

Yfoundations
Annual Report

2011

« Creating a future without youth homelessness. »

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Federal Minister Tanya Plibersek speaks at the launch of 'Yfoundations' December 2010

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2010-2011

CO PRESIDENT

1. **Brett Paradise - NRSDC Reconnect Specialist Board Delegate**
Email: reconnect@nrSDc.org.au

CO PRESIDENT

2. **Mary Biddle - Phoenix House Metropolitan Board Delegate**
Email: manager@phoenixhouse.org.au

TREASURER

3. **Kellie Checkley - Shire Wide Youth Services Metropolitan Board Delegate**
Email: kellie@shirewideyouth.org.au

SECRETARY & PUBLIC OFFICER

4. **Julia Woods – CYDP Hunter Board Delegate**
Email: cydp@samaritans.org.au
5. **Alan Brennan – Pathfinders Inc New England Board Delegate**
Email: general-manager@pathfinders-aus.org
6. **Liz Price -Youth Service Team-Doorways UnitingCare Burnside Western NSW Board Delegate**
Email: lprice@burnside.org.au
7. **Jon Park - Yes Youth and Family Services Riverina Board Delegate**
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8. **Gerina Appo - St Joseph's Youth Service Far North Coast Board Delegate**
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9. **Nerida Ackerman - YP Space MNC Mid North Coast Board Delegate**
Email: nerida@yps.org.au

10. **Kevin Crowe - Southern Youth and Family Services South Coast Board Delegate**
Email: kcrowe@syfs.org.au

11. **Laurie Matthews - Caretakers Cottage Metropolitan Board Delegate**
Email: laurie@caretakers.org.au

12. **Rebecca Mullins- Bondi Youth Accommodation Metropolitan Board Delegate**
Email: rebecca@bya.org.au

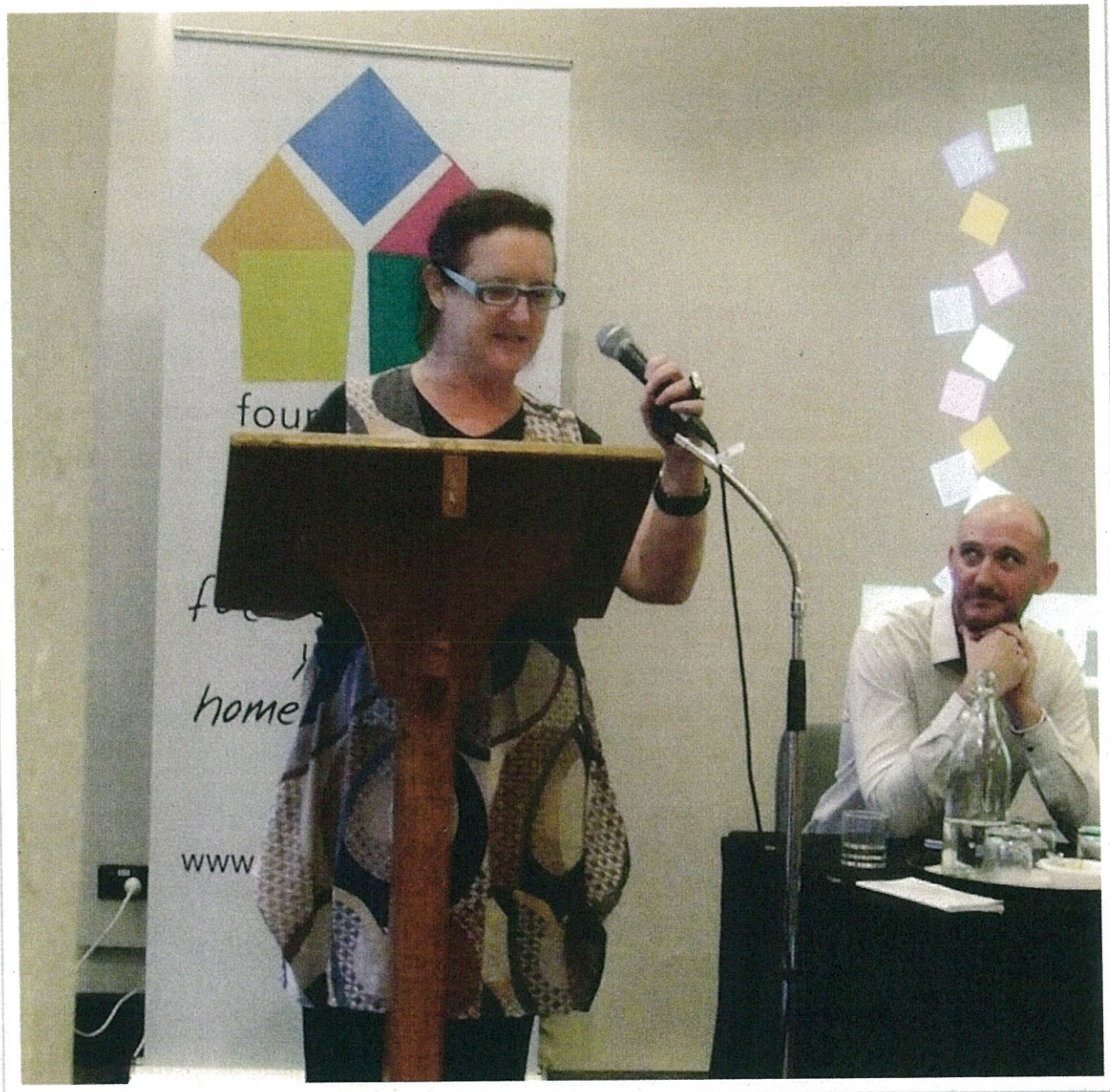
13. **Bruce Dennison- Pathfinders Inc Specialist Board Delegate**
Email: cyclebreakers@pathfinders-aus.org

14. **Donna Spears- The Drum Youth Resource Centre UnitingCare Burnside Metropolitan Board Delegate**
Email: dspears@BURNSIDE.ORG.AU

Board members are elected annually at the AGM as delegates from regional, metro NSW and representing special policy areas. Thanks to all board members for their contribution to the work of Yfoundations during 2010-2011. Also, a special thanks goes to the boards and staff of NRSDC Reconnect, Phoenix House Youth Services, Shire Wide Youth Services, CYDP, Pathfinders, YES Youth and Family Services, St Joseph's Youth Services, YP Space, Caretakers Cottage, Southern Youth and Family Services, Uniting Care Burnside The Drum, and Uniting Care Burnside Doorways, for their support of the Yfoundations Board members.

