



# Yfoundations Annual Report 2014



*Creating a future without  
Youth Homelessness*

*Safety & Stability*

*Home & Place*

*Health & Wellbeing*



## About us

Yfoundations is a peak organisation which has been working in the community since it was founded as the "Youth Refuge Action Group" in 1979. We believe that all children and young people in Australia should have strong foundations in order to thrive, prosper and contribute to our society.

Yfoundations promotes the foundations that all young people deserve. These include Safety & Stability, Home & Place, Health & Wellness, Connections, and Education & Employment.

We represent the concerns of vulnerable young people who need support with their foundations and who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. We call for a strong and appropriately resourced youth specialist sector to be able support these children and young people.

Yfoundations has a network of member services working with young people, government organisations, concerned individuals, and other organisations that work with young people. What joins this network together is the conviction to ensure that no young person is homeless.

Editor: Michael Coffey  
Design: Sophie Thievenaz  
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# Presidents' Report

Welcome all to the Yfoundations Annual Report.



**Brett Paradise**  
Co President

It is always an interesting process looking back on the year retrospective and considering the key milestones and activities of the organisation. This year, there were a few changes on the Yfoundations Board, Mary Biddle the Co President for 4 years and a board member representing the Northern Sydney Metro district retired from the position, as did Liz O'Neill our Western NSW representative and Michelle Westgate, as the western Sydney representation retired to take on a new position in another sector. Rebecca Mullins Metro Sydney Representative retired from the board early in the financial year to take up a new position. You'll find a full list of the board members for this year later in this report.

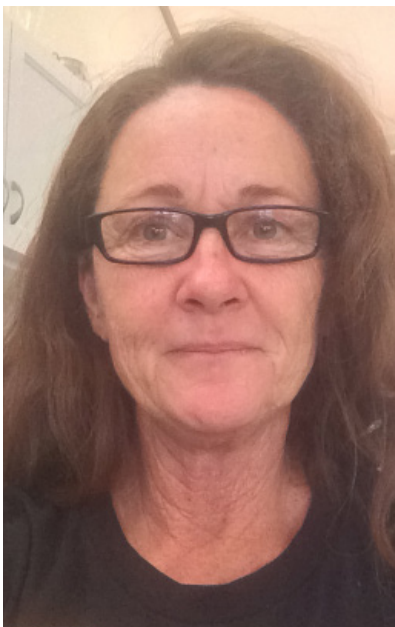
Generally as a Board we meet six times a year but with the amount of activity and change in the SHS Sector and the broader youth homelessness space at times we were engaged with board activities more like 6 times a month. It has been an incredible commitment they have made in what is a voluntary role on top of their already busy day jobs.

It's with reluctance that I mention the Going Home Staying Home Reform has obviously been long, confusing, mentally challenging and extremely time consuming for everybody involved and impacted. The constant requests for feedback, representation at meetings, consultations, reading of update, writing tenders, waiting, worrying and now winding up or winding down has taken a large toll. The Board members of Yfoundations have not only experienced the same impacts as workers within the sector but have had the added responsibility to put their personal or organisations views and needs to one side and look at the boarder impacts or possibilities on our goal to end youth homelessness. We also know that our focus and vigilance on the Going Home Staying Home reform will need to continue over the year to come.

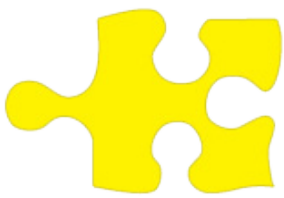
In addition to the reform process, the Yfoundations Board put considerable effort into reviewing our last strategic plan and workshopping our plans for the future. Looking at the broader picture of youth homelessness and the foundations; Home and Place, Safety and Security, Connections, Health and Wellbeing, Education and Employment and how and who we need to engage with if we are to find a lasting solution.

As Co Presidents we would like to commend and give our thanks to the work of all of the entire team at Yfoundations. The CEO Michael for his leadership and vision and the dedication of all of the staff and students that have remained professional and extremely productive in a year that pushed all reasonable boundaries and expectations.

We would also like to extend the same thanks to all those that have worked incredibly hard across the SHS sector and broader youth sector and remain singularly focused on improving the lives of vulnerable young people. Never lose sight of what we are trying to achieve. It is not okay if one young person in NSW is homeless.



**Nerida Ackerman**  
Co President



# Board Members



**Brett Paradise**  
Co President  
Twenty10  
Strawberry Hills



**Nerida Ackerman**  
Co President  
YP Space MNC  
West Kempsey



**Sonya Martindale-Vale**  
Treasurer  
Challenge Community Services  
Lismore



**Kellie Checkley**  
Secretary & Public Officer  
Project Youth  
Miranda



**Warren Welsh**  
The Burdekin Association  
Dee Why



**Claire Bloor**  
Marist Youth Care  
Seven Hills



**Astrid Gearin**  
Samaritans  
Broadmeadow



**Helen Backhouse**  
Southern Youth & Family Services  
Wollongong



**Jon Park**  
Yes Youth and Family Services  
Albury



**David Keegan**  
Settlement Services  
International  
Parramatta



**Alan Brennan**  
Pathfinders Ltd  
Armidale



# CEO's Report

## Michael Coffey



It is with mixed emotions that I present a report to the Members of Yfoundations for the year 2013-2014.

First of all, we acknowledge and lament the loss of services and workers exiting the youth homelessness sector, who for the last three decades have worked tirelessly in less than ideal funding and policy environment prior to the GSH reform. We have lost a few long standing Yfoundations members. Thank you for your efforts, and the difference you have made for many young people's lives in NSW.

The work of Yfoundations for the past year has been largely dominated by the "Going Home Staying Home" (GSH) reform, in particular regarding the challenges that arose from the commencement of the GSH procurement process in late 2013. While most of our work has been located in the "Safety and Security" and "Home and Place" foundations, we also did some work in the other three foundations, such as the 'Investing in Youth' employment conference, the 'pumpkins challenge' campaign for youth SHS in Sydney region with Pathfinders and the commencement of the Generation Yes project. We also worked on a joint project with FACS.

Last year I suggested that the GSH reforms could be as significant as the set up of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) in the 1980's. I am not so convinced now. While it appears that the adult SHS sector has gone through some significant changes, the major 'reform' of the youth Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) appears to be mainly around streamlining administrative arrangements (less contracts and more joined up approaches). Similar to the federal 'Road Home' reform, there has been very little progress and growth in the area of early intervention and not enough progress in getting the other mainstream Government agencies (eg Education, Juvenile Justice, Health) to coordinate their youth homelessness response with youth SHS. It is my view that early intervention was imagined in the GSH reform, primarily as preventing tenancy breakdown or staying at home. As you would all know, the pathways into homelessness for young people are much more complex. We also have greater aspirations for our young people than securing housing – housing is only a part of the response to youth homelessness. But we do need more housing. This is why we are very excited by the newly established My Foundations Youth Housing Company, which has been set up independently of Yfoundations. There also needs to be an expansion of youth housing stock across the sector including other youth housing providers.

