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Thank you for considering the work of YAA by participating in our AGM and/or by reading our annual report for 2008/2009

YAA over the last 12 months has continued to operate as a dynamic and leading organisation. Through the successful completion of projects such as the YHM 09: Youth Homelessness Matters youth homelessness conference, the response to the Federal Government green paper on homelessness and the ongoing Youth Homelessness Matters Campaign which is now a national event.

In this year’s annual report you will find information detailing the work of each of the YAA projects over the last 12 months and what they have been doing to address the problem of youth homelessness in NSW and Australia.

You will also learn about our project partners who are integral to our work and you will see that YAA has again performed strongly in financial terms.

Our members are an important part of our work and therefore this report aims to provide our members and other partners with information about our work. The report also provides an opportunity to identify how you too play an active roll in ending youth homelessness.

2008-09 Highlights

- **Over 1000 episodes of support through our services for young people through our Statewide YEAL Project, Wruwallin House & Canterbury Youth Services**
- **Over 20 National events for Youth Homelessness Matters Day**
- **Over 150 people nationally attended the YHM 09: Youth Homelessness Matters Conference**
- **Our influence and input on the federal governments ‘Road Home’ White Paper & NSW Homelessness Action Plan**
- **CEO Michael Coffey’s International Study Tour of the US, UK and Europe**

As the vision statement states “Working towards ending homelessness in NSW and Australia”, YAA is the peak NGO for youth homelessness in NSW. Established in 1979, as a peak body YAA currently has 100 members, with a representative Board of Management comprised of 14 metropolitan and regional representatives. Each of those Board members provides a link into local and regional networks. YAA has a broad range of consultation, sector development, research and policy strategies, including web-based and face-to-face networks, a bi-annual publication called “the Undercurrent”, and bi-monthly policy forums. YAA also recently held a conference, “YHM 09: Youth Homelessness Matters” in October 2009.

YAA works in partnership with other state peaks, State and Federal departments, and through the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH) and Homelessness Australia. Michael Coffey, CEO of YAA and Kevin Crowe, YAA President are the NSW delegates on NYCH. Michael is also on the board of Homelessness Australia, and NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS). The current public work that YAA is running is the YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS campaign (www.youthhomelessnessmatters.net).

YAA also runs a number of direct services which positions the organisation to have first-hand knowledge of practices and policy around service provision for young people at risk or experiencing homelessness. These services include the YEAL Project (Youth Emergency Accommodation Line - NSW vacancy line for young people) and the HOT Project (Health Outreach Team – an HIV/AIDS project for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness). YAA also administers two direct accommodation services for young people: Wruwuallin House, located in Bankstown, and Canterbury Youth Services, a supportive housing project for young people in the Canterbury region.

Until recently YAA was also involved in the Live N Learn Foundation, responsible for developing and setting up the first foyer project in Australia in 2002 at Miller in Sydney.

For more information about YAA please refer to the website: www.yaa.com.au
YAA Vision & Purpose

VISION STATEMENT
“YAA intends that all young people are supported appropriately within their family and/or the wider community to achieve their fullest potential and to lead independent lives as adults in society.”

PURPOSE STATEMENT
“YAA is working towards ending youth homelessness in NSW and Australia”

VALUES STATEMENT
The key principles, values and core assumptions which underpin the intent of the vision and the work of YAA are:

RIGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:
Promoting opportunity for all young people to develop their full potential in a safe nurturing environment and YAA supports the NYCH Charter of Rights (1995).

SOCIAL JUSTICE:
Demonstrating a social justice based approach

LEADERSHIP:
Providing positive and proactive leadership for the sector

PARTNERSHIPS:
Working in partnership and alliance with other NGO and Government organisations.