FINANCIAL MEMBERS 2010-2011

Anglicare
Alive Housing Program
Allambi House
Armidale & District Youth Support Services
Ballina District Community Services Association
Blacktown City Council
Blue Mountains Youth Accommodation & Support Service
Bondi Youth Accommodation
Broken Hill Youth Accommodation
Byron Bay Youth House Inc
CAAH- NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health
Cabramatta Youth Team
Caretakers Cottage
Centacare's Youth Accommodation & Support Service
Coast Shelter
Come-In Youth Resource Centre
Community Youth Development Project
Compass Housing
Council for Homeless Persons Victoria
Emerge Youth and Family Services
Erskineville Youth Housing
Exodus House
Fusion Accommodation Support Service
Gordon House
Grandview Lodge
Highlands Youth and Family Services Inc.
Jacaranda Cottage
Jetty Bunker Youth Service Inc.
Anne Kennedy
Michael Kewley
Leith House
Lighthouse Community Care (My Place)
Lillian's (Lillian Howell Project Inc)
Lithgow Youth Work (Community Projects)
Liverpool Youth Refuge
Lotus House
LYAAC- Liverpool Youth Accommodation Assistance Company
Mackillop Family Services
Medley Community
Mission Australia - NSW State Office (Membership)
Monaro Crisis Accommodation Service
Moree Family Support Incorporated
Nepean Youth Accommodation Service
Newcastle Youth Accommodation Services
Nick Kearns House
NRSDC-Northern Rivers Social Development Council
Northern Sydney Youth Support Service
NSW Federation of Housing Assoc.
Parrahouse
Phoenix House Youth Services
Presbyterian Social Serv-Cornerstone
Blakehurst
Reconnect - Bellingen/Nambucca
Red Cross Young Women's Health Program
Basim Shamaon
Shire Wide Youth Services
Shoalhaven Youth Accommodation
Southern Riverina Youth Support Service
Southern Sydney Youth Refuge
Southern Youth & Family Services Assoc
St George Accommodation for Youth Ltd
St Josephs Youth Service
Stretch a Family Inc.
Swags for Homeless Ltd
Taldumande Youth Services
Tamworth Youth Care
The ARC (Relationships Australia)
The Bridge Youth Service
The Burdekin Assoc Inc.
The Crossing
The Turning Point
Twenty10 Gay & Lesbian Youth Support
UnitingCare Children Young People and Families
UnitingCare Burnside The Drum
UnitingCare Burnside Doorways
Veritas House Inc.
Vinnies Youth Housing
Western Housing for Youth
YES Youth & Family Services
Young People's Refuge
Youth Angle Inc.
Youth Connections North Coast Incorporated
Youth Housing Support
Youth Off the Streets
YP Space



Mary Biddle (Co President) and Brett Paradise (Co President) launch 'Yfoundations' in December 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

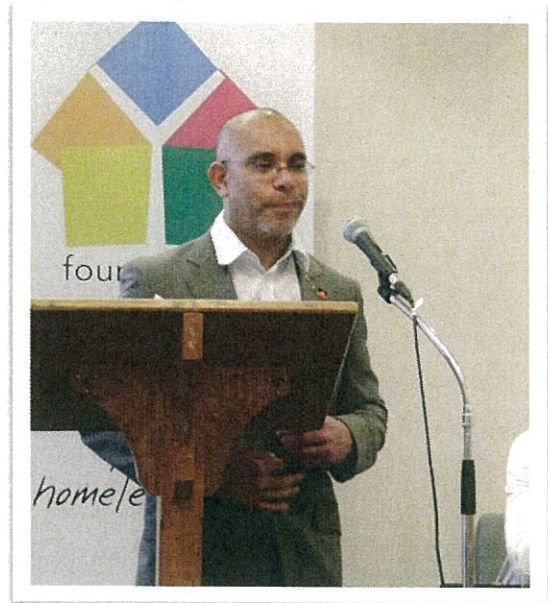
It is the second year that we present this annual report as Co- Presidents. However, this year we are extremely pleased and honoured to offer you the first annual report under the new organisational banner of 'Yfoundations'.

What a monumental year it has been. Launching the new name and logo and being more explicit about the five foundations that we believe are essential if we are one day to see an end to youth homelessness. Furthermore we believe that youth homelessness is more than just youth 'houselessness'.

These five key foundations have are:

- Home & Place,
- Diversity,
- Wellbeing,
- Connections,
- Fairness.

Currently in our work to end youth homelessness, we work in interesting times. The “post-SAAP¹” environment and “new era of Government” in which we work is currently moving through a process of significant change and we know this will continue into the years ahead.



Michael West 'Yfoundations' launch in December 2010

Most obviously, we have seen the change in State Government in early 2011 and the appointment of Pru Goward as Minister of Family and Community Services and the Department of Human Services reconfigured as the Department of Families and Community Services. We look forward to working with the new Government and the new Minister. The early signs are positive and encouraging and include Minister Goward's indication that the new Government will continue the Premier's Council on Homelessness and of the Premiers and Minister's acknowledgement of the 'added value' the NGO² sector.

We have also seen the roll-out of projects from the “first down payment” under the National Partnership Agreement and the NSW Homelessness Action Plan. However, we are concerned about how these projects will be funded after December 2012 and wonder if there will be a second down payment. We hope we will see a second down payment that targets more than rough sleepers and people exiting from institutions and begins to target youth homelessness and early intervention? Only time will tell.

In the last period, the “SAAP Sector” began the process of shape shifting as the newly defined “Specialist Homelessness Services”. Over 2010-11 many Specialist Youth Homeless Services applied to become registered social housing providers, participated in the HAP Regional Planning process, were consulted in the Sector Capacity Building Workshops, positioned themselves in relation to the Keep Them Safe reforms and the CSGP³ changes and were involved in consultations on a new National Quality Framework.

All of this was achieved on top of endless other funding program reviews and reconfigurations. No wonder the year has moved so fast!

As board members of Yfoundations we are all employed in the sector with a special interest in working towards an end to youth homelessness. We see first hand the range of complex issues that confront young people. We all see the impacts and consequences and bring this experience to the governance and policy development of Yfoundations. Some of the always prominent issues include; choices and flexibility in housing; education, employment and health, family

¹ Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)

² Non Government Organisations (NGO)

³ Community Services Grants Program (CSGP)

conflict or dysfunction; sexual and cultural identity; body image and opportunities for valued contributions and connection to community.

Of particular interest to us this year has been the impacts on the youth homeless sector of the Keep Them Safe reforms. While the introduction of the Child Wellbeing Units is potentially identifying more young people at risk in a more timely way, but as yet we have not seen an increase to the services that can appropriately deal with these young people. It's like a funnel that has increased the intake area but the outlet is still the same size.

The interface between child protection, Keep Them Safe and youth homelessness is a huge area of concern for us and will be a key issue for us in the next twelve months.

Michael and all the staff should be congratulated for their outstanding efforts in providing exceptional sector representation, developing solid informed policy and action and advocating to achieve a better deal for young people.

We take particular pride in the organisation's strengthening of direct youth engagement. The increased attendance of young people at our policy forums and workshops brings us great insights, relevance and the opportunity to talk from a well informed position. Early in 2011, we hosted an NSW election forum which brought young people face to face with the candidates and was a significant milestone that demonstrates Yfoundations determination to provide an opportunity for a youth voice.

We thank the Department of Family & Community Services and NSW Health for the continued financial support and the recognition of our organisation's role in ending youth Homelessness.

Lastly and most importantly, we thank our growing members and supporter base for all their contributions to our policy forums, general meetings and events throughout the year.

