



## **Australia's first comprehensive youth sector resource**

The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies (ACYS) has launched its new website, with integrated information system and state-of-the-art website navigation design. There are close to 50 topics on youth-related issues such as: mental health; care and protection; crime and justice; drugs and alcohol; participation and social inclusion. See <http://www.acys.info/>

## **What works with adolescents?**

What works with adolescents? Family connections and involvement in interventions for adolescent problem behaviours, by Elly Robinson, Lyndal Power & David Allan. Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse, AIFS Briefing paper  
See [www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing16.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/briefing16.html)

## **Not earning or learning**

Teenagers should be 'learning or earning' according to the Government's mantra. But 16% of 15- to 19-year-olds are not in full-time work or at school, according to a new report. Despite good economic times, our youth unemployment remains high and the Year 12 retention rate is low.  
Download audio: [www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2010/3073415.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2010/3073415.htm)

## **Keeping teen mothers in education**

When a teenage girl gets pregnant, it usually means the end of her education and a fast-track to disadvantage. But it needn't be like this. With the right support at school and in the community, girls can continue with their education and greatly improve their prospects. The Association of Women Educators held a symposium on teenagers, pregnancy and education.  
See [www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2010/2774300.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2010/2774300.htm)

## Safe Schools Victoria

In the first Initiative of its kind in Australia, the Victorian Government has provided \$80,000 to Safe Schools Coalition Victoria (SSCV), a partnership between Rainbow Network Victoria and the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA).

Safe Schools Victoria aims that all schools in the state will be places where same sex Attracted and gender questioning young people are supported, where every family Can belong , where every teacher can teach and every student learn.

See <http://safeschoolscoalitionvictoria.org.au/>

## Tune In Not Out – Website

TINO was launched in it's current format in 2010, and provides 24-hour TV for life's Challenges, covering topics from relationships and sex to alcohol, anxiety and health Using video's, clips and blogs.

See <http://www.tuneinnotout.com/>

## Helping the Carers'

'Helping the carers' was the title of a 7.30 Report story about a trial tutoring program Run by Anglicare in partnership with the University of Western Sydney; tutors help Young carers who are looking after family members and may be falling behind or Lacking motivation with their learning.

See <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2010/s3031354.htm>

## First 'sexting' conviction involving naked 13-year-old

A 20-year-old from Sydney's western suburbs is at the centre of Australia's first "sexting" case, after a schoolgirl sent a nude photo of herself to his mobile phone.

<http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/prosecutor-pursues-first-sexting-conviction-in-case-involving-naked-13yearold-20101031-178xv.html>

## How social media plays its part in suicide prevention

Suicide is on the rise among teenagers - and many are choosing mobile phones and social networking sites to alert friends and family to their plans, presenting mental health with new challenges.

See <http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/social-media-and-mobiles-require-new-response-to-teen-cries-for-help-20101028-175uc.html>

## Evaluating Programs

This Resource Sheet is aimed at providing program practitioners and providers with a range of resources relating to conducting program or practice evaluation.

See <http://www.aifs.gov.au/cafca/pubs/sheets/rs/rs1.pdf>



## Time to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage

The release of Closing the Gap - Prime Minister's Report 2011 marks the passage of three years since these promises were first made. Since then the government has committed \$8.2 billion in Indigenous-specific National Partnership Agreements. But while the beautifully produced, glossy report is full of facts and numbers about how many services have been delivered and how many dollars have been spent, information on outcomes is in short supply. ***Of particular importance is Target: Halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 attainment (or equivalent) by 2020.***

Summary <http://www.apo.org.au/commentary/time-close-data-gap-indigenous-disadvantage>  
Full Report [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/closing\\_the\\_gap/2011\\_ctg\\_pm\\_report/Documents/2011\\_ctg\\_pm\\_report.pdf](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/closing_the_gap/2011_ctg_pm_report/Documents/2011_ctg_pm_report.pdf)

## Marginalised Students Website

Brisbane Catholic Education have established a website for people supporting and assisting marginalised young people engaging in education. The website resources for teachers, parents and students and covers a range of issues that can impact on a young persons' access to education. This includes issues like alcohol and other drug use issues, bullying, and mental health concerns to name a few.

See <http://www.studenthelp.bne.catholic.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx>

## Support for Regional Students

Rural and regional students across the nation can now apply for additional assistance to attend university under the \$20 million Rural Tertiary Hardship Fund, Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans said today. Calling for applications for the Fund, Minister Evans said the Government initiative offered additional support to the nation's most disadvantaged rural and regional students.