Yet without a doubt, the current reforms will have a long lasting impact on how young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in NSW are supported in their pathway out of homelessness. We expect that the landscape of the youth homelessness sector in NSW will most likely look very different over the next few years. At this stage, we are still unsure exactly of any net losses or gains for services and beds dedicated for young people.

On a more positive note, as well as the establishment of My Foundations Youth Housing, we are encouraged that Minister Upton has heard the sector's calls to make sure no youth crisis beds were lost. We are also encouraged by the additional \$27million resources outside of the initial GSH reform as the Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP), provided by the Minister in the 11th hour for children under 16 years old to the youth SHS sector as a two stage procurement approach. This is something Yfoundations and the sector have been advocating for over two decades, most prominently while I have been the CEO.

Also I think that the Service Support Fund has actually enabled opportunities for some genuine innovation and is also a recognition of existing work that is being done by the youth sector in NSW. At the recent National Homelessness Conference in the Gold Coast, a visiting advocate for youth homelessness in



Canada, Dr Stephen Gaetz commented that the rest of the world looks to (and 'borrows from') Australia for innovation and great ideas in our response to youth homelessness. He is right, some great work is being done in Australia and it needs to be more respected and supported by the various Government Departments. Similarly, our colleagues in the United States, United Kingdom and Europe hold the youth SHS in Australia in high regard. We are all part of an international movement working toward ending youth homelessness.

Again, this year, we have worked in goodwill with both the Government and the sector to try to get the best outcomes for young people through this process. We have participated in the Sector Reference Group, GSH Working Groups, NSW Premier's Advisory Council on Homelessness. We made representations to the Minister. All our letters and documents are available on our website. We also arranged visits to individual services and organised presentations to individual management committees. We talked about the GSH reform at networking meetings, inter-agency forums and regular focused Yfoundations General Meetings, policy forums and webinars. We also communicated on this process through E-newsletters, Members Memos and online via our website and social media.

With regards to both the government and sector, we are only able to provide with information, advice or persuade - but we don't make the decisions – that is left up to the Government and management committees. Whilst often they have taken our advice, some decisions made by the Government and the sector have run contrary to our representations. Unfortunately during the procurement phase from November 2013, the peaks were left out of the process for 'probity reasons' so we didn't get a chance to input into the GSH documents or timeframes until after they had been released. When this happens again, we need to develop a way around navigating through such probity nightmares in order to facilitate appropriate and expert input. Being 'at the table' has been a difficult process at times, not without its challenges. Having said that, I think that by being 'at the table' we have successfully flagged the issues for young people and youth services into the GSH process. The work is not finished yet. We still remain concerned about unintended consequences of the reforms; the lack of transparency in costings; the accuracy of how services and support packages have been initially costed (particularly 24/7 and transitional housing support); how 'support' is understood by the Department (i.e it is not just tenancy support); lack of additional early intervention resources as well as transitional and affordable youth housing stock. Yfoundations believes that, in order to end youth homelessness or to do a genuine systemic reform of how the work of ending youth homelessness is done, more people than just representatives of the housing sector are needed at the table. Obviously in the youth space we need Child Protection, Schools, Out Of Home Care, Juvenile Justice, Vulnerable Teen services, Reconnect, and Family Support Services.

This year we have joined up projects with the other two peaks Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) and Homelessness NSW on the generic 'homelessness' advocacy in the GSH reform process and supported initiatives like the Industry Development Project and Workforce Development Project. As you would expect, Yfoundations has a separate and expert advocacy on issues particularly relevant to young people experiencing homelessness, as DVNSW has on



*Pumpkin Challenge - June 2014*  
PHOTO: Sophie Thievenaz



issues relevant to women and children escaping domestic violence who become homeless. In 2014 – 2015 we have a dedicated funded position to look after this work as part of the joined up project.

Some good news for Yfoundations is that, despite increased uncertainty about the future funding of peaks, we are still at the table advocating on behalf of young people for a more sophisticated, a deeper understanding and a better response to youth homelessness and the drivers of homelessness. We have a state, national and international respect and reputation. We continue our ongoing dialogue with the Government at local, state, and federal levels, with corporate leaders, with local services as well as members and increasingly with young people and other community activists.

Looking forward as part of our strategic plan we aim to be working more in the 'Health & Wellness', 'Connections' and 'Education & Employment' foundation areas towards developing our 'own' long term plan of reform for what needs to happen and be done to end youth homelessness in Australia. The first steps toward this will be inputting into the National Review into Housing and Homelessness, which the Federal Minister Andrews mentioned at the National Homelessness Conference in August and then into the White Paper on federation process next year. There are uncertain times ahead at the national level so we need to be prepared and organised in both our national and state 'ask'.

Finally, throughout all the GSH tension, the Yfoundations team has been busy all year assisting young people directly, strengthening the policy and governance agenda, delivering public events, consultations and supporting youth services. Colin Stokes, as the Acting Operations Manager and Chris Stone, our new Senior Policy Officer present a report on this work following my report here.

There has been great team cohesion, purpose and camaraderie thanks to Colin and senior staffers Marella and Rebecca whom have often taken on much more than their required duties. I have had to ask so much more from the Yfoundations staff during 2014 and they were up to this challenge. I continue to be proud of the dedication, innovation, initiative, flexibility and commitment that they have demonstrated throughout the year to ensure we stay on track with our work. Thanks so much to Colin, Silvia, Marella, Rebecca, Jessie, Jess, Sophie, Ben, Chris, Vanessa and also many thanks to our Youth Homelessness Matters Day volunteers Nikisha, Serena and Kevin, and to our 'Health and Wellness' intern Cameron.

I would like to thank you, our members, as well as our networks and partners. I thank especially our youth ambassadors Jesse Wilcox, Bianca Orsini and Ramona Marsters, our Board members and the Board member's services, for contributing to the work of Yfoundations in 2014. Yfoundations Board members,

in particular, have put in lots of extra hours attending GSH working groups and representing Yfoundations at meetings both local and statewide. Special thanks to Nerida and Brett for their leadership, counsel and strategic advice. At Yfoundations, we will continue our direct work and systemic advocacy to ensure that young people are best enabled by social structures where a young people's pathway out of homelessness sets them up to live thriving, independent and stable lives, with all their foundations in place.