Your involvement and commitment to ending youth homelessness makes it all possible.

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2011 Annual Report

Brett Paradise &

Mary Biddle

Yfoundations Co – Presidents



Mary Biddle (Co President) and Brett Paradise (Co President) Yfoundations Policy Forum June 2010



Michael Coffey speaking at the NAEH Ending Homelessness Conference Washington DC July 2011

CEO REPORT

Dear Members, Supporters and Partners,

I am pleased to present the annual report for the year 2010-2011 which comments on our first year under the new name of 'Yfoundations'.

Since the launch of our new name by Minister Plibersek in Sydney in December 2010 we have quickly opened up new opportunities and increased awareness for the organisation and for youth homelessness. It has enabled us to reframe some of the policy debate around youth homelessness and perhaps more clearly articulate our message. In a sense the name "Yfoundations" has become an icon for our manifesto. 'Yfoundations' articulates our broader view and general policy position that homelessness is not just roof-less-ness or finding a crisis bed for the night.

Despite the best intentions of government, many of us are worried that 'young people' continue to be sidelined on discussions on homelessness and disadvantage. This conversation increasingly foregrounds adult rough sleepers and emphasizes 'street to home' concepts. So it is important here to continually restate our position and apply the 'youth' question to these ideas to ensure sure young people are not excluded from the policy debate or best only 'measured' or 'considered' in terms of economic inclusion. After presenting at the NAEH Ending Homelessness Conference in the US and visiting services in the US, UK and Canada, I was astounded that Australian Youth Homelessness Services are so highly regarded internationally, yet in Australia they are often undervalued or misunderstood. We must change this local perception and celebrate and build on our achievements and successes here in Australia.

My travels this year affirmed that youth homelessness services overseas have much in common with services here in Australia and we have much to share with our colleagues overseas. At recent presentations at conferences and forums overseas, services were astounded at the work done by Australian services such as Southern Youth and Family Services, Pathways in Armidale, the national Reconnect program and Shire Wide Youth Services. They commended of the resilience of youth homelessness services in NSW as they have grown and shape-shifted over the last three decades, working against the odds in an environment where capacity to scale up successes was limited and there was not enough affordable housing investment.

We need to make ourselves known and tell everyone what specialist youth homelessness services do, what works and what young people tell us they need. We must promote and 'scale up' the existing innovation and good practice and build on the foundations that already exist in the youth homelessness sector in NSW.

At an NGO function earlier in the year the new Premier, Barry O Farrell said that the NGO sector knows how to spend a dollar better than government and that the added value and contribution of the NGO sector and was acknowledged and highly regarded. This is encouraging to hear.

The Information and Engagement forums convened by Community Services, Yfoundations, WRMRC and HomelessnessNSW attempted to build up a new profile and showcase the great work done by specialist homelessness services. Similar outcomes came from the youth HAP projects forum convened by Housing NSW and Yfoundations in early 2011.

Further opportunities to continue this work will come at the Ending Youth Homelessness Conference to be hosted by Yfoundations in Sydney on 22-24th November 2011 and in the next community/public campaign Youth Homelessness Matters Day on 18th April 2012.

Spectrum of Youth Housing and Support

A key part of our work this year has been building on what we call the "Spectrum of Youth Housing and Support" and our five foundations. These have been developed as a way of describing what needs to be done. We featured this work in our presentations at the Homelessness Australia conference in 2010 and it forms the basis of our policy discussions with government representatives.

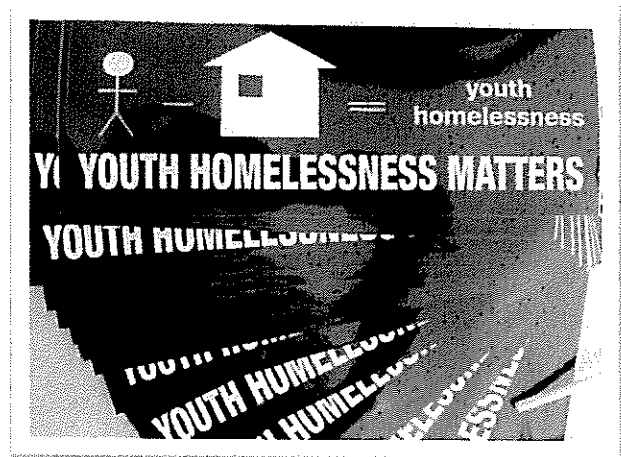
Without diminishing the argument that we need more affordable housing for young people, an effective response to youth homelessness is not just about housing (it is always about 'youth housing') but it is also about ensuring foundations are in place for all young people, such as 'home and place', 'wellbeing', 'connections', 'diversity' and 'fairness'. These foundations must be in place for a young person to maintain their tenancy and to keep that roof over head, for the young person to participate in education or employment and have access to opportunities that all young people in Australia are entitled.

We know that youth homelessness in Australia is mainly caused by family breakdown. Therefore in the absence of family or community, there must be a 'spectrum' of youth support and youth housing for all young people. These must be resourced and mobilised to ensure that these key foundations are in place for all young people in NSW and Australia.

The spectrum includes a variety of approaches of all shapes and sizes which assist in this process, such as intensive outreach support, family restoration (where possible), respite, intensive supported accommodation, youth housing, student housing, combinations of housing and support/housing which wraps around the young person.

Other aspects of this thinking suggest that:

- There is no magic silver bullet or single 'model' of delivery, correct 'size' or 'shape' of service.
- Integration does not necessarily mean 'one stop shop'.
- There is significant systemic work to be done to prevent youth homelessness by addressing the drivers of youth homelessness and the drivers of family breakdown.
- The young person, or the young person and family/community is at the centre of this thinking, not the model.
- Our responses need to be flexible, rapid, unconditional and empowering.
- Young people have the right to choice and the right to a rapid local response.
- If we think too much about the model, or the program logic, we are trying to fit the young person into the model rather the other way around.
- An investment in ending youth homelessness is in effect an early intervention to chronic adult homelessness and other longer term concerns. This is why we need to get it right, we believe we can stop it here.



Secure and safe youth housing and youth tenancies have been in our minds ever since in the early 1980's. Our thinking at the time was that is was not just about having an emergency bed. At the NYCH conferences in the early 1980s we called out⁴ for youth specific housing and 'exit points' from homeless services. However, in 2011, we still don't have enough affordable housing for young people and there are not enough pathways out of homelessness. Many young people are forced to either couch surf, sleep rough or use the homelessness system as their defacto social housing.

Under the NAHA, the 'Road Home' and the NSW Homelessness Action Plan there has been progress and small steps made, but we still have a long way to begin to meet the national targets of halving homelessness by 2020. With this in mind we will be closely scrutinising how young homelessness is understood and represented in the homelessness estimate when the analysis of the census data is released next year.

Despite the fact that specialist youth homelessness services still are the safety net for other service systems, as demand exceeds supply the turn away rates suggest a huge latent and underestimated youth homelessness and there is not enough housing and pathways out of homelessness for young people we are encouraged that more young people 16 - 25 are either

⁴ "Housing Rights or Homeless Nights" and "Shelter or the Streets"

getting the support they need or on pathways out of homelessness, but we need to do so much more ... and we will.