GOOD PRACTICE:
Demonstrating and developing good governance and practice

TRANSPARENCY:
Demonstrating clear and transparent accountability

LEARNING:
Operating as a dynamic learning organisation

EFFICIENCY:
Operating as an efficient and effective organisation

PARTICIPATION:
Encouraging and supporting participation of young people

SOCIAL INCLUSION:
Proactive engagement with diversity and demonstration of inclusion
YAA Board of Management

**Kevin Crowe** (President)
Southern Youth Family Services - Board member for the Illawarra & South Coast region.

**Brian Tranter** (Treasurer)
Bridge Youth Service – Board Member for Metropolitan Sydney

**Donna Spears**
Uniting Care Burnside – Board Member for Metropolitan Sydney

**Alan Brenan**
Armidale Youth Refuge – Board member for New England

**Liz Price**
Door ways – Board Member for Western NSW

**Kellie Checkley**
Shire Wide Youth Services – Board member for Metropolitan Sydney

**Nerida Ackerman**
YP Space MNC – Board Member for Mid North Coast

**Mary Biddle.**
Phoenix House - Board Member for Metropolitan Sydney

**Brett Paradise**
NRSDC – Special Interest Board Member (reconnect)

**Julia Woods**
CYDP – Board Member for Hunter

**Gerina Appo**
St Josephs Youth Service – Board member for Far North Coast region.

**Jon Park**
Yes Youth & Family Services – Board Member for Riverina & Southern NSW

**Sue Small**
Marist Youth Care – Board Member for Metropolitan Sydney

Board Members 2009
YAA Members 2008 - 2009

(Includes Organisational, Associate and Individual)
Alive Housing
Allambie House
Arimdale & District Youth Support Services
Barbara Tobin
Ballina District Services Association
Blue Mountains Youth Accommodation & Support Services
Bondi Youth Accommodation
Broken Hill Youth Accommodation & Support Services
Byron Bay Youth House
Bronwyn Manion
Cabramatta Youth Team (Youth Housing Support Project)
Caretakers Cottage
Centacare Crisis Accommodation Project
Centacare Young Women’s Supported Accommodation
Centacare Youth Accommodation & Support Services
Coast Shelter
Come-in Youth Resource Centre
Community Connections North Coast
Community Youth Development Project
Community Youth Homes
Council To Homeless Persons (Victoria)
Doorways (Uniting Care Burnside - Dubbo)
Department of Juvenile Justice (Surry Hills)
DoCS Area Office (Hunter)
Edmund Rice Community Services
Emegre Youth & Family Services
Erskinville Youth Housing Inc.
Fairfiled Youth Accommodation Service
Fusion Accommodation & Support Services
Global Skills
Gordon House (Burnside)
Grandview Lodge
Jacaranda Cottage
Jetty Bunker Youth Services Inc.

Langunyah House Youth Refuge
(Southern Riverina Youth Support Services)
Leith House
Lillian’s
Lithgow Youth Work
Liverpool Youth Accommodation Assistance Comapny (LYAAC)
Liverpool Youth Refuge
Lighthouse Community Care
Lotus House
Macarther Youth Services (Burnside)
Macleay Youth Accommodation Services
Matiland Crisis Services
Marist Youth Care
Medley Community
Monaro Crisis Accommodation Service
Moree Family Support
Nepean Youth Accommodation Services
Newcastle Accommodation Services
Nick Kears House
Northern Sydney Youth Support Services
NSW Federation of Housing Associations
Options Youth Housing
Parra House
Phoenix House Youth Services
Presbyterian Social Services
Reconnect Bellingen/Mambucca
Red Cross Young Women’s Health Program
Samaritans Outreach Team
Shire Wide Youth Services Inc (EASY Project)
Shoalhaven Youth Accommodation
Southern Highlands Youth Accommodation
(Bowral Youth Refuge)
Southern Sydney Youth Refuge
Southern Youth & Family Services
St. Joseph’s Youth Service
St. George Accommodation For Youth
Stretch-A-Family
Taldumande Youth Services
Tamworth Youth Care (Tamworth Youth Refuge)
The Bridge Youth Service
The Burdekin Association Inc
The Crossing (Mission Australia)
The Turning Point Youth Accommodation Services
Treehouse
Twenty10 Gay & Lesbian Youth Support
UnitingCare Burnside, (Parramatta)
Veritas House Youth Refuge
Vinnies Youth Housing, Macarthur
Warooga Youth Refuge
Western Housing For Youth Ltd.
Yes Youth & Family Services
Young Peoples Refuge
Youth Accommodation Support Service (Auswide Projects)
Youth Angle Inc.
Youth Housing Support Mid North Coast
Youth Off The Streets (Merrylands)
Youth SAAP Resource Worker (Marist Youth Care)
Dear Members,

The past year since the last AGM, was a busy and challenging period for the homelessness sector with many varied and rapidly changing issues competing for our attention. It was a year of initiatives, consolidation, successes and adventures — all covered in the Annual Report — but overall YAA continued to move forward positively in terms of both achievements and outcomes. The President and Board are lucky to be able to call on the wide range of skills and expertise of such committed people. Michael the YAA Staff and Board have once again shown real commitment and worked incredibly hard this year and I have been very privileged to have been part of this.