*Investing In Youth Employment Conference  
September 2013*

PHOTO: Sophie Thievenaz





# Staff



**Michael Coffey**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Ben Corio**  
Generation YES  
Project Coordinator



**Jessica Fielding**  
Policy Officer



**Marella Gouvernet**  
Financial Administrator



**Jessie Halligan**  
Executive Assistant/  
Project Support Worker



**Silvia Ruggeri**  
Health Training Project Officer  
and Yconnect Coordinator  
(until September 2014)



**Chris Stone**  
Senior Policy Officer  
(from September 2014)



**Colin Stokes**  
Acting Programs  
Manager &  
Health Project  
Coordinator



**Sophie Thievenaz**  
Communications and  
Campaign Coordinator



**Vanessa Whittington**  
Policy Director  
(until June 2014)



**Rebecca Mullins**  
Chief Executive Officer - My  
Foundations Youth Housing



# Policy Report

## Chris Stone



Although I only came on-board in early September, it is clear that Yfoundations has undertaken significant policy and advocacy activities in the past year. The primary focus of these efforts has, of course, been supporting the sector through the Going Home Staying Home reform. Yfoundations has made significant efforts to present the concerns of young people and youth SHS services to government to ensure their expertise and perspectives are considered in the reform process. Some significant gains have been made and the work continues, as is outlined below.

In addition, there has been on-going and new work in a number of areas important to addressing youth homelessness. The under 16's model of care, affordable housing, changes to welfare, expanding the Geelong Project and Foyers, and further work on the five Foundations, have all been addressed as part of Yfoundations work in the past year, and are discussed in brief below.

### Going Home Staying Home

In the past two years the housing and homelessness sector has seen the most significant reforms since those made in response to the Burdekin Report in 1982. During this time, Yfoundations has been playing a key role in ensuring government listens to the concerns of young people and youth homelessness service providers, and attempting to guide the reform process to the best possible outcomes for homeless youths and the organisations that help them.

Yfoundations advocated for the preservation, and greater availability of, local, targeted youth specific SHS services by pointing out their key role in combatting youth homelessness. Yfoundations also met with members regularly, to facilitate information sharing between FACS and the youth SHS Sector regarding Tender assessments, feedback and appeal processes; transition arrangements and guidelines and sector employment and employee assistance. Yfoundations has continued to highlight the exceptional level of expertise within the youth homelessness sector workforce and the importance of ensuring this knowledge and expertise is preserved throughout the reform. We have advocated for a strong, well-resourced, well-supported workforce, in order to assure improved outcomes for young people.

In collaboration with other homelessness peak bodies, Yfoundations has worked together with Family and Community Services (FACS) to put in place arrangements to eliminate or mitigate potential negative outcomes from the reform. These include: a three month transition period to enable new service providers to become established and allow unsuccessful providers to transition clients, support funds for unsuccessful services, and funding to the homelessness peak bodies to support the sector in adapting to the reforms and evaluate the effects of the reforms on the sector and on homelessness.

Over the last year, Yfoundations has provided advice and information to FACS regarding the establishment of a new statewide information and referral system. The transition saw the termination of Yconnect (which was operated and managed by Yfoundations), and the establishment of a consolidated phone line Link2Home, which is operated and managed by FACS. Prior to the establishment of the hotline, Yfoundations assisted with the development of information forms and phone scripts specific to young callers. We are continuing to monitor the hotline and evaluate if it is meeting the needs of young callers.



## Under 16's model of care / Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP)

The issue of providing care to young people 16 years and under has been a persistent concern for over 30 years. Over the last year however, positive gains have been made. Through persistent efforts made by the Sector, the allocation of additional funds have been committed to the youth SHS sector to improve the capacity of services to provide adequate and appropriate care for those 16 years and under. Yfoundations facilitated dialogue between the youth SHS sector and FACS regarding the need for new service models to support those 16 and under as well as ways of better supporting existing services who are already working with under 16s. A review of the model is currently underway. In August 2014, FACS undertook a consultation with young people regarding their experiences within SHS and the support gaps within current service provision. Further consultations with the broader service sector are to follow.

## Affordable Housing

A submission was made by Yfoundations to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Social, Public and Affordable housing. It has influenced the recommendations of the inquiry; being referenced a number of times in the recently released report.

## Changes to Welfare

The Federal government has proposed changes to welfare, including Work for the Dole and Newstart eligibility changes. These have significant implications for young people and their chances of becoming homeless. Yfoundations continues to advocate for fair and appropriate welfare for young people.

## Expanding the Geelong Project / Foyer

Yfoundations has been working closely with other youth homelessness experts in Australia and internationally, and is currently exploring the potential to establish a new Prevention/Early intervention model of care in NSW. This new approach, which is modelled on an innovative place based community of schools project currently operating within Geelong Victoria, will be a significant shift in the provision of care afforded to young people. Similarly Yfoundations is also on the board of the Foyer Federation and is working actively to promote further expansion of purpose built and existing Foyers in NSW.

## Foundations

Yfoundations continues to build the evidence base supporting its five core foundations. On-going research ensures the foundations remain the most relevant to young people experiencing homelessness.



*Sydney Youth Housing Summit - July 2014*  
PHOTO: Joanne Jacovich



# Program Report

## Health Projects

Another challenging and activity filled year for the health team led to changes in the way Yfoundations is funded and improved connections with many of partner organisations and supporters.

After a significant evaluation and a re-write, the health team provided the Sticky Stuff sexual health training to 231 workers in Yass, Goulburn, Kempsey, Lismore, Wagga Wagga, St George, Hurstville, Blacktown, and twice in Sydney and Auburn.

We thank our members where they were able to help sponsor us into towns where we trained. Our evaluations indicate that the sexual health training is used by participants long after they return to their work and that they consider the interventions to be effective in improving sexual health outcomes for young people.

We also presented sexual health information workshops to 147 at risk young people across NSW. The health team love our time spent with young people. We rely on our relationships to provide the services we do, and the list seems to grow from year to year. There are too many supporters to name here, but they include local government, Medicare Locals, health workers, other NGOs and of course the many accommodation providers across NSW.

We are proud to have worked with the following organisations to develop policies, training, resources and activities:

Health NSW  
NSW Kids and Families  
STIPU  
Hepatitis NSW

Twenty10  
WAAT Team  
Sydney LHD  
South East Sydney LHD

LYACC  
AHMRC  
NSW Youth Health Council  
Health Complaints Advisory

Early in 2014, Yfoundations made a representation to the NSW Minister of Health, Jillian Skinner, in relation to our current funding arrangements and funds held from the collapse of NYAH, the youth health peak body in NSW. As a result, our Blood Borne Virus funding was transferred to statewide responsibility, making us more integrated with government services like HIV and Related Programs units as well as Sexually Transmitted Infection Programs Unit (STIPU).

We were also able to reconcile our activity to develop a new baseline for our activities, giving us a head start into the NGO Health Grants reforms, which are underway, and aiming to move to a tender based system by end of 2015. The Health Team will focus now on providing 30 occasions of worker training across the state annually and on supporting existing and emerging peer-to-peer sexual health programs.