Go team !

Here at Yfoundations we are lucky to have a dedicated team of advocates and experts on our Board, in our Staff Team and as our partners who continue to work tirelessly to contribute to Yfoundations' effort.

First off, I would like to acknowledge and communicate my appreciation to the highly skilled team we currently have working at Yfoundations: Lauren Minici, Clare Blakemore, Grace Stubee, Brandon Brear, Andre Zeballos, Aleks Trojacanec (Student) and Victoria Carstens (Student). Everyone in the team has had a part to play in contributing to our collective effort. It's a privilege to work with you all. Thank you so much! The 'times are a changing' and both Clare and Grace have finally brought us into the 21st Century with their focus on quality of communication, information, social media and enhanced website. I would like to give special acknowledgement to the vision of the Board, for freeing up funds from reserves, to upgrade our IT to enable this to happen.

Elsewhere, there have been a few comings and goings and significant staff shrinkage this year as we finally let go of the auspices of Canterbury Youth Services, Wruwallin House and Theba (for a short period). Thanks to Simone and Jo and the staff for their good work at those services and to George Mudford for his oversight and management of those services and for managing the smooth transition to the new auspices. After a few years as Policy Officer and then Operations Manager, George Mudford left us to take up a position as the CEO at Erskineville. George has been a great asset to Yfoundations and has made sure that things operate smoothly through a period of change and uncertainty. George also took on the role of acting CEO for extended periods. Yfoundations has grown significantly under his leadership. He will be missed by us all and has left big shoes to fill.

I would also like to thank Morgan Phillips for her work on the Youth Housing Film Project and Jono, Sarah, Morgan and Justin for their work on the Yconnect project supporting children, young people, families and workers who call up, looking for support.

Special mention and thanks to some of our partners and colleagues: Cat and Taryn (WRRMC), Sue Cripps from Homelessness NSW, Maria Leebek (QYHC/NYCH), Narelle Clay (SYFS/HA),



Yfoundations Staff Team at 'Yfoundations' launch in December 2010

David MacKenzie (RMIT/YDA), Nicolle and Travis (HA), Alison Peters (NCOSS), Keith Garner (Wesley Mission), Anton Brown (Virgin Unite), Matt Mitchell (Bendigo Bank), Nelson Nguyen (Woki), Ray Bennett (Com Mgt) and overseas partners and friends such as Nan Roman (NAEH), Jane Slowey, Colin Falconer (UK Foyer), Margo Hirsch (Empire State Coalition), Paul Marriott (DePaul), Rachel Grey (Evas Canada), Balbir Chatrik (Centrepnt UK) and Bruce Pearce (Canadian Housing and Renewal Association).

Finally I would like to thank the Board and in particular Brett, Mary and Kellie. The co-Presidents have worked really well for Yfoundations and Brett and Mary have grown into strong leaders for the sector and given me invaluable support and confidence in my role as CEO. Kellie has been sharp and savvy in her role as Treasurer and keeping track of our financial position.

I look forward to working with everyone in the next year !

Michael Coffey

Yfoundations CEO



NSW Election Forum at Redfern Town Hall February 2011

STAFF SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS 2010-2011

The policy and advocacy work we do is not a mysterious process and we encourage all Yfoundations members to contribute.

Our advocacy and policy work is developed through listening, reading, analyzing and writing up persuasive arguments. We then try to check in with the people we originally spoke to test our analysis. We also go to meetings or speak publically about what we have heard and present our arguments to people who have the resources to make policy decisions which can have an enormous impact on the lives of young peoples.

A lot of our time this year was spent on policy and advocacy work in conjunction with government and sector. This included issues such as the spectrum of youth housing and support, the National Quality Framework, the NSW Homelessness Action Plan (and HAP Projects), the evaluation of NAHA, the NSW election campaign, the pay equity case, getting to know the new government in NSW and reading countless reports and papers.

POLICY, RESEARCH AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT 2010-11

Clare Blakemore

Over 2010-2011, Yfoundations contributed to a number of inquiries and consultations including:

- the NSW Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Young People with Cognitive and Mental Health Impairments in the Criminal Justice System
- the CREATE Foundation discussion paper on the Earn or Learn policies
- a forum into Juvenile Justice in NSW, convened by the NSW Opposition (October 2010)
- a consultation on the NSW Youth Plan by Communities NSW
- a consultation into the impact of penalty notices on young people

Yfoundations also conducted a number of consultations over 2010-2011. Our Policy Forums included consultations with young people and service workers on couch surfing, key issues for the upcoming state election, the Housing NSW Youth Action Plan and a policy on children under 16 residing in specialist youth homelessness services (SHS). We also conducted a snapshot survey of the number of children under 16 in SHS in order to contribute to this work. Lastly, we conducted consultations with young people in Juvenile Justice on the impact that homelessness has had on their lives.

Yfoundations continued to update the sector and interested members of the public through our website, our e-newsletter and our journal *Undercurrent*. We were pleased to launch our new website during this period which enabled an easier distribution of news and has resulted in increased readership.

Both the federal and state elections during 2010-2011 provided us with many opportunities for influence and involvement in the political process. During the lead up to the federal election we sent letters to the NSW candidates, with a particular focus on those in marginal seats and followed up with new MPs after the election. This resulted in a number of positive meetings and correspondence.

Yfoundations also sent hundreds of letters out in the lead up to and after the NSW State election. However, we also held a youth homelessness pre-election forum for young people. In attendance to answer questions from young people in the audience were the (now former) Minister for Human Services, Linda Burney, Mike Baird (who was the Shadow Treasurer at the time) and Greens MP David Shoebridge. All in attendance thought that the event was highly successful as it gave young people the opportunity to get involved in the political process and it resulted in a statement from Mike Baird that he would work with all political parties to address youth homelessness.



Young people and workers prepare for the NSW Election Forum at Redfern Town Hall February 2011



Federal Minister Mark Arbib and Mary Biddle at the YHMD Event at Oasis April 2011

2010-2011 was also a year of engagement. We were fortunate to meet and work with a range of people, all of whom are passionate about ending youth homelessness. We continued our work with the Youth Justice Coalition, which included a meeting with representatives from the New Zealand parliament, and we continue to attend the Federation of Non-Government Agencies (FONGA) and sit on the steering committee for the Inner City Youth at Risk project. We also spoke to school students from William Clarke College and Ultimo TAFE about the history and current situation of youth homelessness in NSW.

Yfoundations staff were also incredibly lucky to be able to travel around New South Wales and meet with member agencies throughout the state. Yfoundations staff had a very rewarding and positive visit to Armidale to visit Pathfinders and the Open Door service. This was a fantastic trip as it provided us with the opportunity to meet community members who are responding in innovative and unique ways to the issues within their community.