In terms of consolidation, it is pleasing to see how Board teamwork and strength continued to develop this year with a strategic planning process and many recommendations for improvement to the service. The hard work and input from individuals was appreciated. Advocacy, lobbying and networking continued at a steady pace this year mainly by the CEO, Operations Manager and President with Federal and State Parliamentarians. The Staff also continued to grow in strength as roles were made clearer and individuals developed in confidence. The team continues to be quite dynamic and progressive and this is a credit to the leadership and support of Michael and George.

This year the Youth Homelessness Matters campaign continued to gain momentum and attract a wide range of media coverage across the State and country and the message that there are too many people homeless was broadcasted broadly.

This year we welcomed the long awaited release of the Commonwealth Government’s White Paper into Homelessness — “The Road Home”. This report identified needs across the sector and was aimed at halving homelessness by the year 2020. There was some recognition of the difficult work that homelessness services conduct on a daily basis under pressure of limited resources. It was also positive to see acknowledgment for the work of the peaks such as YAA and the results of the persistent high level lobbying over many years that assisted to have homelessness recognised as a national issue and placed on the agenda. The State implementation plans were released recently and will be implemented over the next year. There is still uncertainty about the future directions. There is to be no capital funding for homelessness services and SAAP will not operate in the same way as it is now. This will bring about big change across the sector which YAA will monitor this and assist with the transition.

We saw the JPET and other similar Programs dissolve and being replaced with new “innovations” during the reform of employment services. This had an adverse impact on young homeless people who were in many ways further disadvantaged as a result of changes in legislation regarding. Young people have been made to stay in education longer and stay engaged at greater risk of losing their incomes if they failed to comply.

Michael spent time on a valuable and worthwhile overseas study tour this year which gave him the opportunity to experience first hand how homelessness services operate and how the welfare system compares to what we have in Australia. He was able to bring back some innovative ideas and showcase examples of good practice models from Australia overseas. He also managed to enlist the support and encouragement of professionals around the world that will be beneficial in the future.

YAA has continued to broaden its member base and further increased its credibility as a peak across the State and Nationally. Support continued for the ASU Care Campaign for improved service funding and improved award provisions for staff. The lobbying appears to be paying off and we are hopeful that benefits or improved conditions to the sector for staff will occur and we expect government to fund these extra conditions.

This year YAA ran the seventh youth homelessness conference which was very successful. This follows on from the successful Stop Revive Survive Conference we held last year. This conference — “Youth Homelessness Matters” would not have been possible without the financial support from Housing NSW, the Department of Community Services Central Office, Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Jabbawoki for which we are very grateful.

This year during the conference an incredible milestone of 30 years in the industry for YAA was celebrated. A wonderful tribute was given to the dedication, commitment and tireless work of past and present staff, Board and friends of YAA over 3 decades. Congratulations to all especially Michael who has been with YAA for 21 of the 30 years!

I acknowledge the incredible level of work and results that the Board achieve. They continue to volunteer their time throughout the year and use their expertise and wisdom to enact change for little reward. I would also like to show my appreciation to the organisations who support YAA by allowing Board members to participate.

I also give tribute to the strong leadership provided by Michael Coffey, George Mudford and for some of the year David Keegan who have assisted the sector to work through many difficult times of uncertainty while minimising the level of anxiety. The level of professionalism and dedication shown by all of these people is very inspirational and a credit to them all.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the individual contributions of all the YAA Staff and thank them for their commitment, hard work and positive approach to the change during this busy year of change and opportunity. I would also like to show my appreciation to all members for your support and participation in general meetings and other forums.