We thank our previous BBV managers at Sydney LHD, especially Lyn Bearlin, and hope we continue our great relationship with Sydney while expanding our regional and rural work.

At the same time Yfoundations was successful in obtaining twelve months of funding to support the youth health sector, including the Youth Health Council, which is currently chaired by Colin Stokes. We will also be providing training to health workers developed with SESLHD to improve young people's access to friendly and effective health interventions.



*Health Training* PHOTO: Colin Stokes



This new funding is a very positive development in achieving a health team that works across the holistic issues outlined in our Health and Wellbeing foundation document.

We have also added to our holistic interventions by supporting and working with the Yhunger project, which seeks to improve nutrition and exercise in young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. While lost federal funding has meant a change in direction, we continue to work on this important project and hope to be able to offer the Yhunger packs and associated training in partnership with Sydney LHD in 2015.

Finally we say a fond farewell to Silvia Ruggeri, who left us at the end of the financial year. Silvia will be missed both as an integral part of the training and resource development team but also as one of the social drivers in the Yfoundations staff. Goodbye to a good trainer, a great cake maker and awesome colleague.

## Yconnect

As a result of the Going Home Staying Home reforms Yconnect, the phone and online referral service for young people seeking accommodation, has ceased operating. The service has been replaced by an integrated Statewide Information and Referral Service (SIRS) called Link2home. Link2home is a single, statewide telephone service for enquiries about homelessness in NSW. It brings together several homelessness telephone services including HPIC, the After Hours Temporary Accommodation (TA) line, and Yconnect.

The Yfoundations webpage will continue to provide contact information for NSW based youth support services including crisis and transitional accommodation, however it will no longer be updated with vacancy listings. Yfoundations will work with Link2Home staff to develop a guide for young people using this service to ensure they are best prepared to make use of this service. Yconnect was a vital core service for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and we hope to continue supporting these young people despite our reduced capacity.

## Events

### Investing in Youth Conference - Sept 2013

Yfoundations held our first 'Investing In Youth' Employment Conference on 19-20 September 2013. This national conference aimed to bring together business leaders, government decision-makers, and NGOs in order to discuss solutions and strategies to increase the employment of marginalised youth.

The conference explored the untapped potential of youth workforce development as an



*Youth Homelessness Matters Day - April 2015*

PHOTO: Platform Youth Services



investment for the future of Australian businesses and the economy, and brought together ideas from Australian key players in order to articulate a roadmap for prosperity through youth employment. The conference delivered relevant and innovative information on the strategies and industrial relations policies as well as practices that could help businesses harness the potential of young people. Mr David Gonski AC opened the conference where he raised a number of issues that he feels must be addressed if youth employment is to improve. He strongly believes that “youth [...] is our future, and their skills, wisdom and outlook have to be listened to, fostered and savoured.” Mr Gonski AC suggested that we need to redefine ‘success’ within our society, recognising that University is not the only pathway for young people to achieve success and that greater appreciation be placed on alternative pathways.



*Youth Homelessness Matters Day.* PHOTO: ST

Yfoundations took the decision to postpone the conference from July to September to allow additional time to properly market the event more directly to the social responsibility and community development concerns of business as well as to NGOs and educators who had an interest in linking young people at risk of homelessness to employment. 126 individuals attended the Investing In Youth Employment Conference. 76% of the attendees were from NSW and most of them were Senior Managers. 80% of the attendees were from Not-For-Profit organisations, 13% from Government Agencies, and 5% from the private sector. 88% of the attendees told us that their primary objective of attending the conference was met.

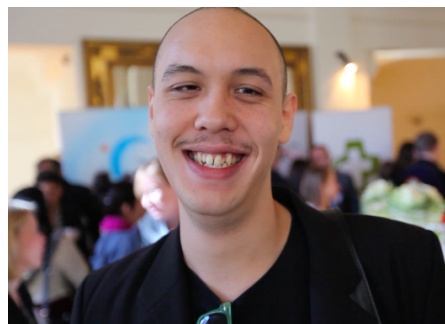
It was difficult to attract corporate participants to this event, as the competition in this space is considerable. In retrospect we tailored our marketing too much toward the corporate sector and did not attract enough from the community sector. As an example the comparatively expensive venue was chosen while we were strongly targeting the corporate sector and it was assumed that we needed this type of venue in order to attract them. When planning future conferences, we should consider a smaller and cheaper venue and focus on our community colleagues while targeting specific participants from other sectors.

International guest speaker Mr Robert Anderson from EUROFOUND gave us an overview of international innovations promoting youth employment in times of crisis, referring to the employment situation of young people in Europe. The Youth Panels facilitated by Dr Lucas Walsh from the Foundation for Young Australians and by Ms Jennifer Westacott from the Business Council of Australia were a big hit, with young people from different backgrounds sharing their experiences and expectations about employment and education.

All sessions over the two days were powerful and rewarding, opening discussion about corporate sector social responsibility, education to work pathways, social enterprise, youth training, demand led employment strategies, indigenous youth programs and much more.



*Youth Homelessness Matters Day*  
PHOTO: Sophie Thievenaz



*Youth Housing Summit*  
PHOTO: Joanne Jacovich



*Investing In Youth Employment Conference.* PHOTO: Sophie Thievenaz



## **PIMCO's Communications Training for young people - May 2014**

Yfoundations partnered with global investment company PIMCO to deliver a communications training to 20 young people aged 18-30. The training covered job interview tips, appropriate work attire, public speaking and media/PR skills. We deeply thank the PIMCO staff who ran this training as part of their PIMCO Foundation activities & The PIMCO Woman's Leadership Network.

## **Pumpkin Challenge - June 2014**

The young people of Pathfinders, a youth refuge of Armidale donated 500 pumpkins to young homeless Sydneysiders at The Salvation Army's Oasis Youth Support Network (Oasis) in Surry Hills. Yfoundations coordinated the distribution of pumpkins and organised a lunch held at Oasis to raise awareness about food security, health and wellness. We enjoyed pumpkin soup and the company of engaged, friendly and excited young people and supporters. The pumpkins were distributed across accommodation services and the remainder went to Second Bite for distribution to disadvantaged and at risk young people.

## **City to Surf and Blackmores Sydney Running Festival Fundraising events**

Yfoundations staff and supporters ran in the 2013 August City to Surf and 2013 September Blackmore Running Festival to raise awareness on youth homelessness and fundraise for Yfoundations. Big points to all concerned for modeling healthy behavior while raising some much needed funds for Yfoundations.