Through the state-wide information and engagement sessions we were also able to travel to Queanbeyan, Maitland, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Wollongong, Coffs Harbour, Ballina, Gosford, Tamworth and throughout the Sydney region. This was a great opportunity to meet with staff from member agencies and hear about the issues in each region. While each region had some unique issues, the common theme throughout each area was a lack of affordable housing for young people. We will continue to advocate for affordable and accessible housing for young people!

Yfoundations was also fortunate to develop a key partnership during 2010-2011 with Virgin Unite. Yfoundations have a common goal with Virgin Unite – to end youth homelessness in Australia. As part of this partnership we launched the endyouthhomelessness.com.au website and the youth homelessness story competition. We look forward to continuing this partnership throughout 2011-2012.

End Youth Homelessness

32,000 Australian Youth are homeless. It's a bigger problem than you think. And it's unacceptable for a nation like ours.

These youth are homeless but not hopeless or helpless. Take a look at how some of Australia's 32,000 homeless youth are living and let's make it a public issue.

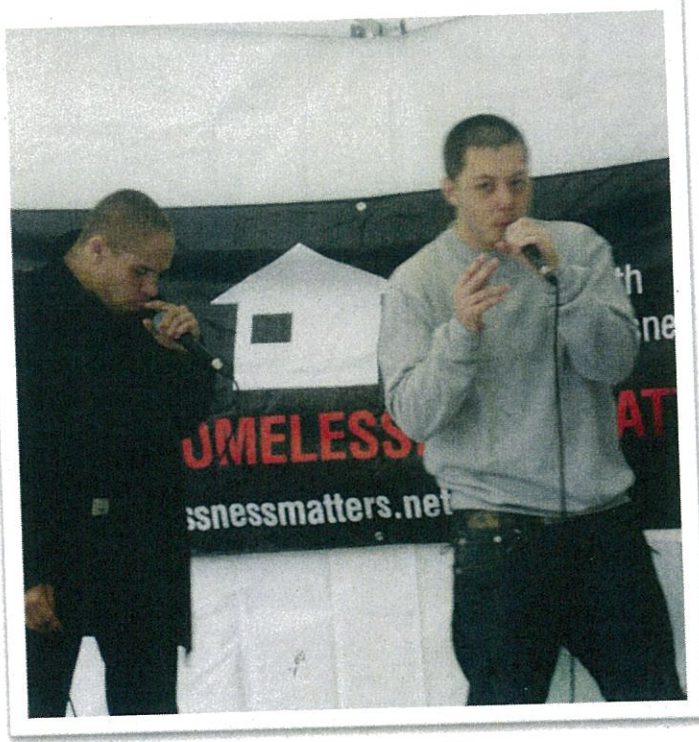
Make youth homelessness matter – sign the online petition today.

endyouthhomelessness.com.au

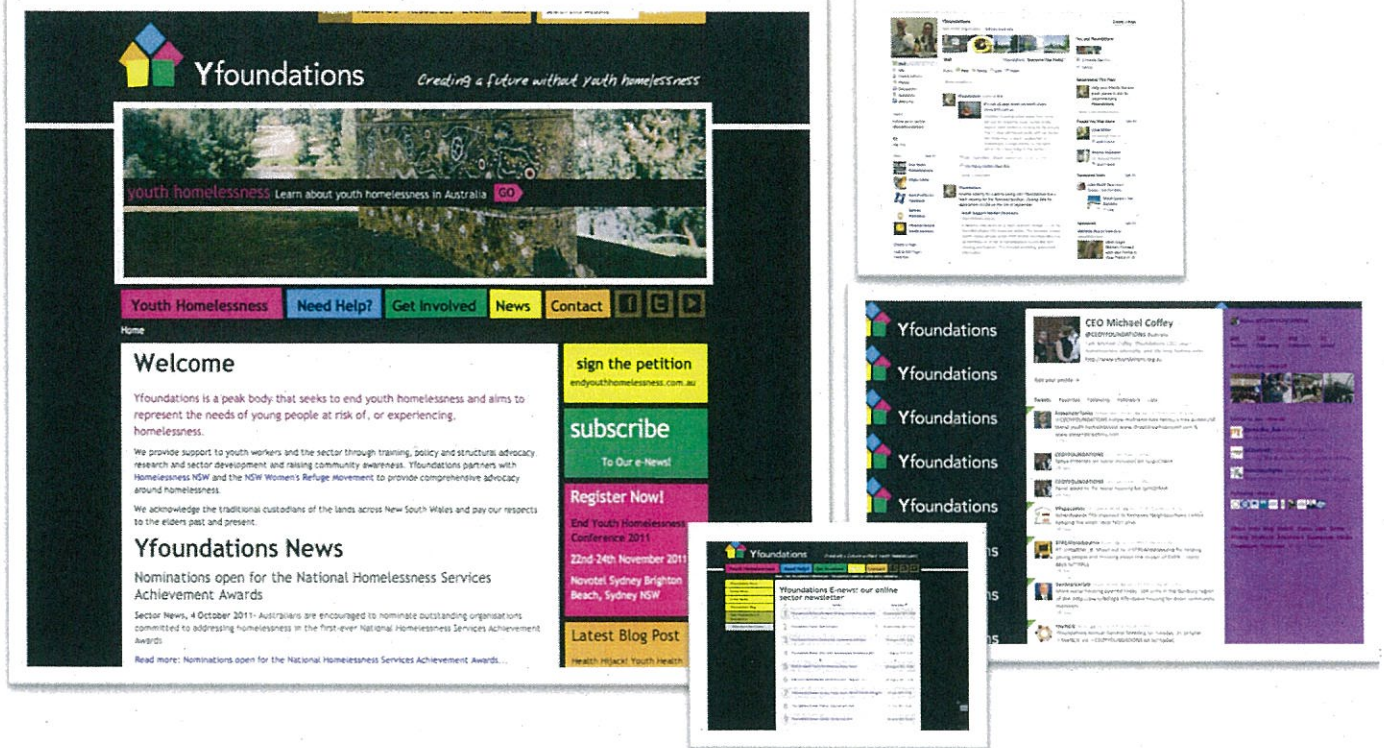



Poster from "Endyouthhomelessness" Campaign with Virgin Unite

April 2011



Clockwise from bottom left: Federal Minister Mark Arbib and Paul Moulds Maria Leebeek (NYCH) and Mary Biddle and Yung Nooky at the YHMD Event at Oasis April 2011



DEVELOPING SOCIAL MEDIA 2010-11

Grace Stubee

Over the past 6 months Yfoundations has been having somewhat of an online 'coming out.' We have revamped our website, persuaded Michael to tweet and launched a blog which we hope will become another public platform where community activists can learn about why youth homelessness matters. Being a social media activist myself, I do not think non-profits in this day and age can underestimate the power of having a strong social media and online communications strategy. It is where the people are, with 73% of young people living in developed countries using the Internet.