Whilst we continue to be an active peak our success is driven by the dedication and commitment of the Board, many who have been involved and held positions in one form or another for a number of years. We hope to attract some new members to our Board this year to continue to drive and support the work we do. We also hope to broaden the member base and increase participation so that we can continue to innovate and constantly reshape our future and purpose and continue to support our members in relevant sector change and development. Thank you for your ongoing support.

It is my privilege to present the 2009 Annual Report on behalf of the YAA Board.

Kevin Crowe

President
Dear Members and Colleagues

I am pleased to present to the members of the Youth Accommodation Association (YAA), a report on the work of the organisation for 2008–2009.

We’ve got 30 Years of history!

In September 1979, in the pre SAAP days when Annandale Young People’s Refuge, Bankstown Youth Refuge, Blacktown Youth Refuge, Fairfield Youth Refuge, Kings Cross Refuge, Caretakers Cottage and Taldumande met for the first time as the Youth Refuge Action Group (YAA Mark 1) there were only a few youth homelessness services in NSW and minimal funding under the Youth Service Scheme. Youth Homelessness had been recently identified as an emergent social issue. In 1980 there were 22 youth refuges in NSW funded by about $700,000.

As the winds of change gathered momentum, thanks to both strong advocacy by the sector and political goodwill, following the Senate Standing Committee into Homelessness in 1982 and the election of a Labour Government. In 1985 the first version of SAAP was born as YAA turned seven years old. As YAA reaches its thirtieth anniversary, in 2009 the winds of change are blowing strong again.

Homelessness and housing currently feature very highly in the policy agenda at the commonwealth level. This is due to the significant lobbying by the sector and the willingness of the Prime Minister and Minister for Housing Tanya Plibersek to take on the issue of reducing homelessness as a major concern for government. We appreciate this commitment. And so . . . most of YAA’s policy work during 2008/2009 has been related to the significant steps toward reform and rethinking which have emerged out of Canberra, since the Rudd Government was elected in 2007. It follows that reforms such as the new COAG process (and the reduction of the number of special purpose payments such as SAAP) have had an enormous impact on the way government does it’s funding and program business, which we are now beginning to see. And so, this year as part of this COAG process, after two and a bit decades, as of January 2009, SAAP no longer exists as a distinct program, having been absorbed along with the CSHA into the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

SAAP (R.I.P) constituted what we call the foundations of a response to homelessness in Australia. It provided secure national funding and a national consistency around a mix of “housing and support.” It is a brave move to take this away and to devolve responsibility and increased flexibility to the States. And it is not without significant risk . . . we keep our fingers crossed that they have got it right.

At the moment while the states are no longer obligated to match the Commonwealth contribution through the NAHA, in NSW the Government has decided to match the funds. This is why services that were formerly ‘SAAP funded’ have continued without too much disruption as the federal changes have taken place and no national SAAP program exists.

As you may recall, the demise of the program follows a consultation process through the ‘green paper’ with the sector during 2008 and an increased exception and shift in thinking towards ‘ending homelessness’. The Australian Government’s aspirational “Road Home” aka — the “White Paper” was released in late December 2009. This was actioned by the formation of the NAHA and the first down payment of funds to end homelessness through the Homelessness National Partnership Agreements (NPA/ NPP) and augmented by the a ‘Place to Call Home’ funding, Social Housing NPP and the economic stimulus package, which saw the promise of increased affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness.

During 2009 the attention shifted to the State Governments as to how they were actually going to do this work. YAA has been very involved in this work, too.

Policy and action . . . “Making things happen”

Policy is not just about arguing about words on pieces of paper, but about making things happen. In this area YAA has been very busy both upfront and behind the scenes. Prior to the release of the White paper YAA had been very involved in the Green paper process and was proactively involved with government and with the green paper steering committee headed by Tony Nicholson, seeking to ensure that youth homelessness figured highly in their ‘blue sky thinking’. YAA had also been involved contributing resources to the Australian’s for Ending Homelessness campaign in the prelude to the release of the White Paper, reiterating community expectations for additional resources and clear policy directions.