## **Communications and Campaigns**

### **Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) – April 2014**

YHMD is an annual nation-wide campaign aimed at bringing the issue of youth homelessness to the public arena while also providing a mechanism that allows the general public to get involved. In 2014, the campaign culminated in a national awareness day for youth homelessness in the middle of National Youth Week on April 9th. In NSW, while leading the national online campaign and 'Like, Share, Act' call to action, Yfoundations decided to focus on one of our 5 foundations: 'Home & Place' because we wanted to emphasize the importance of housing stability for children and young people. In the lead up to #YHMD2014, a writing and photo competition was organised asking young people what home meant to them. Thanks to all the great submissions received, we were able to demonstrate not only that homelessness does not include just those visible on the streets or 'sleeping rough' but also that a 'home' consists of more than just a roof. We could emphasize that family breakdown is the main cause of youth homelessness, that the majority of young people experiencing homelessness are not drug addicts or criminals and that none deserve to be homeless. Rather, young people experiencing homelessness generally do so for reasons beyond their control.



*PIMCO Communications Training - May 2014*  
PHOTO: Sophie Thievenaz



*Pumpkin Challenge (Alan Brennan-Pathfinder & Major Keith Hampton-Oasis Youth Support Network)*

PHOTO: Sophie Thievenaz

Specialist Homelessness Services, partners and supporters across NSW were asked to participate in the YHMD Home and Place campaign by engaging with their local communities through raising awareness about youth homelessness. We aimed to reach people connected (directly or indirectly) to young people, including youth associations, clubs, guides, scouts, TAFE, schools and colleges.

The YHMD launch was held at The Burdekin Association, where we heard from our ambassadors Jesse Wilcox, the winner of our competition, and Bee Orsini. Songstress Ramona Marsters also performed. The event attracted the attention of local papers and ABC radio. Yfoundations created and sent kits and online resources for those engaged in the campaign, including posters, fundraising boxes, training scripts, logos, banners etc. 64 organisations across NSW partnered with Yfoundations, engaged in the YHMD Home and place campaign and received Yfoundations kit and online resources. 70% of participants found the resources and kits provided by Yfoundations 'useful' or 'very useful'.

## New website

We have continued to build Yfoundations brand awareness and consistency in messaging to members and supporters through developing a new website. The website will be more youth-oriented and easier to navigate for Yfoundations target audience groups including:

- young people, individuals looking for help (for themselves or for relatives) and social workers;
- Yfoundations members, partners and the Government;
- students, researchers and journalists; and
- volunteers, supporters, donors.

Visitors will now be able to register online for trainings, download resources, access our latest reports and much more. Yfoundations members will have access to a VIP section with confidential information, forums on key issues and additional resources.

## Social Media

Yfoundations is now very well established on social media, including on Facebook and Twitter, which have become strategic communications channels for us.

We have gained 200 new likes of our Facebook page in a year (a 60% increase) and 500 new followers on Twitter (up 47%). We are also getting bigger and bigger on Instagram, now with 70 followers. This increased presence on social media was reached through our raising awareness online campaigns and online events. For example we had over 80 new likes on Facebook during YHMD home and place campaign.



*Youth Homelessness matters Day - Twenty10*

PHOTO: Marella Gouvernet





## Media

We have also increased our media reach, especially thanks to our three new main youth ambassadors Bianca Orsini, Jesse Wilcox and Ramona Marsters. Not only has Yfoundations been able to be prepared and responsive when media requests have arisen but also could generate media interest for events or campaigns through developing a solid media strategy and through building a strong network of journalists.

## Generation YES

Generation Yes is a Yfoundations youth participation project funded by Communities NSW. Since February, we have been partnering with youth organisations of all kinds from across Sydney to deliver workshops on community action. Generation Yes up-skills young people in leadership, communication, teamwork and project management. We work together with young people to identify an issue that impacts on their community and design a youth led project that addresses it. Generation Yes has partnered with a diverse selection of youth service organizations such as Twenty10, Street University,



*Blackmores Running Festival - Sept 2014*  
PHOTO: Sophie Thievenaz

Save The Children Australia, and Bankstown City Council. We will continue to create new partnerships and strengthen existing ones as the project continues.

Looking forward, Generation Yes will be taking our workshops to regional NSW. A key feature of this undertaking will be the engagement of young people who have already participated as peer educators for young people in regional workshops.

Generation Yes is a practical application of Yfoundations commitment to our foundations; Home & Place, Connection, Health & Wellness, Safety & Stability and Education & Employment.

## Yfutures

In December 2013, Yfoundations celebrated the success of the Yfutures mentoring program. Yfutures was pioneered by a partnership between St George Community Housing (SGCH) and Yfoundations. The project was funded through the Local Solutions Fund (LSF), part of Better Futures, Local Solutions - the Australia Government's initiative to empower communities to increase social and economic participation.

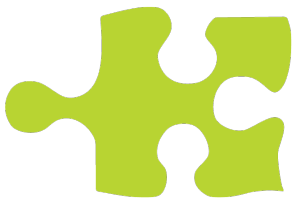
The 12 month project aimed to reduce youth homelessness in the Bankstown LGA by giving at-risk young people the chance to work with mentors to further their education and help them find employment. Yfoundations had been involved in the project by providing communications and social media support.



*Generation YES Workshop -*  
PHOTO: Ben Corio



*Yfutures Graduation Ceremony - Dec 2013*  
PHOTO: Sophie Thievenaz



# 2013-2014 Members & Supporters

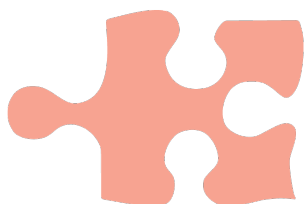
## 2013-2014 Yfoundations Members

Ballina District Community Services Association  
Blacktown City Council  
Bondi Youth Accommodation  
Broken Hill Youth Accommodation  
Byron Bay Youth House Inc  
Cabramatta Youth Team  
Caretakers Cottage  
CatholicCare Social Services (Newcastle)  
Coast Shelter  
Community Programs Inc  
Community Youth Development Project  
Compass Housing  
Doorways- Unting Care Burnside (Dubbo)  
Emerge Youth and Family Services  
Gordon House (Burnside)  
Grandview Lodge  
High St Youth  
Jetty Bunker Youth Service Inc.  
Launchpad Erskinville  
Leith House  
Lighthouse Community Care (My Place)  
Lithgow Youth Work  
Liverpool Youth Refuge  
Lotus House  
Liverpool Youth Accommodation Assistance Company  
Mackillop Family Services  
Marist Youth Care  
Medley Community  
Mission Australia - NSW State Office  
Monaro Crisis Accommodation Service  
Moree Family Support Incorporated  
Moruya Youth Refuge  
Neami Limited  
Newcastle Youth Accommodation Services  
Nick Kearns House  
Northern Rivers Young Womens Accommodation Project  
Northern Rivers Social Development Council  
Northern Sydney Youth Support Service  
NSW Federation of Housing Associations Inc.  
Oasis Youth Support Network  
Parramatta Mission  
Pathfinders  
Phoenix House Youth Services  
Platform Youth Services  
Port Stephens Youth Options Project