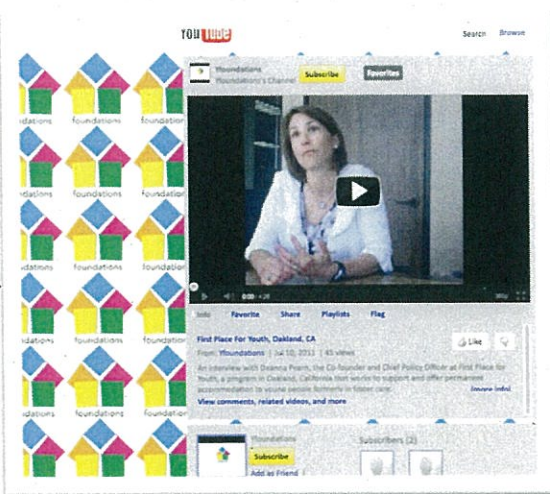
Now, that isn't to say everyone has access to the internet or that the internet should replace face-to-face contact. Especially for young vulnerable young people, the internet can easily become an unsupervised dangerous space. Yet equally important is the positive power of the internet to spur social change- just look at the success of the Facebook organised protests in the Middle East. This also isn't to mention the generation of young people who are growing up in a world of online communications and will be the next generation of leaders, activists and workers. They sometimes speak "world wide web" better than their native languages.

It is for this reason that Yfoundations has begun pumping our online muscles. Our new website aims to be more striking and informative than our previous YAA website, which was more like an online brochure rather than an interactive site. According to our Google analytics site (a user tracking tool) we have had almost 40,000 visits to our website since the beginning of the year. The average time a visitor spends on the site is 03:08 minutes, which in this fast paced world is equal to a weeklong holiday.

Our blog has had 16 posts since the end of April, with 10 comments from readers. We aim to increase these numbers of the coming months and years but they do show the start of something exciting; we have begun to foster online followers who are interested enough in our subject to read, respond and become part of Yfoundations network of supporters. One such example was Clare Blakemore's post on the Open Door Program in rural NSW. Open Door is a small program that at the time of writing had gone into hibernation due to budget cuts. Clare gave an overview of the program and its two devoted leaders, Rosemary and Sandra. The post received 13 views the day it was posted, with 24 views the following Tuesday. One reader responded how the blog resonated with her understanding of the issue and how it reflected a current trend back towards community. Clare was able to respond to this comment and start a conversation with this new follower. Since then the reader has commented on several other posts.



Although our analytics numbers do not discourage me, we are not anywhere near achieving a fit online physique. Currently we are focusing on several aspects that seem to make non-profit communications effective. Specifically, these are how to best integrate our off and online communications, how to improve user engagement and at the end of the day, how we can best facilitate social consciousness in a connected world.



Still in the early stages of our online development, we are focusing most on how to close the gap between our online and offline content. We would like to have off and online communications complementary to one another without overlapping. Mainly what this requires is figuring out how our online communications fit into and enhance our traditional (and time tested) offline communication tools such as media releases, mail outs and op-eds. So far we've decided that we would like our online communications to be co-created content. Co-created content is when our supporters can help us create messages rather than just respond to them. This is mainly how twitter works if used properly. For example, co-created content has recently come from Michael tweeting

when there are no crisis beds available in Sydney, formally known as "No Beds Day." Seeing his tweet, his followers will then re-tweet it to all of their networks. Thus a "No Beds Day" campaign is born with the help of his twitter network. Even more so, Michael's followers may re-tweet "No Beds Day" with their own personal message added to the tweet, making it individualised and more able to resonate with their network.

The second goal in building our online capacity is ensuring that members of our online networks are climbing the "ladder of engagement." The ladder of engagement depicts the degrees to which online followers are devoted to a cause. There are followers who will simply skim over a

non-profit's website when they receive an email update or those who will read a blog once in a blue moon when their T.V is broken. These are people I like to call "online acquaintances." While every online network has their acquaintances, Yfoundations is looking for the bulk of our network to be evangelicals. Individuals who are so devoted to the cause of youth homelessness that they are easily convinced to take action offline by attending events, volunteering, raising funds and spreading the issue's importance through their community. To build such a following takes time but by articulating what kind of followers we're looking for, we can develop our online strategy to target this group.

So alas, we have much work to do on building our online capacity, seeing as we've been off the online treadmill for most of our organisation's history. But we're working on it and already the strength training is satisfying. We hope next year's Annual Report will be able to show how much increase we have seen over the coming year and we hope that all readers visit our website to take part in our online conversation.

END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE 2011

Grace Stubee and Lauren Minici



Grace Stubee models the latest in EYHC conference gear and merchandise.

This year's conference, End Youth Homelessness 2011 to be held on 23-24 November 2011 in Sydney, is promising to be a great event. It will be the first conference to be held in Sydney since our organisation was founded and we've recently booked our first international speaker, Colin Falconer who is Director of Innovation at the Foyer Foundation UK. If anything the discussion will be diverse with presentations from experts in juvenile justice, architecture and design, specialist youth homelessness services, social media, youth participation, advocacy and education.

Some exciting sessions already confirmed include: 'Social Media in Social Justice Advocacy- what is its value, what are the risks?', 'The Hero Generation: Students against youth homelessness', 'Under pressure: Youth housing workers and housing affordability stress' and 'Nip & Tuck: The facelift of a regional youth specialist homelessness service.'

Other exciting aspects of this year's event include a rooftop cocktail hour with young performers, as well as a free yoga class for delegates to get the blood flowing before the second day's proceedings. We have been hard at work (and will continue to be) putting together the program, finalising sponsorship, ordering merchandise and taking registrations. There has been awesome support for this year's event and we're all quite excited about seeing everyone on the 23rd of November 2011!

HEALTH PROJECTS 2010 -11

Brandon Bear and Andre Zeballos

Yfoundations developed its training partnership with the Western Area Adolescent Team (WAAT). A number of trainings focusing increasing the capacity of workers working with young people on sexual health and hepatitis c and young people were held across the Western Sydney and Blue Mountains area. The aim was increase confidence and engagement with young people through a variety of strategies including multiple resources, communication strategies, intervention strategies and information provision. Trainings were held at Auburn, Katoomba, Blacktown and Mt Druitt locations with 80 participants attending across the locations. Partnerships were also developed local sexual health clinicians in each of the areas who presented on sexual health issues related to their local area.

We also expanded our capacity to build the skills of workers in providing cannabis interventions and information with a new partnership with the National Cannabis Prevention and Intervention Centre (NCPIC). At the start of the year we held one day training in Kings Cross for workers working with young people to pilot the project and promoted and targeted the training for workers specifically working with homeless and at risk young people. Young people experiencing homelessness are shown to be more vulnerable to the harms of cannabis on a number of levels and the acquisition of this training, skills set and partnership with NCPIC has increased the health projects capacity offer workshops directly dealing with young people and workers around reducing the harm of cannabis use in this population.

Yfoundations Health Projects also continued to expand on its direct work with young people with a number of sessions run with young people at various services, including Rosemount Youth and Family Services, Canterbury Youth Services, Red Cross Parramatta and Randwick, Home Bass Bankstown, Youth Connections in Canterbury/St George with a number of sessions run at each with over 100 young people attending in total. The aim of these sessions was increase sexual health literacy particularly for those who may be homeless and at risk. Our work with young people acknowledges that just providing them with information about sexual health and risk factors is unlikely to be very effective therefore all the sessions include aspects of negotiation, refusal practice, and the role of alcohol and other drugs in sexual decision making and alcohol and other drugs and harm reduction.