While the targets in the White Paper do foreground the issue of youth homelessness, under the three key themes of the paper, the first priorities aimed towards reducing rough sleepers and reducing the exits from institutional care. Yet, as the paper was primarily an aspiration framework, it was clear to YAA that the devil was going to be in the detail i.e, the State and Territory implementation plans as to what real opportunities for young people would play out. So after the White Paper was released and the dust finally settled, the main game for YAA was to get involved in the development of the NSW plan and NSW Homeless Action Plan (which was something we had been calling for since our campaigning around the 2006 NSW Budget.

YAA was heavily involved on working on the plan with a working group with the other peaks, DoCS, NSW Housing, Dept Premiers Cabinet. We have participated in numerous regional and central consultation forums set up by government to develop the plan. We also formed a strategic Community Homelessness Alliance to include other relevant organisations like Shelter NSW, PIAC, NSW Federation of Community Housing Associations in working up our own priorities for action. As part of the Alliance we have had many meetings with Ministers Burney and Minister Borger either directly or with their senior advisors to discuss the development of the Action Plan and the post-White paper environment. Consequently we can say that unlike the other States and Territories NSW has had considerably more sector input into the NSW HAP.

For a number of years we have actively been calling for a high level Premiers Council on Homelessness and are pleased to see that this has finally happened. We are equally pleased to see Narelle Clay on the Prime Minister’s Council on Homelessness.
At the same time as the White paper, DoCS was going through the Wood Inquiry bringing another level of uncertainty to proceedings. This slowed down our <16s in SAAP work. Following the announcements around ‘Keep Them Safe’ and the new understandings around the threshold for ‘significant harm’ YAA is now looking for an opportunity to recommence the <16s work in late 2009, as anecdotal evidence suggests that the number of under 16s in services are increasing again. This is particularly important in regards to the call by the White Paper to reduce exits from institutions and also in light of research by Dr Guy Johnson, which suggests that links that young people who leave care and enter the youth homeless services with chronic adult homelessness.

At the national and state level, we have also been actively involved in lobbying for a new homelessness act to replace the SAA act and work has commenced on this in mid 2009. There has been a bit of debate from our sector around making sure that social inclusion does not just mean economic participation and some concern about how accreditation might be linked. This has reactivated discussion around revisiting human rights, social justice and access/equity and how this relates to appropriate level of funding.

**Networks and relations**

The development and maintenance of networks and relationships is critical to the work of YAA. As well as building relations with key politicians and bureaucrats, YAA continues to work well with other NGOs. Throughout the year at various times we have partnered up and worked on various pieces of work with: Homelessness NSW, NSW Women’s Refuge Movement Resource Centre, QYHC, NAAH, Create, CHP Victoria, Parity, NCOSS, Shelter NSW, NSW Federation of Community Housing Associations, National Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network, ACWA, PIAC, Mental Health Coordinating Council, Mercy Foundation, City of Sydney/HPIC, Catholic Care, Mission Australia, other organisations such as Foxtel/Aurora, Caledonia Foundation and academics such as David McKenzie, Dr Guy Johnson and Prof Suzanne Fitzpatrick (UK).

At the national level we continue to work through the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH) and as a member of the Board and Executive of Homelessness Australia where as the NYCH Rep I hold the position of Secretary on the Board of Homelessness Australia.

We have also been out and about exchanging ideas and participating and resourcing YAA members and their interagencies and networks.

Following my study trip in July/August YAA has now expanded its overseas connections, partners and networks: National Alliance to End Homelessness (US), Empire State Coalition (US), Commonground NYC (US), Lighthouse Youth Services (UK), Calgary Homeless Foundation (Canada), Sasha Bruce Youthwork (US), Depaul UK, Foyers Federation (UK), Manchester and Blackburn Foyers (UK), Udenfor (DK), SBH (DK) KoefedsSkole (DK), Volksbond (Netherlands), Samusocial (France), UNHAJ (France) FEANTSA (Europe), Tokyo Institute of Technology (Jp)

**Conferences and Campaigns**

Other big projects this year relate have been the Youth Homelessness Matters Campaign and the successful 7th Youth Homelessness Conference held at Tweed Heads in October 2009. In a sense we are ‘relearning’ how to do campaigns and conferences. This year’s effort extended the momentum of previous years and recalled the work of YAA in the 1980s when conferences and public campaigns were regular events on the YAA calendar and activism was about making things happen, rather than being passive recipients of government policy. Albeit, as highlighted by Paul Van Ryk in his speech at the 2009 conference dinner, we do ‘activism’ different in 2009.