Project Youth  
Reconnect - Bellingen/Nambucca  
Red Cross Young Parents Program  
Relationships Australia  
Samaritans (Back on Trac) Cessnock  
Samaritans Foundations Wyong  
Settlement Services International  
Shoalhaven Youth Accommodation  
South Sydney Youth Services  
Southern Riverina Youth Support Service  
Southern Sydney Youth Refuge  
Southern Youth & Family Services  
St George Accommodation for Youth Ltd  
St George Youth Services  
St Josephs Youth Service  
St Laurence House  
St Saviours o- Youth  
Stepping Stones  
Stretch a Family Inc.  
Taldumande Youth Services  
Ted Noffs Foundations  
The Burdekin Association Inc.  
The Crossing  
Turning Point, The  
Twenty10 Gay & Lesbian Youth Support  
Veritas House Inc. (Bathurst)  
Vinnies Reconnect  
Vinnies Youth Housing  
Western Housing for Youth  
YES Youth & Family Services  
Young People's Refuge  
Youth Connections North Coast Incorporated  
Youth Off the Streets (Merrylands)  
YP Space

## Yfoundations Supporters

Com Management  
City of Sydney  
Grill'd  
ING DIRECT  
Inner City Youth at Risk Project  
NESA  
Partnership Brokers  
SHS Learning & Development Community Services  
St George Community Housing  
University of Technology  
Youth Connections North Coast



# Treasurer's Report

## Sonya Martindale-Vale



Dear Members,

I am pleased to present the Treasurers report for the year 2013-2014.

While the current financial position and reserves of Yfoundations continues to be strong at the end of June 2014, for the first time in a number of years, Yfoundations is in deficit for this financial year.

The "Investing in Youth" Employment conference was a huge policy and profile success and has brought new opportunities for Yfoundations. Unfortunately we did not break even on the shortfall of expected sponsorship revenue and costs for the conference, this accounts for most of the deficit.

With the high demands of GSH process on Yfoundations, the Board also decided to direct some of the provisions in reserve to increase our 'policy' capacity to meet this demand, to fund the fixed term Director of Policy position.

Elsewhere this year we attracted additional funding for GSH Industry Partnership, Generation Yes and in a custodial role to establish the independent My Foundations Youth Housing company. My Foundations is now established as a separate entity with a separate board.

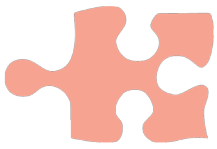
In this financial year, all projects and grants were fully expended, all legal accruals and entitlements provided for.

We are currently at the beginning of a new 5 year strategic planning cycle. While the future still looks viable we are looking to develop plans to diversify our income to ensure a longer term viability and growth in our capacity to build on the important work we do for young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

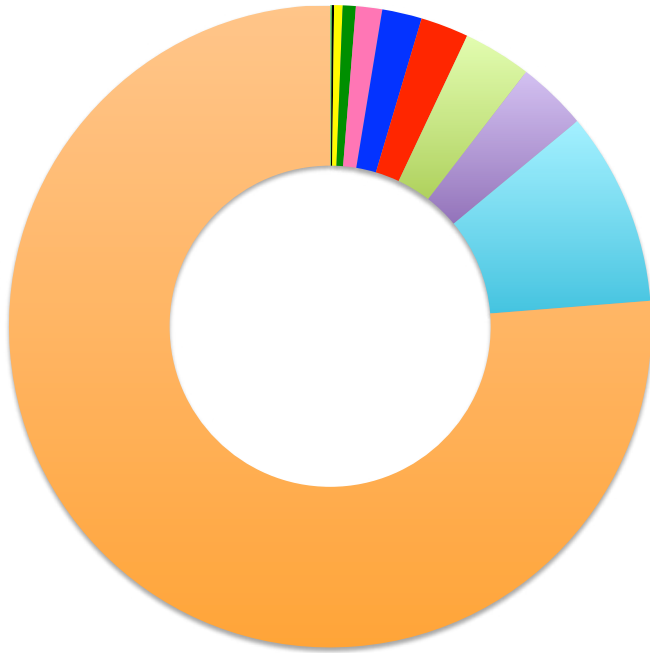
I would to thank Marella and Michael for all their hard work, creativity and responsiveness to ensure that Yfoundations is fiscally stable and sustainable.