As part of Yfoundations Health Projects state wide work we ran a number of trainings in August in regional far North Coast. Three two day sexual health core trainings were run in Byron, Coffs Harbor, and Port Macquarie for workers working with young people particularly those that are experiencing homelessness. A working group was convened with new partnerships developed with Mid North Coast Youth Worker Interagency, Northern Rivers Social Development Council, Lismore Council HIV and Related Projects (HARP), North Coast Area Health Service (NCAHS) and Christo House. There were some great results through our evaluation of the trainings indicating increased, confidence, awareness and knowledge of participants in addressing sexual health with their clients this result was confirmed 6 months later with a follow up impact evaluation.

OTHER PROJECTS 2010-11

Other key activities / projects this year included:

- Redesign of YEAL as Yconnect. In the absence of appropriate level of funding, Yconnect is subsidized by Yfoundations reserves. The 'vacant' line has broadened in its scope as the 'Yconnect' project with increased capacity of early intervention / child protection and working with families.
- Three month transition of Canterbury Youth Services /Wruwallin House
- Three month auspice/transition THEBA.
- Youth Housing Video Project – NSW Housing
- Website / IT upgrade.
- Social media development
- PHYS research project.
- Boards: Homelessness Australia, NCOSS, NAAAH, YAPA.



YCONNECT
Youth Housing and Support

Need Help?

Yconnect assists children and young people who are in need of housing assistance and support and links families, government and community workers to youth support services throughout NSW.

Sydney: 02 9318 1531
Free Call: 1800 424 830
www.yfoundations.org.au



Kellie Checkley at the Yfoundations Launch December 2010

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present the Treasurers report for the year 2010-2011.

The current financial position of Yfoundations at the end of June 2011 is strong and healthy. All projects and grants were fully expended, all legal accruals and entitlements provided for and reserves made.

We are currently at end of the first year of a three year financial plan and the organisation is performing much better than expected. Because of this we have been able to make an extra provision of \$20,000 towards the Ending Youth Homelessness Conference we are hosting in November 2011. As noted in last years report, this year we were also able to upgrade the IT and website, and do the rebranding of Yfoundations as well as increasing our policy capacity to employ Grace Stubee as second policy and research officer until April 2012. We also still have some funds tucked away to be able to hold one day regional conferences/forums in 2012.

The big changes in this years figures for a reduction in income due to the release of the temporary auspices of Canterbury Youth Services and Wruwallin House in September 2010. Some unexpected income was received when we took on the three month auspice of Theba, the Youth Housing Film Project with funds from NSW Housing. We also received additional funding from the Department Families and Community Services for the Sector Capacity Information and Engagement forums held in early 2011.

So the future still looks good, yet while Yfoundations remains viable we are still looking to develop a plan to diversify our income to ensure longer term viability and maintain and build on the important work we do for young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

I would like to acknowledge the steady hand and oversight of Michael, Lauren and Matrix on Board on keeping everything on track and providing the Board with good financial information and advice.

Kellie Checkley

Treasurer

Figure 1: Income by type 2010 / 2011

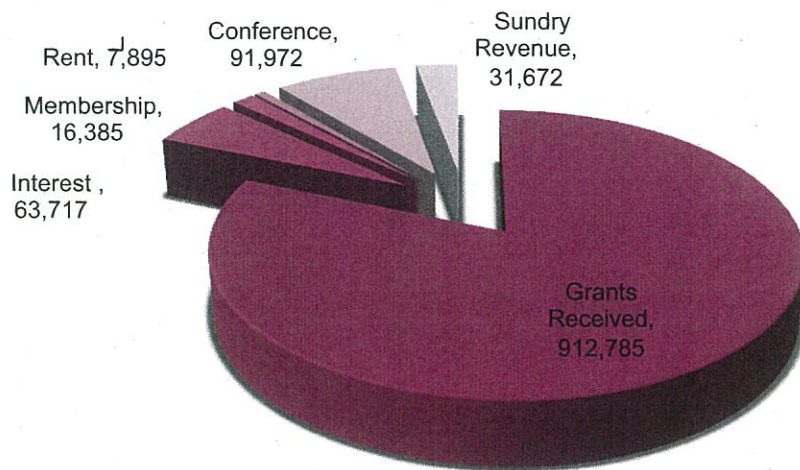
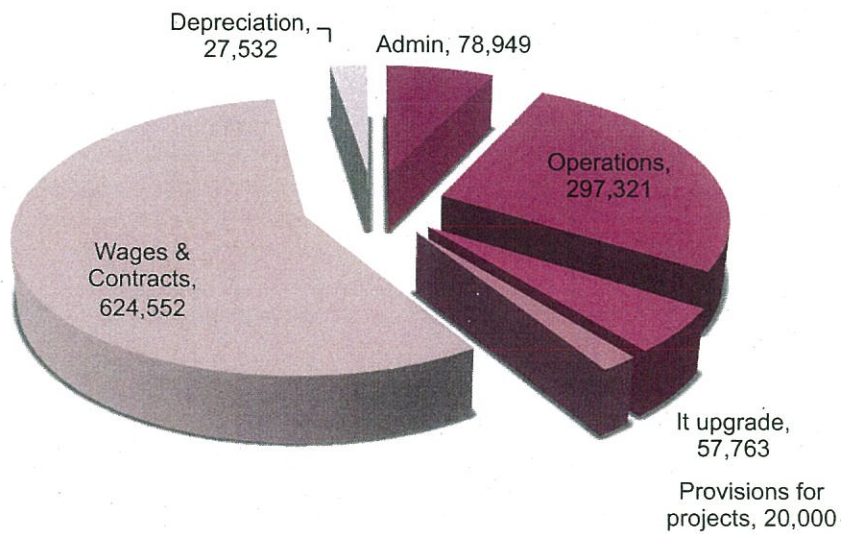


Figure 2: Expenditure by area 2010 / 2011



STEPHEN A. SPROATS



ACCOUNTANT

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO MEMBERS OF Y FOUNDATIONS INC

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Y Foundations Inc which comprises the Statement of Position as at 30 June 2011, Statement of Changes in Equity, Income & Expenditure Statement and Cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and the executive declaration.

Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management of the Incorporated Association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error: selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based upon my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit engagement and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditors judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

I am independent of Y Foundations Inc, and have met the independence requirements of the Australian ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Y Foundations Inc as of 30 June 2011, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)

Stephen A Sproats Dural

Registered Company Auditor 3932 5 October 2011

Y FOUNDATIONS INC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>\$904,944</u>	<u>\$886,635</u>
Represented by:-		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand	2,282	1,080
Cash at Bank	102,159	76,617
Debtors	14,566	19,193
Term Deposit	609,936	582,602
Prepayments	37,716	17,162
Shares – Community Bank	20,000	20,000
Money on Deposit	<u>656,137</u>	<u>843,761</u>
	<u>1,442,796</u>	<u>1,560,415</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Plant & Equipment – at cost	247,574	266,573
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(185,553)</u>	<u>(179,790)</u>
	<u>62,021</u>	<u>86,783</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	1,504,817	1,647,198
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	47,720	78,263
Provision for Projects	422,500	407,500
Grants in Advance	-	128,179
Provision for Employee Costs	<u>129,653</u>	<u>146,621</u>
	<u>599,873</u>	<u>760,563</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$904,944</u>	<u>\$886,635</u>

Y FOUNDATIONS INC

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit) Before Tax	18,309	16,803
Income Tax Applicable thereto	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit) and Extraordinary Items	18,309	16,803
Unappropriated profits brought forward	<u>886,635</u>	<u>869,832</u>
Unappropriated Profits at 30 June 2011	<u>\$904,944</u>	<u>\$ 886,635</u>

Y FOUNDATIONS INC

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from Customers	1,182,515	1,589,199
Payments to suppliers and employees	<u>1,313,291</u>	<u>1,436,553</u>
Net Cash inflow(out) from Operating Activities	(130,776)	152,646
Net Cash flow from investing		
Equipment Purchases	(2,770)	(39,139)
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held	(133,546)	113,507
Cash at beginning of year	<u>1,504,060</u>	<u>1,390,553</u>
Cash at End of Financial Year	<u>\$1,370,514</u>	<u>\$1,504,060</u>

Reconciliation of Operating Profit after tax to Net Cash

Inflow from Operations

Operating Profit After Income Tax	18,309	16,803
Depreciation	27,532	31,296
(Increase)Decrease - Debtors	4,627	3,833
- Prepayments	(20,554)	(5,370)
(Decrease)Increase – Creditors	(30,543)	16,217
- Provision for Projects	15,000	165,000
- Grants in Advance	(128,179)	(68,850)
- Employee Costs	<u>(16,968)</u>	<u>(6,283)</u>
	<u>\$130,776</u>	<u>\$152,646</u>

Y FOUNDATIONS INC CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
INCOME		
Grants Received	912,785	1,368,375
Interest	63,717	60,809
Membership	16,385	17,975
Rent	7,895	32,867
Conference	91,972	61,790
Sundry Revenue	<u>31,672</u>	<u>47,383</u>
	<u>1,124,426</u>	<u>1,589,199</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Accounting	34,733	18,924
Advertising	12,645	3,040
Audit Fees	5,975	5,250
Bank Charges	2,061	1,896
Conference	1,379	41,341
Consultant	18,830	1,173
Client Disbursements	8,941	24,559
Depreciation	27,532	31,296
Equipment	449	1,700
IT Support	57,763	17,689
Insurance	17,411	29,322
Legal	6,124	-
Materials & Resources	39,243	80,926
Management Costs	12,221	15,150
Motor Vehicle	8,867	9,941
Printing, Postage & Stationery	30,866	31,204
Provision for Project costs	20,000	165,000
Provisions for Employee Costs	(16,968)	(6,281)
Repairs & Maintenance	8,424	12,044
Rent & Electricity	78,249	82,826
Sponsorship	-	10,000
Subscription	5,144	12,580
Sundry	15,153	12,410
Superannuation	46,018	71,424
Telephone	24,847	26,740
Training	2,808	3,594
Travel	54,168	31,000
Wages	573,864	833,030
Workshop	<u>9,370</u>	<u>4,618</u>
	<u>1,106,117</u>	<u>1,572,396</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		
FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ 18,309</u>	<u>\$16,803</u>

Y FOUNDATIONS INC NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

1. Corporate Information

Y Foundations Inc (formerly Youth Accommodation Association (NSW) Inc operates under the Association Incorporation Act (NSW). Its business operates in throughout Sydney Metropolitan and NSW

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost and does not take into consideration changing values of money or current valuations of non current assets.

(b) Cash

Cash on Hand and in banks and short term deposits are stated at their nominal value

(c) Trade Debtors

Trade Debtors are stated at original invoice amount less any Provision for doubtful debts where applicable

(d) Plant & Equipment

Fixed assets are written off in the year of expenditure.

(e) Grants in Advance

Grants in Advance are carried forward at their original amount and are to be provided subsequent to the balance date

(f) Employee Leave

The liability for Annual & Long Service Leave is recognised and measured at the amount expected to be paid when liabilities are settled

(g) Provisions

These are recognised when there is a present obligation as a result of past funding and it is probable that an outflow will be required using reasonable estimates.

(h) Government Grants

Grants are matched against expenditure in the year expenditure is incurred and in accordance with funding body requirements

3. Contingent Liabilities \$Nil

4. Capital Expenditure Commitments \$Nil

5. Income Tax

The Association is registered under the Charitable Collection Act, 1934, as amended, and is exempt from income tax by section 26(e) of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1936.

6. Activities

The accounts include the following projects: Operations Account, Policy, YEAL, HOT, Wruwallin House, and Canterbury Youth Service. These operate solely within NSW.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board would like to thank the following individuals, organisations and businesses that contributed to the work of ending youth homelessness over the last year. We look forward to working with you all again together on future projects.

Yfoundations Staff team 2010-2011:

Fulltime, part time and casual staff

Michael Coffey
George Mudford
Lauren Minici
Clare Blakemore
Grace Stubee
Brandon Bear
Andre Zeballos
Morgan Phillips
Wayne Atkins
Amanda Byrne
Christina Cavallaro
Jonathan Derkenne
Carol Donohoe
Jim Itil
Terasa Johnson
Jo Naylor
Lorna Macaulay
Elaine Macnish
Kim McPherson
Sarah O'Donoghue
Simone Payne
Frances Ralph
Elchab Salam
Emily Woods

All Yfoundations members.

All members of community and individuals who supported YHMD2010

Funding and sponsorship:

Department of Families and Community Services (including Community Services and NSW Housing)

NSW Health

Dept Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

National bodies:

Homelessness Australia (HA)

National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH)

Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS)

Youth Development Australia.

Peaks and groups:

Womens Refuge Movement Resource Centre

Youth Justice Coalition

Youth Action and Policy Association (YAPA),

Queensland Youth Housing Coalition.

NSW Association Youth Health (NAYH)

Association of Child Welfare Agencies (ACWA),

NSW Homelessness Community Alliance Homelessness NSW,

Shelter NSW,

NSW Federation of Community Housing Associations

Tenants Union,

FAHSCIA Staff

Department of Family and Community Services staff

Juvenile Justice staff

Students and staff from University of Western Sydney, Ultimo TAFE and University of Sydney

Anton Brown and staff at Virgin Unite

Robbin and Paul Moulds and staff at Oasis Yung Nooky

Cesar Bassi from Redfern Community Centre

Michael West

YAIN

Linda Luke

Pathfinders staff

Inner City Youth at Risk Program

David MacKenzie

Shelley Mallett

Guy Johnson

Dougie Wells and team from ABS

Matrix on Board

City of Sydney

David Shields (CDM Print)

Ray Bennett (Com Management)

Stephen Sproats



Clare Blakemore at the Yfoundations stall at Fair Day in 2011