**YAA Board and YAA Membership**

I am pleased to note that this year all of the positions on the YAA board were full, for the first time in recent history. With all the White paper follow up it has been a busy year for the Board members, who on top of the day to day workload of their services also have to deal with big picture and governance issues. Also, the Board has now commenced a strategic planning process, towards building a new plan for 2010 and beyond, this has meant lots of extra meetings and critical and frank reflection.

It’s a big job . . . so thankyou to all of the individual Board members for their ongoing commitment and contribution to YAA and also to their services in their support of YAA. I would also like to thank Kevin Crowe for his excellent leadership as President, his steady hand, savvy insight, inclusive practice and sensible counsel has made a huge contribution to our work. Sadly, Kevin will not be standing for President this year, but thankfully will remain on the Board . . . thanks for 3 years of great leadership.

The reason we continue to get a great participation, credibility and energy in the Board and in our work, is because we have a vibrant and well informed membership.

So thankyou top all the members who in some way have contributed to our work this year, whether it be contributing to the General Meetings/Policy Forums, surveys, the conference or in the YHM campaign.

We know how busy you all are . . . . Thankyou.

The youth homelessness projects have been working well and we are currently positioning them in relation to the new NAHA environment. This year Allawah House was released to an EOI process, thanks to Tina and the Allawah team for their great work. Special thanks to Simone and the crew at our CYS project and to Jo Naylor and staff at our Wruwallin House project.

The YEAL project continues to develop thanks to the good work by Christina, Jerome, Michelle and the oversight by George and David Keegan (in 2008). We have a new Direct about to be released.

The HOT project is much revered and respected project in health promotion sector and their resources and expertise are in high demand. Over the last two years Jackie and Brandon have lifted and reinvigorated the project and have been out in regional and urban NSW. Sadly, after six years of service, Jackie has just moved on into a new role at CCWT. We wish her all the best and thank her for her great work with HOT.
I need to give special mention to the YAA Management and Admin Team. Jean works hard behind the scenes, making sure that bills are paid, numbers add up, money gets banked, time sheets are checked that everything runs smoothly. There are lots of things we don’t need to worry about because Jean quietly looks after them. Likewise Lauren with her work around the office and in particular her fantastic work on setting up the YAA Conference in October. Thanks Jean and Lauren. I give special mention and acknowledgement to the fantastic and dedicated YAA staff team. Everybody in the team each contributes in some specialised way to the collective work of YAA – for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. I welcome on Stephanie Creagh on board as our new Research and Development Officer, she has already jumped in to the thick of things and we are looking forward to working with her during 2009-2010.

Last but not least special thanks to George Mudford for his superb work in policy in 2008 and as the Operations Manager in 2009 and to David Keegan for his work as OM in 2008. Both George and David are highly skilled and have lifted YAA into another level of operations, as was demonstrated in our conferences this year and last year. Thanks also to both of them for acting up as CEO (David in January 2009, George in July/August) when I was on leave and on my overseas tour.

We’ve got 30 years of history behind us and with such a great membership, Board and Staff Team, the future of YAA looks good. Looking forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead in 2009/2010.

Michael Coffey
Chief Executive Officer

YAA Staff Team

The role of the YAA, Homeless Youth Support Worker is so much more that what most would know as the ‘YAA Vacancy Line’ and merely linking people to crisis accommodation. We have been able to successfully re-orientate this role to directly meet the needs of Young People who need support, information and advice, whilst still serving as a resource for the workers and the sector. We have also greatly increased and continue to do so our capacity for prevention and early intervention and to provide resources online to the ever growing young people and workers accessing information on the WWW.

The ongoing work of YAA services for young people through our Canterbury Youth Services and Wruwallin House services continue to assist clients across the Canterbury/Bankstown region.

The Wruwallin house team continue to support clients over the longer term with the view to ‘break the cycle of homelessness’ and ensure they have the skills, resources and capacity to live independently and not return into the SAAP service system. Canterbury Youth Services still in the early stages of development has already proven itself as a dynamic service, CYS continues to grow and provide so much more than “a roof over someone’s head”, and has successfully engaged a diverse community through a range of innovative engagement strategies such as music, art and recreational programs that meet the needs of a very diverse population in the Local government area. As a service provider YAA will also be undertaking the Registration process to become a community housing provider for young people in 2010.