Kind regards,

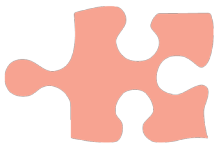
Sonia Martindale-Vale



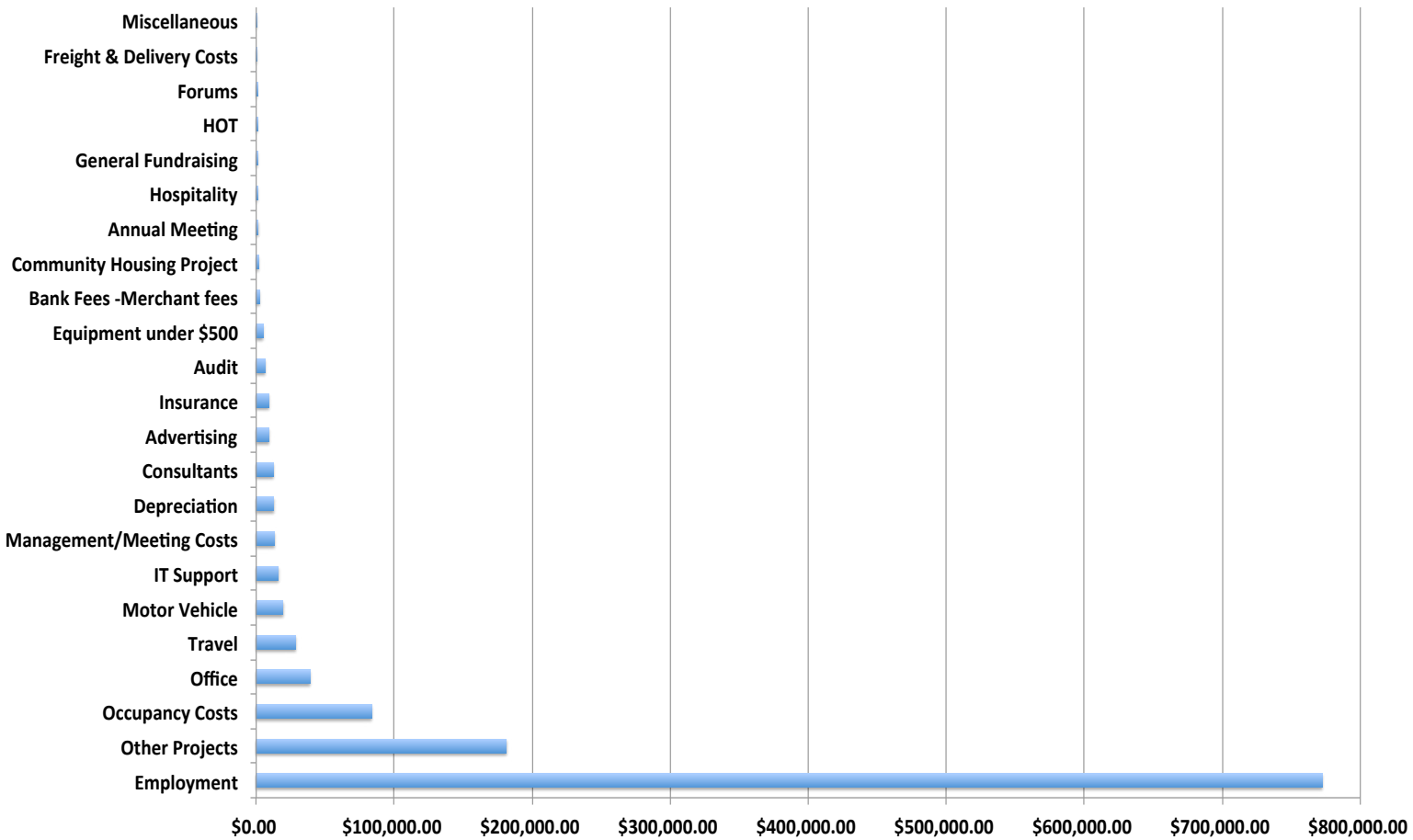
# Income

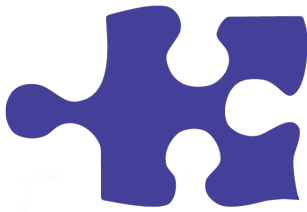


- Royalties Received
- Training Registration
- YHMD Donations
- Management Income on Projects
- Other Income
- Membership Fees
- Generation Yes
- Sexual Health Week Funds
- Conference Income
- Interest Income
- Income from Reserves
- Core Funding Grants



# Expenses





# Auditor's Report

## Stephen A. Sproats

STEPHEN A. SPROATS



ACCOUNTANT

Unit 23, Dural Business Park  
288 New Line Road, Dural  
Mall: PO Box 95 Round Corner NSW 2158

Telephone: 02 9651 3685  
Facsimile: 02 9651 4971  
Mobile: 0416 215 377

### 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 Financial Position as at 30 June 2014, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Comprehensive Income and Cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, notes comprising 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 a financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporations Act 2009 and for such internal control as the executive determine is necessary to enable the presentation of the financial report that is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### 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 of the financial report that gives a true & fair view 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 the executive, 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

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 & Corporations Act 2001

#### Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report Y Foundations Inc is in accordance with the Incorporated Associations Act Associations Incorporation Act 2009 , including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the associations financial position as at 30 June 2014 and of its performance for the year then ended on that date: and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards(including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

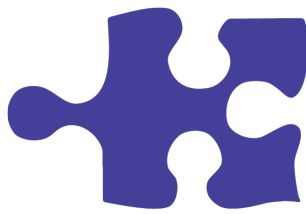
Stephen A Sproats

Dural

Chartered Accountant

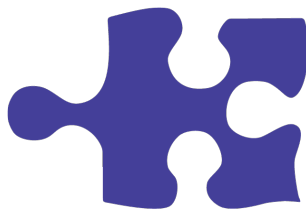
Registered Company Auditor 3932

September 2014



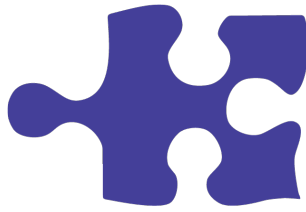
**Y FOUNDATIONS INC**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2014**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<u>\$748,800</u>	<u>\$834,272</u>
Represented by:-		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash on Hand	305	505
Cash at Bank	49,948	229,277
Debtors	112,516	63,575
Term Deposit	931,457	908,027
Prepayments	380	54,935
Shares – Community Bank	20,000	20,000
Money on Deposit	<u>62,807</u>	<u>339,906</u>
	<u>1,177,413</u>	<u>1,616,225</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Plant & Equipment – at cost	275,407	269,912
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(248,381)</u>	<u>(235,553)</u>
	<u>27,026</u>	<u>34,359</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	1,204,439	1,650,584
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	68,535	71,173
Provision for Projects	166,500	276,500
Grants & Funds in Advance	99,221	365,612
Provision for Employee Costs	<u>121,383</u>	<u>103,027</u>
	<u>455,639</u>	<u>816,312</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$748,800</u>	<u>\$834,272</u>



**Y FOUNDATIONS INC  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

<b>Balance at 30 June 2012</b>	851,002
Net Surplus(deficit)	(16,730)
Other comprehensive income	=
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>(16,730)</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2013</b>	<u>834,272</u>
Net Surplus(deficit)	(85,472)
Other comprehensive income	=
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>(85,472)</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>	<u>\$748,800</u>



**Y FOUNDATIONS INC  
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Receipts from Customers	1,023,843	936,765
Payments to suppliers and employees	<u>1,451,546</u>	<u>693,800</u>
<b>Net Cash inflow(out) from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(427,703)</b>	<b>242,965</b>
 <b>Net Cash flow from investing</b>		
Equipment Purchases	(5,495)	(20,599)
 Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held	(433,198)	222,366
Cash at beginning of year	<u>1,477,715</u>	<u>1,255,349</u>
<b>Cash at End of Financial Year</b>	<b><u>\$1,044,517</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,477,715</u></b>

**Reconciliation of Operating Profit after tax to Net Cash**

**Inflow from Operations**

Operating Profit After Income Tax	(85,472)	(16,730)
Depreciation	12,828	25,000
(Increase)Decrease - Debtors	(48,941)	(7,592)
- Prepayments	54,555	(13,861)
(Decrease)Increase – Creditors	(2,638)	46,629
- Provision for Projects	(110,000)	(39,000)
- Grants in Advance	(266,391)	283,492
- Employee Costs	<u>18,356</u>	<u>(34,973)</u>
	<b><u>\$(427,703)</u></b>	<b><u>\$242,965</u></b>