See <http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Programs/Funding/RTHF/Pages/default.aspx>

## New NCVER data on young people in education and training

In January, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) released the statistical report *Young people in education and training 2009*.

See <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2339.html>

## CREATE - Learn or Earn

CREATE Foundation have developed a Discussion Paper - *Learn or Earn: Implications for young people in-care and post-care*.

See <http://www.create.org.au/news-and-events/learn-or-earn-factsheet>

## Successful transition program for young people in care

In Tasmania the CREATE Foundation has recently started running the 'Create your future' program for young people aged 15 or over who are transitioning from care. Tasmania and the ACT are the only state and territory to run this CREATE practical eight-week program that teaches young people the basics they need to know when leaving care and becoming independent.

See <http://www.createyourfuture.org.au/>

## Put this on the map

There is an exciting new film and education project in the United States. It is driven by a group of young people "fed up with a lack of queer visibility". Re-teaching gender & sexuality. See <http://vimeo.com/14017398> & <http://www.putthisonthemap.org/>

## Department of Education & Training QLD - Natural Disaster Resources

In response to the series of natural disasters QLD has experienced this year, DET are providing a range of resources to support students, staff and parents via their website.

DET are currently liaising with national experts such as Associate Professor Brett McDermott, who has been tasked by the Queensland Government to plan and deliver the Queensland child and youth disaster response, Dr Rob Gordon, a clinical psychologist with many years experience in advising the Red Cross and governments on disaster related matters, and leading child and adolescent psychologist, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg.

See <http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/floods/index.html>

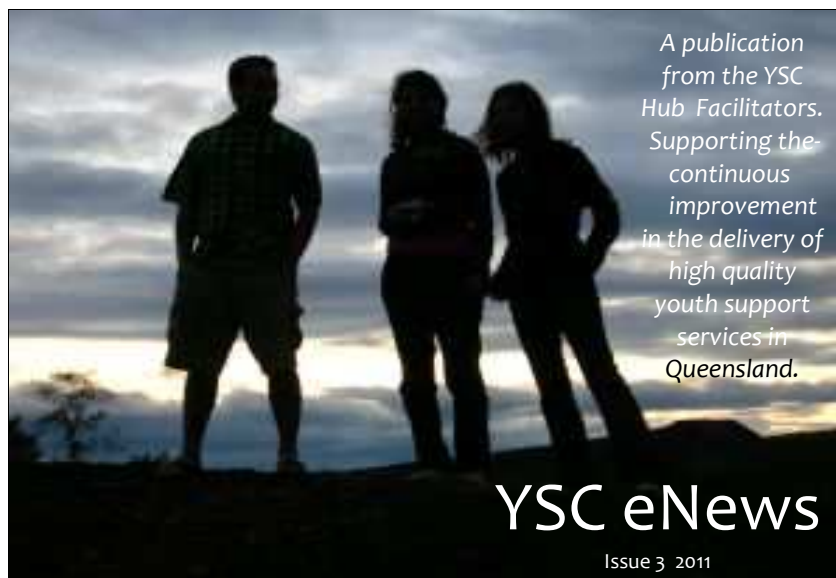
## Just 4 Parents website

As part of a collaborative community project in 2010, the YSCs from Integrated Family & Youth Services, United Synergies & Community Solutions all Sunshine Coast based YSC Services developed a website aimed at parents to assist with information for disengaging young people.

The website addresses the needs of the families by empowering young people, parents and the wider community to access information relating to the issue of early disengagement from education. The three areas focused on were

- My child is thinking of leaving school
- My child refuses to go to school
- My child has left school
- 

See <http://www.just4parents.com.au/>



## New My School Data released

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and School Education Minister Peter Garrett today said the My School 2.0 website will take the new era of greater transparency and accountability further for every school in the country. For the first time, My School 2.0 will provide information about school finances and changes in student performance over time.

The key improvements to the My School 2.0 website include:

- data about growth in student achievement
- data about school finances
- a more accurate method of calculating the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)
- new graphical methods of displaying NAPLAN data
- security features to ensure that data is used appropriately.

See <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

## Minister urges caution with new My School data

**Media Release - The Honourable Cameron Dick Education and Industrial Relations**  
Friday, March 04, 2011 See <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=73824>

## We're creating a segregated school system

An opinion piece published recently asserts that rather than fostering excellence in education, the current school funding model channels energy into the construction of barriers separating different types of students and creating different levels of access and opportunity.