Our sector development strategy as per our strategic plan is about supporting the sector to end youth homelessness, examples of this work include our annual conference, Undercurrent Journal and Youth Homelessness Campaign

Most importantly through the policy & structural advocacy over the year we were able to significantly influence the White Paper and subsequent ‘down payment’ investment in the sector for the next Four Years. Our behind the scenes policy work and through our more public Australians for Ending Homelessness national work, we were able to ensure that despite the financial crisis homelessness would receive a funding boost that was well overdue.

The 2009-2010 year is shaping up to be even bigger and better, and we are confident that the work of strengthening YAA operationally will begin to pay even bigger dividends is our common goal to see youth homelessness eliminated in NSW and Australia.

George Mudford
Operations Manager

Operations Manager Report

Dear Members and colleagues,

It is with great privilege to be working in a such a dynamic position as the Operations Manager at YAA at probably the most pivotal time in the history of the organization and the broader political and policy environment in relation to youth homelessness. I thank members and supporters of YAA for their input and contributions into the diverse projects of YAA over 2008-09.

As Operations Manager I really need acknowledge and highlight the work of the dedicated YAA staff team who I rely upon to make everything happen each and every day. The YAA in 2009 is a very new look and talented team. It is my job to ensure all the ‘back end’ of YAA is working And all the YAA projects and services are delivered, all of which contribute to the goal of ending youth homelessness, Whether it is via direct service delivery or the more ‘big picture’ work of YAA.
Policy & Structural Advocacy

Just ‘some’ areas of our policy& structural advocacy work this year have been:

- The Road Home “White Paper on Homelessness”
- NSW State Plan
- Changes to the Corporations Act
- Human Rights Submission
- DoCS PMF/ PBC implementation Working Group
- Follow up on the Wood Enquiry (eg. Communities & Carers Advisory Group committee)
- NSW Ombudsman Children and Families Roundtable
- Keep Them Safe
- NSW Housing NGO Policy Reference Group
- NCOS Board
- NAAH Board
- YAPA Board
- Youth Health Council
- Binge Drinking
- Multicultural Youth
- GLBTI youth
- NSW Youth health plan
- Youth Justice Coalition
- Mental Health. FAHCSIA Fams Consultations.
- DEEWR “National Youth Peak” Consultations
- Consultations on the NSW HAP projects.
- NSW Centrelink Homelessness Reference Group
- ACWA Leaving Care Forum
- NSW Youth Housing Action Plan
- Homelessness Legislation
- NSW Youth Homelessness Forum for Young People
- Australians for Ending Homelessness
- NSW Homelessness Community Alliance
- Youth Homelessness & Mental Health Summit

Research & Sector Development

In addition to our policy & structural advocacy work behind the scenes YAA is directly involved in a number of steering committees, service planning and also assisting in governance.

Just ‘some’ of these projects this year have been:

- Project 40 Blue Mountains,
- Nepean HIP Project,
- North Sydney Research Project,
- Erskinvilla planning day,
- Parramatta Homelessness Taskforce,
- NGO Research Forum
- Forum of Non Government Agencies (FONGA)
- Homeless Persons Week
- High & Complex Needs Project

As a state wide peak (with a National Outlook) we have also been out and about over the year running consultations, forums, trainings and participating and presenting at conferences and local networks.

Over the year some of these included:

- RYDON Conference Newcastle,
- Parramatta Interagency,
- Queensland Youth Housing Coalition AGM,
- Victorian Homelessness Conference,
- National Youth Coalition For Housing,
- Mid North Coast Network
- Homelessness Summitt,
- Homelessness White Paper “Parity” Launch
- And not to forget CEO Michael Coffeys International Study Tour of US, UK, & Europe.

