Amayah, such an excellent, eloquent speaker, and not surprised to hear that youth, like most people, require the opportunity to provide their feedback and thoughts via many pathways, not just surveys'.

Harmony (Young Peer Facilitator) and Jen (Participation Officer) from YACVIC (Youth Affairs Council Victoria) - **presentation attached.**

Youth Participation Practice Network: Email YPPN@yacvic.org.au to sign up!

Become a member: yacvic.org.au/member

Check out our upcoming events: yacvic.org.au/get-involved/events

Keep up with us on Socials! Instagram @yacvic TikTok @yacvic Twitter @yacvic

Facebook Youth Affairs Council Victoria

Participants joined breakout rooms and discussed the below three questions:

- Why is it important to listen to children and young people?
- What are the key barriers to the inclusion of their voices in policy and practice?
- What are the key interventions needed to address these barriers?

The key insights from the discussions included:

- the need to overcome silos within our organisations in terms of the policy focus as well as the age-based divisions
- importance of capacity-building from earlier ages for children to understand the value of their voice being heard
- importance of genuine engagement with children rather than a tokenistic and an afterthought approach.

Poll – what do we want to focus on in the network this year?

Jemma James shared an upcoming event - City of Whittlesea's Early Years Conference – 6 June 2024. *Taking a Deep Dive into Cross Cultural Learning and Safety.*

[Early Years Conference 2024 - Whittlesea](#)

Lisa encouraged participants to complete the feedback survey and closed the meeting.

Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic)



Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather on today.

We would like to pay our respects to the elders past, present, and extend our respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here with us today.

We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded, and a treaty was never signed. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal Land.





Today we'll cover:

- What does YACVic do?
- Intro to Youth Engagement
- 5 Hot Tips for Youth Engagement in the Volunteering Space
- Further opportunities to connect with us

Your Facilitators:



Presented by:

Youth Affairs Council Victoria
(YACVic)

Facilitated by:

Jen Rowan, (she/her)
Youth Participation Officer

Harmony Carmichael
(they/she)

Young Peer Facilitator

What does YACVic do?

- Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate for young people and the youth sector in Victoria.
- Our **vision** is that the rights of young people in Victoria are respected, and they are active, visible and valued in their communities.
- Our **mission** is to propel action that inspires positive change for young people and the youth sector.

What does YACVic do?

- lead **policy** responses to issues affecting young people
- **represent** the youth sector to government
- **resource** high quality youth work practice
- **research and advocate** on youth issues



What is Youth Participation?

Youth participation actively involves young people in decision-making processes on issues that affect them

Examples include young people:

- being consulted about their ideas and opinions.
- researching issues that affect their lives.
- planning or leading community activities or events.
- taking part in youth committees or action groups.
- taking part in adult-defined decision-making bodies.

What is Youth Engagement

Youth engagement is defined as any resource, activity, and process within organisations and communities where young people are empowered to share their contributions to influence decisions in a respectful and inclusive environment.

Any youth engagement resource, process, or activity should ideally be co-designed with young people, be rights-based and be responsive to what is important for young people and reflect the values and principles detailed in the youth engagement evaluation framework.

- VicHealth Youth Engagement Evaluation Framework

Values and Principles underpinning Youth Engagement



Youth engagement leads to positive change and development



1. Youth engagement experiences are positive and focuses on issues that are important to young people
2. Youth engagement empowers young people and incorporate their contributions to influence decisions
3. Youth engagement supports skill building and career development
4. Youth engagement supports sustained advocacy and civic participation in youth engagement
5. Youth engagement contributes to benefitting the wider community of young people

Youth engagement supports transparency and accountability



13. Youth engagement activities support and enable open communication
14. Youth engagement is always guided by ethical considerations
15. Organisations involved in engaging young people are accountable for sharing how young people's contributions are being used
16. Youth engagement activities need to be monitored and evaluated

"It's not a once-off consultation, it's rounded, and they come back to let us know what happened and ask what they can do better."
(Workshop participant)

Youth engagement is accessible and inclusive



6. Youth engagement is accessible for all young people
7. Youth engagement activities acknowledge and celebrate diverse lived experiences

Youth engagement is respectful and equitable



8. Youth engagement is always voluntary
9. Partnerships between adults and young people are reciprocal and equal
10. Youth engagement activities facilitate shared learning and reflection

Youth engagement is appropriately resourced



11. Youth engagement is appropriately resourced
12. Young people are remunerated accordingly

Hot Tip #1

Identify Young Peoples Passions and Interests.

