



The Youthlaw Policy and Advocacy Action Plan 2009-10

Vision

Positive decision making, policy and law reform processes informed by young people's voices and experiences of the law.

Overall goal

Develop and promote a youth engagement and participation model whereby young people, particularly from marginalised groups, are;

- meaningfully involved in all levels of advocacy, policy development and law reform,
- empowered to influence law and justice policies that affect their lives, and
- partnered with youth, justice and human rights sector workers, to affect change.

Objective 1 Provide a structured and supportive environment for young people to come together to provide advice, and collaborate on law, criminal justice and human rights issues that affect them and influence policy and legislative developments.

How the plan hopes to achieve this

- recruit Youth law Consultants to help develop strategies to secure young people's sustained involvement and engagement in policy processes.
- provide training guidance and support to enable Consultants and other young people to implement the strategies.

Objective 2 Empower young people from marginalised and disadvantaged communities to voice law & justice issues that affect them & influence policies & practices

How the plan hopes to achieve this

- Oversee activities of the REAL RIGHTS (rights, education advocacy and the law) involving engagement of young people in youth-led rights monitoring and advocacy activities in areas of key interest.
- Wherever appropriate recruit REAL RIGHTS participants as Youth law Consultants.

Objective 3 Engage with and support young people living in Victorian outer urban and rural and regional areas to address legal issues that affect them.

How the plan hopes to achieve this

- Build on pre-existing networks in targeted outer urban and rural areas
- Undertake training, policy and advocacy activities with groups of young people from outer urban and rural areas in Victoria.

Objective 4 Engage a broad range of communities of interested young people, regularly and efficiently, in policy debate on legal issues that affect them via internet and new medias.

How the plan hopes to achieve this

- Consult with the Youth law consultants about best ways of to engaging young people, especially using ICT
- This will necessitate upgrading and maintaining Youthlaw website to profile young people human rights issues, related advocacy and law reform projects and ways of getting involved
- Engage communities of young people in activities and policy development via on-line surveys, opinion polls, blogs, e-forums, social technology networking such as MySpace and Facebook, and other ICTs and new medias recommended by Consultants.

Objective 5 Workers in sector, interested in youth legal justice policy and advocacy, to share issues, provide support and advice to young people on policy development and foster advocacy opportunities with them.

How the plan hopes to achieve this

- Youth Law Advocacy and Policy Resource Network (YLAAPRN) to be set up with network members to:
 - promote cross-sector exchange of legal issues and ideas,
 - identify and link young people into the program
 - provide strategic advice, training, mentoring support and other advocacy opportunities to young people.
 - profile program issues and law reform ideas through networks and various policy processes

Objective 6 Youthlaw and the youth, legal and human rights sectors to ensure that young people's issues and experiences are profiled and communicated into the public, political and justice policy processes.

How the plan hopes to achieve this

- Youthlaw to develop a policy platform premised on issues emerging from client casework, Youth law Consultants, rights monitoring activities, surveys, focus groups with young people, stakeholder forums etc
- Youthlaw to initiate and support policy development and law reform through agenda setting with youth coalitions, committees, lobbying of ministers and departments, and contributions to conferences, journals and media comment.
- Work in partnership with key stakeholders in Youth Law Advocacy and Policy Resource Network to develop opportunities for advocacy in policy platform and law reform agenda.

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- meaningfully involved in all levels of advocacy, policy development and law reform and
- empowered to influence law and justice policies that affect their lives, and
- partnered with youth, justice and human rights sector workers to affect change.

Objective	How the plan hopes to achieve this	Outcome	Timeline
<p>1</p> <p>Provide a supportive environment for young people to come together to provide advice and collaborate on law, criminal justice and human rights issues that affect them and influence policy and legislative developments.</p>	<p>1.1 Establish and resource Youth law Consultants comprised of young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to plan strategies to secure young people's sustained involvement and engagement in policy processes. <p>1.2 Provide training guidance and support to help Consultants develop their skills, become role models and support their peers in other rights monitoring and advocacy activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer members free training (eg advocacy and media training) and cover their meeting expenses - Foster mentoring relationships between Committee and members on the Policy Reference Group (see 5). <p>1.3 Youth law Consultants to lead and/or contribute to policy submissions and advocacy activities</p>	<p>1.1.1 Volunteers recruited from Youthlaw's volunteer database, VEOHRC Youth Ambassadors, YaCVIC YRG and other relevant networks.</p> <p>1.1.2 Meetings every 4 weeks</p> <p>1.2.1 Conduct training needs assessment of Consultants and provide or link into relevant training.</p> <p>1.2.2 Placement in reference group members organisation, inclusion in organisations own advocacy or assistance with advocacy and policy development through Youthlaw.</p> <p>1.3.1 Contribute to at least 4 policy submissions and advocacy activities. (per year)</p>	<p>Commence December 2008</p> <p>Meetings Dec – March 09</p> <p>Within 6 months of young person joining committee</p> <p>begin Feb 2009 and review every 6 months July 2010</p> <p>March 09 to September 2010</p>

