Prospectus

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Table of Contents

Table of Figures

QYHC constitutional objectives

The Queensland Youth Housing Coalition constitution articulates the Objectives of the organisation as follows:

1. To investigate the needs of homeless youth and promote the development of appropriate services and policies;
2. To support and co-ordinate existing local youth programs for accommodation for related services, and to facilitate the establishment of new programs;
3. To encourage the extension and development of accommodation and support facilities for homeless young people in Queensland, through a range of options, including short and medium term accommodation and support of long term accommodation as defined;
4. To join with any organisation with similar objects and to assist and supplement the work of such organisations wherever possible;
5. To carry out research, training and community education through seminars, workshops, preparing papers and other means;
6. To increase access of young homeless people to community resources, and foster responsiveness of these to the needs of homeless youth;
7. To ensure young people are relieved of poverty through advocacy, policy, debate, consultation and development.

QYHC statement

The vision of the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition (QYHC) is: All young people need a safe and secure home.

Whilst a bold undertaking, we note the various options for intervention and disruption when young people experience homelessness. Further opportunities are yet to be explored. Such interventions need to occur at the earliest possible point in time to minimise the impacts of homelessness on young people.

We accept the plethora of life issues that lead young people to homelessness but reject any notion that such issues will necessarily negatively impact their life trajectory. The experience of homelessness for young people can be short lived and rapidly resolved. There is no reason for young people to experience chronic homelessness and the associated concerning life outcomes.

QYHC is committed to improving the life opportunities and wellbeing of young people who have been impacted by homelessness by working collaboratively across government and non-government organisations to address homelessness, through the provision of housing, and the multitude of associated issues that impact wellbeing such as: access to education, health services, income, safety and social inclusion. QYHC acknowledges that connection and relationships is key for all young people and underpins our collective work.

QYHC is a not-for-profit state-wide coalition of organisations and individuals acting as a think tank across projects and campaigns. QYHC is intent on conducting research projects, informing policy and community education and working on workforce development activities to ensure a robust sector and community able to address homelessness and the associated issues that impact young people.

Individuals and organisations join the coalition due to their collective belief that all young people need a safe and secure home to be included in our society and experience holistic wellbeing. In doing so, they agree to participate in QYHC's policy and practice activities as well as its campaigns.
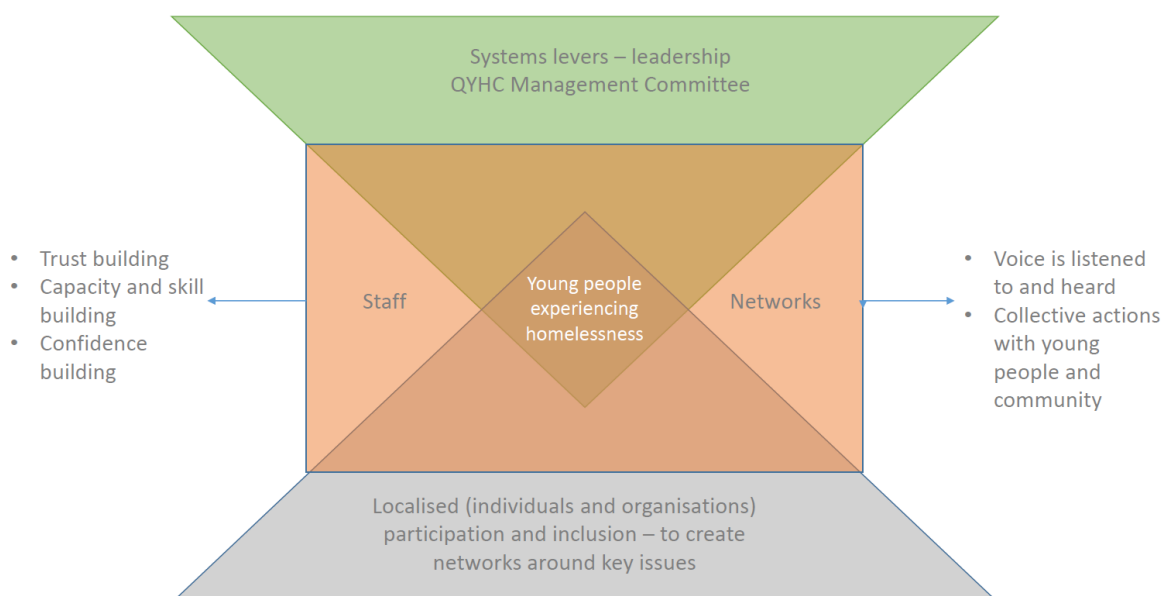
QYHC is not an industry body. It is a coalition of like-minded individuals and organisations who share social justice values, are intent on inclusion and use an evidence base to focus on strategies that ensure all young people have access to safety and security in their home.

Our approach

Our approach has an intentional focus on young people aged 12 to 24 who live in Queensland. We're also committed to building an industry committed to the wellbeing of young people. This includes mentoring young people who would like to become practitioners, policy makers and leaders in the youth sector and associated community and government organisations. Quality staff focussed on working with young people to meet their needs is our optimum position when looking forward in workforce development.