Understand what interests and motivates young people. Ask young people about their passions, hobbies, and social causes they care about. Tailor opportunities to align with their interests to make the experience more engaging and meaningful.

Hot Tip #2

Offer Flexibility and Variety

Young People often have busy lives with school, work, and extracurricular activities. Provide flexible opportunities that accommodate their availability. Offer a variety of roles and projects so they can choose options that suit an individual's skills and preferences.

Hot Tip #3

Promote Peer Engagement & Peer-Led Work

Encourage young people to bring their friends or involve them in group activities. Peer engagement can make youth participation opportunities more enjoyable and create a sense of belonging. It also creates an opportunity for young people to learn the value of collaboration!

Peer to peer facilitation is when young people gather information or facilitate trainings/meetings etc, to other young people. Placing young people at the forefront of discussions empowers young people in all their capacity. It can also help young people/participants feel more comfortable to share, in a space where they otherwise might not feel comfortable to share in front of adults - breaking down those barriers.

Hot Tip #4

Provide Leadership Opportunities

Empower young people to take on leadership roles within the organisation. This could involve organising events, or participating in decision-making processes (to list just a couple of examples). Give young people responsibilities and recognise their contributions to boost their sense of ownership.

Hot Tip #5

Social Media & Technology are your best friends

Young people are often tech-savvy and often use social media. Leverage these platforms to promote youth participation opportunities, share success stories, and create online communities. Consider creating a dedicated website or app for recruitment and coordination.

Some examples of apps you might consider using:

Instagram	Airtable (for coordinating teams)
TikTok	Miro (for online collaboration)
Twitter	Zoom (online & accessible meetings)

How do we engage young people using social media?

State Budget
2022-23
hot... or not!?

Hot!
Health & Mental Health
• \$333m to hire almost 400 triple-zero call-takers
• \$124m for more paramedics
• \$490m for increased acute mental health care
• \$372m for 1500 new mental health workers
• \$20m in eating disorders treatment
Me getting ready to turn up to a picnic with my five best fully vaccinated friends
now that's what we call *fashion!*

...Not!!
Youth Sector Funding—
• No mention of the Youth Strategy
• No significant new youth-specific programs
talk about a *fashion faux pas!*

**The roadmap
out of lockdown**

What you need to know

How do we engage young people using social media?

YACVic: *looking for an awesome young person to hire who can develop their administrative, organisational and communication skills with us*

Me on EthicalJobs:



YACVIC Youth Affairs
Council Victoria



Bonus Tip

Recognition

Regularly acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of young people. Celebrate their achievements, highlight their impact, and offer certificates or awards for their dedication. Public recognition can also motivate others to join your cause!



and you could see the fire

On a Final Note...

Remember that youth engagement is not just about recruiting young people but also about creating a **supportive** and **inclusive** environment where young people feel valued and can develop important life skills. Adapt your approach to meet the unique needs and aspirations of the young people you are working with.

YERP Resources

Are you looking for more information about why it makes sense to involve young people in the work you do?

Are you aged 12-25 and looking for ideas on how to step up and make change in your community? Find out more at yerp.org.au



Become a YACVic Member!

Membership is FREE for young people before their 26th birthday!

yacvic.org.au/member

- Come along to events (online and in-person)
- Get discounts on trainings and access to early bird tickets
- Participation and collaboration on sector issues and campaigns (including participation in consultations, contribution to policy submissions, panel discussions and more).
- The opportunity to promote your achievements in our newsletters, social media (Facebook and Instagram), our blog, on our website and at our events.



Youth Participation Practice Network

- Thriving network of professionals who are committed to empowering young people through youth participation, youth engagement and supporting the voice of young people.
- Monthly meetings
- Access to shared resources and community Google Group
- PLUS, the YPPN x LGA Working Group- a dedicated space for LGA Youth Workers to connect over LGA Youth Services

Youth Participation Practice Network: Email YPPN@yacvic.org.au to sign up!

Email Address: info@yacvic.org.au

Stay in Touch:

Check out our upcoming events:

yacvic.org.au/get-involved/events

Trainings we offer for young people:

- Youth Advocacy Training
- Youth-Led Meetings
- Running Great Workshops
- Media Training

Keep up with us on Socials!

[Instagram @yacvic](#)

[TikTok @yacvic](#)

[Twitter @yacvic](#)

[Facebook](#) Youth Affairs Council Victoria

For workers:

- Ethical Practice with Young People
- Youth Participation 101 & 201
- Running Great Workshops