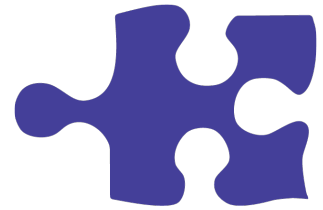


**Y FOUNDATIONS INC**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**



	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>REVENUE &amp; OTHER INCOME</b>		
Grants Received	881,715	762,787
Interest	39,649	45,458
Membership	14,850	19,827
Conference	38,717	-
Provision for Projects	110,000	39,000
Sexual Health Week	27,211	76,829
Sundry Revenue	<u>21,701</u>	<u>31,864</u>
	<u>1,133,843</u>	<u>975,765</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Accounting	0	7,721
Advertising	9,488	2,048
Audit Fees	6,350	5,975
Bank Charges	2,339	2,387
Conference	90,461	-
Consultant	12,518	31,000
Depreciation	12,828	25,000
Equipment	5,148	4,747
FBT	7,889	10,866
Governance	9,000	5,711
IT Support	16,000	16,392
Insurance	10,428	23,508
Legal	-	156
Materials & Resources	70,523	30,451
Management Costs	4,445	2,174
Motor Vehicle	19,360	9,479
Printing, Postage & Stationery	18,116	20,503
Provisions for Employee Costs	17,979	(34,973)
Repairs & Maintenance	414	6,269
Rent & Electricity	78,438	86,591
Sexual Health Week	18,394	76,603
Subscription	4,075	6,130
Sundry	14,581	11,592
Superannuation	57,087	46,033
Telephone	16,867	22,173
Training	6,952	4,791
Travel	28,501	29,771
Wages	676,916	536,018
Workshop	<u>4,218</u>	<u>3,839</u>
	<u>1,219,315</u>	<u>992,495</u>
<b>NETSURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>\$ (85,472)</u>	<u>\$(16,730)</u>
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR</b>	<u>\$ (85,472)</u>	<u>\$(16,730)</u>

**Y FOUNDATIONS INC**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**



**1. Corporate Information**

Y Foundations Inc (formerly Youth Accommodation Association (NSW) Inc) operates under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (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 Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW), Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB & Urgent issues group interpretations. 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. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

**(b) Significant accounting judgments, estimates & assumptions.**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates & assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income & expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making judgments. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates & underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current & future periods.

**(c) Revenue Recognition**

Revenue is recognised when the association is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and is net of GST.

**(d) Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category

**(e) Cash**

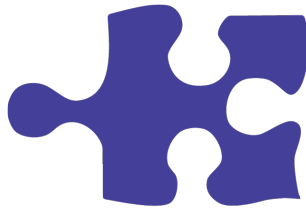
Cash & Cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at bank and in hand and in short term deposits are stated at their nominal value

**(f) Trade Debtors**

Trade Debtors are stated at original invoice amount less any Provision for doubtful debts where applicable. Normal trading terms are 7 to 30 days

**(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 when services are performed or conditions fulfilled

**3. Contingent Liabilities** \$Nil

**4. Capital Expenditure Commitments** \$Nil

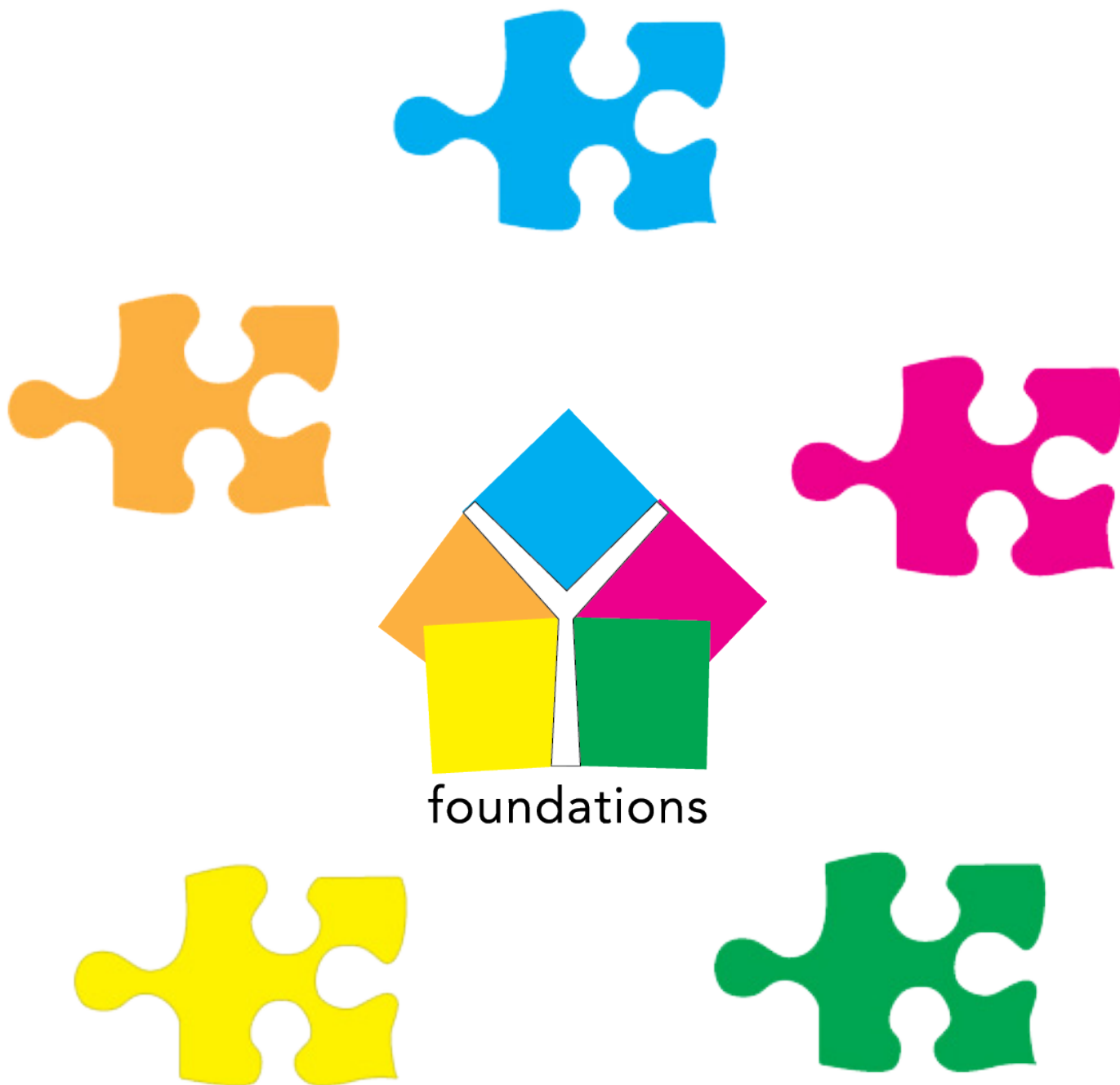
**5. Income Tax**

The Association is registered under the Charitable Collection Act, 1934, as amended, and is exempt from income tax.

**6. Activities**

The accounts include the following projects:

Operations Account, Policy, YEAL, HOT, Sexual Health Week Housing conference. These operate solely within NSW.



*Yfoundations is creating a future without youth homelessness*

By providing a leading voice for young people at risk of and experiencing homelessness and by bringing together a network of member services we work to prevent, identify and intervene in the lives of young people who need support, foundations and hope.

[www.yfoundations.org.au](http://www.yfoundations.org.au)



yfoundations



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