<p>2</p> <p>Empower young people from marginalised and disadvantaged communities to take a lead in law and justice issues that affect them and influence policies and practices.</p>	<p>2.1 Oversee activities of the REAL RIGHTS (rights, education advocacy and the law) project involving engagement of young people in youth-led rights monitoring and advocacy activities. Project officer working directly with young people from various backgrounds from marginalised communities, educating them about their rights and empowering them to influence policy and practices that affect them.</p> <p>2.2 Wherever appropriate recruit REAL RIGHTS participants as youth law consultants</p>	<p>2.1.1 REAL Rights Activity Reports to be produced and distributed to relevant stakeholders, and wherever possible inform Youthlaw policy and law reform work.</p> <p>2.2.1 Recruit new Youth law Consultants from participants of REAL.</p>	<p>Ongoing between December 2008 and July 2009</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Engage with and support young people living in Victorian outer urban and rural and regional areas to address legal issues that affect them.</p>	<p>3.1 Strengthen pre-existing links with various Victoria rural and regional youth networks established by YACVic, YRIPP, FLCs and others</p> <p>3.2 Undertake at least 6 training, policy or advocacy activities with groups of young people from at least 4 outer urban and rural areas in Victoria</p>	<p>3.1.1 Met with networks and scoped their issues</p> <p>3.1.2 Outer urban and regional Activities Report produced and distributed to relevant stakeholders, and wherever possible inform Youthlaw policy and law reform work.</p>	<p>3 report in 2009 3 report 2010</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Engage a broad range of communities of interested young people, regularly and efficiently, in policy debate on legal issues that affect them via internet and new medias.</p>	<p>4.1 Youth law Consultants to develop strategies (ICT & other) to secure young people's sustained involvement and engagement in policy processes.</p> <p>4.1 Upgrade and maintain Youthlaw website to profile and raise awareness about young people human rights issues, related advocacy and law reform projects and ways of getting involved and taking action</p> <p>4.2 Engage communities of young people in activities and policy development via creative media techniques and web –based applications as recommended by Youthlaw Consultants.</p>	<p>4.1.1 Youthlaw consultants finalise ICT engagement plan</p> <p>4.1.2 Youthlaw's updated website to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interactive mechanisms such as Facebook. - a number of policy e forums for young people. - advocacy and policy outcomes to be posted on website. - policy surveys 	<p>March 2009</p> <p>Initial review and update of website by Dec 2008</p> <p>Website further updated each 6 months and reviewed annually</p>

<p>5</p> <p>Workers in sector, expert in youth legal & justice policy and advocacy, to provide support and advice to young people on policy development and foster advocacy opportunities with them.</p>	<p>5.1 Establish a Youth Law Advocacy and Policy Resource Network (YLAAPRN) comprising key stakeholders in the youth policy & advocacy fields including academics and child rights NGOs.</p> <p>5.2 Youth Law Advocacy and Policy Resource Network (YLAAPRN) to be set up with network members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote cross-sector exchange of legal issues • identify and link young people into the program • provide strategic advice, training, mentoring support & advocacy opportunities to young people. • profile program issues and law reform ideas through networks and various policy processes <p>5.3 Work in partnership with key stakeholders in Resource Network members to develop opportunities for advocacy in policy platform & law reform agenda.</p>	<p>5.1.1 Network to be formed and at least 10 activities (i.e. e bulletins/updates, forums, meetings etc)</p> <p>5.2.1 Network members to sign up interest to be involved in network and in what ways.</p> <p>5.2.2 Network members give strategic advice, training, mentor support to 3 youth advocates (per year).</p> <p>5.3.1 The Resource Network - identification of 3 policy & advocacy projects through their networks.</p>	<p>December 2008 - Sept 2010</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Youthlaw and the youth, legal and human rights sectors to ensure that young people's issues and experiences are profiled and communicated into the public, political and justice policy processes.</p>	<p>6.1 Youthlaw to develop a policy platform premised on issues emerging from client casework, Youth law Consultants, rights monitoring activities, surveys, focus groups with young people, stakeholder forums</p> <p>6.2 Youthlaw to initiate and support policy development and law reform through proactive agenda setting with youth coalitions, committees, lobbying of ministers and departments, and contributions to conferences, journals and media comment.</p> <p>6.3 Monitor policy announcements & respond to government inquiries regularly via submissions, incorporating young people's input and experiences.</p> <p>6.4 Consult with stakeholder legal, community and youth organisations in policy forum & initiate community forums with stakeholders.</p>	<p>6.1.1 Conduct bi-monthly strategic casework review meetings</p> <p>6.1.2 Produce 6 monthly update reports</p> <p>6.2.2 Policy platform report produced.</p> <p>6.2.1 Attend 4 government committee meetings p/y</p> <p>6.2.2 Contribute 4 articles to journals & newsletters</p> <p>6.2.3 Attend and present at at least 2 relevant conferences and forums</p> <p>6.3.1 Complete at least 4 submissions annually</p> <p>6.4.1 Hold 2 policy forums (monitoring graffiti laws – Mar 2009) per year on key issues identified by youth and produce and circulate report on findings.</p>	<p>Oct 2008- Oct 2010</p> <p>Mar & Sept 2009 Mar & Sept 2010</p> <p>Sept 2009 & Sept 2010 Ongoing</p> <p>As required</p> <p>By September 2010</p>