See <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/were-creating-a-segregated-school-system-20110303-1bgbe.html?zbrandid=2039&zidType=CH&zid=1535681&zsubscriberId=502820960&zbdom=http://aracy.informz.net>

## Australian Research Alliance for Australian Children & Youth - Social and Emotional Development Blog

This blog provides an opportunity for members and stakeholders to exchange information, post relevant research and reports and share their ideas and expertise on how we can better meet the social and emotional developmental needs of children and young people.

See <http://www.aracy.org.au/Blog/blog-social-emotional/>

## Diversity and Social Inclusion Grants

Expressions of Interest are currently being taken for grants under the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program (DSCP). DSCP grants provide funds of up to \$50 000 for community groups and organisations to deliver projects that address issues of cultural, racial and religious intolerance within their communities. The government believes that strong social cohesion is best achieved by projects that bring all Australians together and in particular create connections across the community.

Schools, not-for-profit foundations, service clubs, sporting bodies, ethno-specific organisations, youth organisations, local government authorities, universities and colleges are eligible to apply. The closing date for the current round of expressions of interest is 31 March 2011.

See <http://www.harmony.gov.au>

## Suicide Prevention in schools

Suicide Prevention Australia are calling for a suicide prevention program to be included as part of the new national curriculum in schools, saying mental health experts could prepare teachers on how to broach the subject in schools.

See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/10/3160980.htm>

Queensland Department of Education current information on Suicide Prevention  
See <http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/protection/community/suicide.html>

## National day of action against bullying & violence

**Friday 18 March 2011 - 2011 National Day focus: bystander behaviour.** Access a wide range of online resources packed with information and advice for students, parents, teachers and school communities.

See: <http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/talkout/nationalday.shtml>

## James Bond Supports International Women's Day

The two-minute short film, specially commissioned for International Women's Day, sees 007 star Daniel Craig undergo a dramatic makeover as he puts himself, quite literally, in a woman's shoes. The film was screened in cinemas and streamed online in a bid to highlight the levels of inequality that persist between men and women in the UK and worldwide. It is the first film featuring Bond to be directed by a woman.



## Claiming education expenses

**Following a ruling from the Australian High Court, those who were studying full time and receiving Youth Allowance may be entitled to claim expenses incurred Through education.**

See - <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/02/21/3143833.htm> & <http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/00192011.htm>

## Helpline Resource sheet released for children, young people & parents

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse (NCPC) has released a 10-page resource sheet called *Helplines and telephone counselling services for children, young people and parents*. This Resource Sheet provides contact details and links to a number of helplines and telephone counselling services for children, young people, and parents. Services are grouped according to the area in which they operate .

See <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/sheets/rs23/index.html>

## Website supporting young women to vaccinate against cervical cancer

The Cancer Council is hoping that a new website specifically targeting teenage girls will encourage greater uptake of the cervical cancer vaccine.

See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/01/3151448.htm?section=justin> & <http://www.cervicalcancervaccine.org.au/>

## Own It! National Youth Week 2011

From 1 to 10 April, National Youth Week (NYW) will give young people the opportunity to share their stories, participate in live events, have their say on issues that affect them, and showcase their talents through the National Talent Competition.

The official 2011 theme – Own It! – recognises that NYW is run by young people, for young people, and is a call for action for all young Australians to get involved in thousands of events and competitions that are happening across Australia

See <https://youthweek.com/Pages/default.aspx>

## Supporting Young Parents

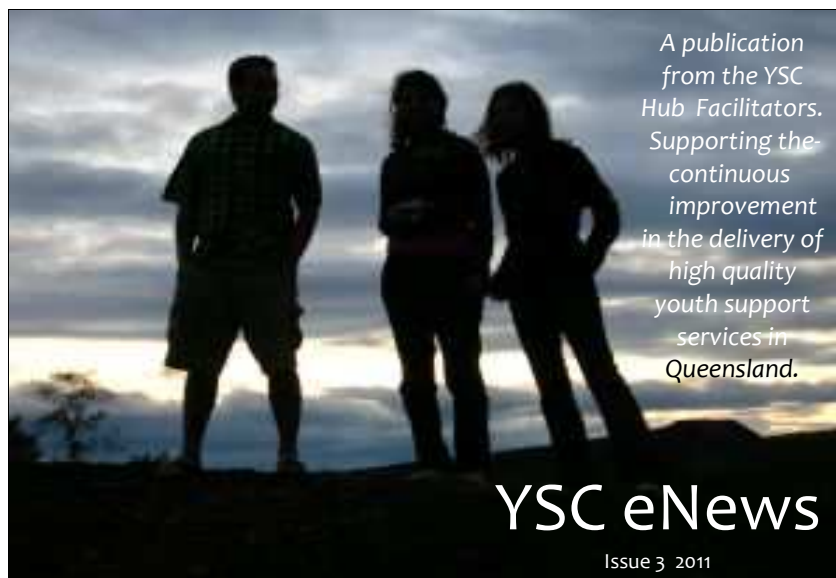
The Communities & Family Clearinghouse Australia has released a practice resource On supporting young people who are parents. It includes practice considerations, When supporting young parents centering on a strengths based approach. See <http://www.aifs.gov.au/cafca/pubs/sheets/ps/ps3.pdf>