Our approach focuses on:
- Strengthening and communicating the evidence with regard to policy and practice
- Educating the community about what young people need to have safe and secure homes
- Building our capacity by focussing on mentoring young people and others interested in working in the sector

Systems levers – leadership
QYHC Management Committee

- Trust building
- Capacity and skill building
- Confidence building

Staff

Young people experiencing homelessness

Networks

- Voice is listened to and heard
- Collective actions with young people and community

Localised (individuals and organisations) participation and inclusion – to create networks around key issues

Values

UN Rights

Human Rights are about the basic dignity of people and are enshrined in the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. QYHC supports the fundamental tenet that all people have access to human rights.

Sustainable development goals

QYHC aligns our efforts to the UN Sustainable Development Goals as part of a broader national and international agenda to end poverty (as per constitutional objective 7).

Principles

Social Justice

The basic social justice principles[1] are:

- Access (greater equality of access to goods and services)
- Equity (overcoming unfairness caused by unequal access to economic resources and power)
- Rights (equal effective legal, industrial and political rights)
- Participation (expanded opportunities for real participation in the decisions which govern their lives).

Networks

"A network is a platform for advocacy, deeper than a coalition, but more dynamic and flexible than an organization. It has the potential to support and connect interdisciplinary and inter-sector relationships at multiple levels-—local, regional, national, international—towards shared goals".[2]

The focus of networks will be around transformational change that will make significant impact in policy, practice or both.

As per Objective 4

QYHC organisational chart

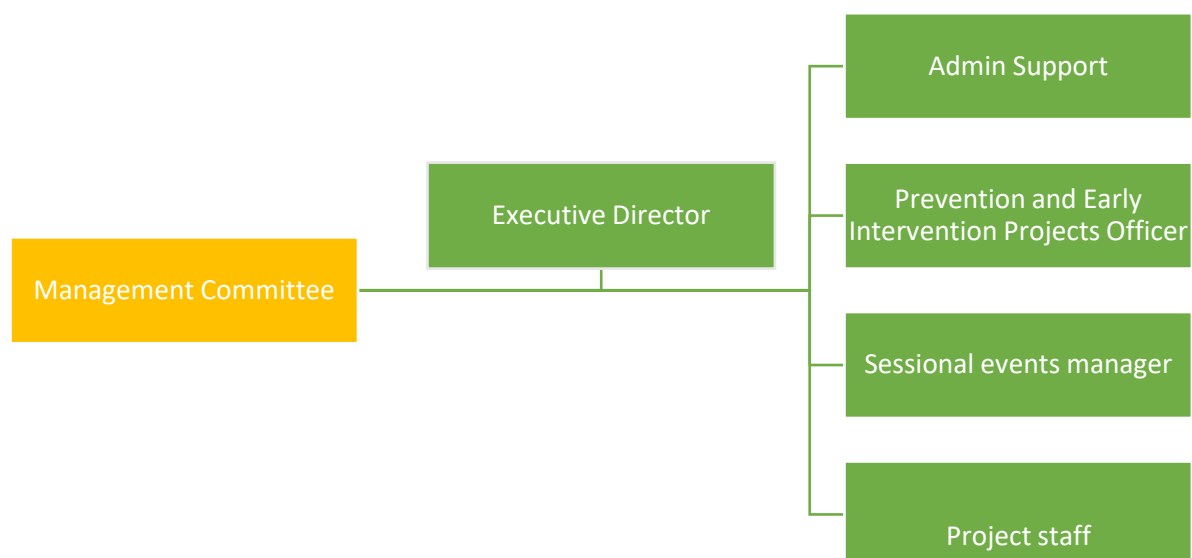The formal structure of QYHC is functional as show in the diagram below.

Figure 1: Organisational structure

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[1] Source: http://health.gov.au/internet/publications/publishing.nsf/Content/drugtreat-pubs-front4-fa-toc~drugtreat-pubs-front4-fa-secb~drugtreat-pubs-front4-fa-secb-7~drugtreat-pubs-front4-fa-secb-7-1

[2] Source: https://haasinstitute.berkeley.edu/network-transformative-change

Community Engagement and Communication

We consider ongoing, open robust conversations and relationships based on trust, respect and ethical behaviour as the markers of successful community engagement.

Influencing our strategy and practice

Community engagement is core to the QYHC policies, processes and practices. We have an engagement process that applies to all the stakeholders of the organisation. This process adopts an integrated approach to innovation and policy initiatives. The QYHC Youth Housing and Homelessness Framework provides greater detail around this engagement process.

A Communication Plan ensures that our stakeholders are able to see though a range of media channels the work of the Coalition enabling transparency and accountability.

QYHC Impact metrics

1. Increase public knowledge of youth homelessness
    a. Using evidence to influence Government programs and services so that they are informed by young people and the services that support them (as per constitutional objective 3 &7).
    b. Promote evidence based practice and policy (as per constitutional objective 1)

2. Data driven policy and practice
    a. Collecting, report and promote key data to represent the issues facing young people and services to influence policy change and practice (as per constitutional objective 1).

3. Delivery of quality practice and policy
    a. Developing strategies that practically assist youth housing and homelessness services to network around policy and practice issues (as per constitutional objective 2, 4, 5&7).
    b. Development of resources that increase young people's access to community resources (as per constitutional objective 6)
    c. Workforce development – adopting a capability approach (as per constitutional objective 5)