See also QLD Department of Education & Training's position on pregnant & parenting young people <http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/inclusive/gender/pregnant.html> & <http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/inclusive/gender/pdfs/pregnant-booklet.pdf>

## Postgraduate Coursework 2011 - Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Studies

QADREC at the University of Queensland have announced a new subject offered in their Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Studies course commencing semester 2, 2011. The subject is titled "*Drugs and Young People*" and covers the changing patterns of drug use and related harms experienced by young people. The degree is offered in a flexible format, ideal for working people who need to fit study around other commitments.

See <http://www.uq.edu.au/qadrec/index.html?page=153355&pid=63579>



### **Opting out: Early school leavers and the degeneration of youth policy**

Despite the dramatic improvement in apparent retention rates in Australia, early school leavers remain a problem for policymakers at both the state and federal levels. Available research and commissioned reports on youth homelessness, truancy, alienation in the middle years of schooling and youth unemployment, have highlighted the seriousness of the situation confronting those young Australians who, whatever the reason, choose or feel compelled to leave without completing school after – or even before – the school leaving age. This book is a deliberate effort to pull the threads together – to document in a single source and as thoroughly as possible what we know about the nature of the problem, about its extent, causes and outcomes, about the many programs which demonstrate that effective responses are possible, and also about the policy implications both of the realities of early school leaving and of those effective responses .

\$10 - (free postage) Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

See - [http://www.acys.info/acys\\_books/books/opting\\_out\\_early\\_school\\_leavers\\_and\\_the\\_degeneration\\_of\\_youth\\_policy](http://www.acys.info/acys_books/books/opting_out_early_school_leavers_and_the_degeneration_of_youth_policy)

### **National School Leavers Conference**

The Queensland Government, through the Department of Communities, invites you to join the national conversation on issues facing youth and local communities, and the preparation and delivery of effective responses for the Schoolies holiday season.  
Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 May 2011

Email Elise ( [Elise.johnston@communities.qld.gov.au](mailto:Elise.johnston@communities.qld.gov.au)) with your expressions of interest or call the Department of Communities on (07) 5539 9155.

### **The Queensland Schools Alliance Against Violence (QSAAV) report**

The Queensland Schools Alliance Against Violence (QSAAV) report has been released. QSAAV was formed to provide advice to the Minister for Education and Training on best practice measures to address bullying and violence in schools. The QSAAV Report presents eight recommendations which provide school-based actions and strategies to assist schools to effectively deal with bullying and violence.

See - [http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/behaviour/qaav/docs/qaav\\_report.pdf](http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/behaviour/qaav/docs/qaav_report.pdf)

## **Giving voice to the impacts of values education: The final report of the Values in Action Schools Project**

This report presents the learning's and outcomes of the Value in Action Schools Project and features many first-hand stories about the project's impact on teachers, students and parents of participating schools. The project aimed to further develop an evidence base for informing improved school policy and practice in values education. Conducted over 12 months, the project involved 86 schools working in 15 clusters groups. Each group received funding to develop local targeted projects around special interest areas of student wellbeing, resilience and positive education, civics and citizenship and Indigenous, interfaith and intercultural approaches.

See - [http://www.curriculum.edu.au/verve/\\_resources/VASP\\_FINAL\\_REPORT\\_2010.pdf](http://www.curriculum.edu.au/verve/_resources/VASP_FINAL_REPORT_2010.pdf)

## **Why sexuality and relationships education**

Family Planning QLD - new Evidence briefings, Young People's views and Parents views on sexuality and relationships education.

See young people - <http://fpq.com.au/pdf/YngSRE.pdf>

See parents - <http://fpq.com.au/teachers/pdf/ParentViewsSRE.pdf>

## **The Refugee Student Support Kit**

The Refugee Student Support Kit for teachers, school counsellors and school communities is a list of 27 National resources to assist schools to support students from refugee backgrounds. The Kit includes resources on the backgrounds of refugees, resources on how to support students in schools, practical resources for teachers to use, resources for school counsellors and school health nurses to use and resources to assist school based social justice groups, volunteers and neighbourhoods. See -

Handbook for schools <http://www.qpastt.org.au/documents/handbook2007.pdf>

School Teacher Guide <http://www.qpastt.org.au/documents/Schoolteachersguide2007.pdf>

School Counsellors Guide <http://www.qpastt.org.au/documents/Schoolcounselling2007.pdf>

## **ThinkUKnow - Website**

The Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor has recently launched the 2nd phase of the highly successful ThinkUKnow cyber safety project—a space just for young people. The Youth Space includes pages of youth - targeted information and new social media forums, including Facebook and Twitter, to help protect and empower young internet users. The youth specific space joins specifically targeted towards parents, carers and teachers.

See - <http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/>

## **ASU - National Day of Action, Wednesday 8th June 2011**

A decision by Governments to not fully fund organisations to the full value of our work is an active decision to cut services. We must stand together with our colleagues across Australia to demand Governments at all levels respect the value of our work and the decisions of Fair Work Australia and the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission through full and fair funding.

Mark the day in your diary and start talking to your workmates and networks, clients, communities, families and friends.

See - <http://www.asu.asn.au/sacs/>



### **‘Gay in School’ Insight**

The SBS television program *Insight* often features issues relevant to young people in its debates, and several recent and upcoming programs will be of interest to those working with and interested in youth.

For tonight’s episode - ‘Gay in school’ *Insight* producers have invited young people to submit a two-minute video about their experience (good, bad or in-between) of being gay in school. Episodes can be streamed online post airing on SBS.

See - <http://news.sbs.com.au/insight/article/index/id/557016>

Department of Education QLD Inclusive Education information <http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/curriculum/crppro09/index.html> & <http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/inclusive/index.html>

### **Church & State - National Chaplaincy Program**

A recent *Background Briefing* program on ABC RN investigated concerns raised about federal funding of chaplains in Australian schools. Concerns were raised when federal funding for chaplains in schools was introduced. Now some parents have evidence evangelism has seeped into the secular public school system. Others are staunch supporters. The controversy is now headed for the High Court.

See - <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/backgroundbriefing/stories/2011/3183516.htm>

### **Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME)**

As part of the initiative, tailored mentoring programs have been developed for Indigenous high school students from Years 7 to 12. The AIME initiative will pair a University of Technology Sydney student with a high school student and allow for a two-way learning experience.

See - <http://newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/05/aiming-high>

## Look at the curriculum to boost inclusion

At the Social Inclusion Speaker Series at Central Queensland University, Trevor Gale stated that institutions have to re-engage with the curriculum and its delivery to improve engagement of students from under-represented groups, which will contribute to a better quality of higher education for all students.

See - <http://uninews.cqu.edu.au/UniNews/viewStory.do?story=8048>

## New online videos for the youth sector workforce

Family Planning QLD recently collaborated with young people from the University of Southern Queensland to produce a series of short videos for people who work with young people.

- *What young people know, like and need*
- *Sexual Health*
- *Blood borne viruses*
- *Youth - friendly services*

See videos - <http://www.fpq.com.au/youthproject/know.html>

## My school flaws mask true picture for students with disabilities

The head of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), Professor Barry McGaw, admits the *My School* website doesn't consider how results are skewed when pupils with special needs are included in a school's literacy results. He is worried some schools may stop enrolling students with special needs for fear of poor literacy results.

See - <http://theconversation.edu.au/articles/my-school-flaws-mask-true-picture-for-students-with-disabilities-1107>

## Review of Disability Standards for Education

The Government is reviewing Disability Standards for Education that aim to give young people with a disability equal opportunity to access and participate in education free from bullying and discrimination. This is the first time the Disability Standards for Education have been reviewed since 2005, so it is important that we all have a say.

AYAC (The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition) is preparing a submission and would like to hear the views of young people in Australia.

Online survey available at - <http://www.ayac.org.au/index.php?page=survey-for-young-people-with-a-disability-in-education>

Department of Education QLD Disability support information - <http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/hr/hrmpro23/index.html> & <http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/learning/index.html>