White Paper Work:

- Riverina SAAP Interagency,
- Port Macquarie Network
- Ballina / Far North Coast Network,
- Tamworth/New England,
- Youth Accommodation Interagency Network (Nepean),
- Central Coast SAAP Interagency,
- Central Sydney Forum
Over the last few years YAA has faced the ongoing editorial and functional dilemma around ‘Grapevine’ with uncertainty as to whether it was a ‘news’ update, a ‘project report for the YAA projects, a ‘big picture’ policy forum or a resource for sector and practice development. At various times it was perhaps either all of these or some of these and with varying degrees of success as it tried to be all things to all people.

To remedy this we have rebranded the printed journal with a title taken from the YAA / youth sector past “Undercurrent”. This publication will have a specific policy / sector and practice development focus and we have already began producing the Grapevine as a regular e-news update. The initial aim is to produce the Undercurrent in a biannual format journal produced by the Youth Accommodation Association. In 2008 we released our first issue of Undercurrent, with lots positive feedback. We look forward to producing this exciting new resource and bringing an academic dialogue to our work with young homeless people.

In 2009 YAA sponsored and co-produced in partnership a special Youth Homelessness Conference Edition of CHP’s Parity.

We hoped you enjoyed our publications and we hope you look forward to our publications in the coming year.

YHM 09: Youth Homelessness Matters Conference

The timing of YHM 09’ conference was significant in that presenting an opportunity to consider, prepare and position our work in relation to the rollout and implementation of The Road Home and NAHA reforms within the contexts of the current policy and funding environment.

The conference also showcased new ideas, new research, and good practice to support / resource organisations and workers opportunities and challenges ahead for our work of ending youth homelessness in Australia.

150 people attended the YAA’s seventh youth homelessness conference at the Twin Towns Resort, Tweed Heads, NSW. Whilst the conference was not promoted as a “national” conference, there was a very broad representation from around Australia, including participants from Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales.

This years theme took up the “Youth Homelessness Matters Campaign” Theme making the statement that in the design and delivery of homelessness policy and practice in Australia we need to ensure Youth Homelessness Matters and we take into account the needs of young people.

Furthermore, this years conference had a strong ‘theoretical’ underpinning ensuring that we really step back and think critically about our practice with young people, with the aid of leading academics in the field including Guy Johnson (AHURI/RMIT) who once again was inspiring and kicked off leaving a real buzz.

We were also able to consider where the Housing First approach fits into our work with young people thanks to Felicity Reynolds (Mercy Foundation) and the practical ‘how too?’ of Stephanie Brennan (Nepean Campaign Against Homelessness) sharing her work and ideas of how to put together regional plans to actually ‘end’ homelessness in your local community.

Whilst we are unsure when and where the next YAA conference will be, we are already back in the laboratory thinking about it!!!
Youth Homelessness Matters Day was held across Australia on April 1 this year, coinciding with April Fool’s Day. The theme for 2009 was “No Joke”.

YHMD began in 2005 as a grass-roots initiative of youth workers from Youth Accommodation Services in the Nepean Region of Western Sydney.

YHMD had lots of potential as a broader public campaign. The YAA was quick to endorse and offer support to the initiative and eventually the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH) also endorsed the campaign on a national scale.

Since the first somewhat humble affair, which consisted of a BBQ in a central part of Penrith where people were given a free sausage sandwich and a flyer with some youth homelessness statistics on it and a link to a website. The campaign has grown each year to become a nationally recognised campaign with a broadening interest group. YAA and the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH) are aiming to reach even greater mainstream awareness for the campaign over the next few years, similar to the profile of the Red Nose Campaign.

After a very successful campaign in 2008, when Youth Homelessness Matters Day was at the centre of the media storm and public interest stemming from the screening of the “Oasis Movie” on ABC television, and the release of Australia’s Homeless Youth Report by the National Youth Commission. 2009 built upon this traction, and the ongoing interest in homelessness as a key political/policy issue.

This year there were over 20 events held in a range of locations including, Devonport, Perth, Gold Coast, Rockhampton, Mount Isa, Brisbane, Canberra, Albury, Cooma, Byron Bay, Tweed Heads, Port Macquarie, Wollongong and Sydney to name a few.

The aim for YHM is now to set up a Youth Homelessness Matters Fund, and potentially raise money and donations and interest from the business/philanthropic sector to reach new heights with the campaign and provide a number of opportunities for young people experiencing homelessness.

We hope to see you involved in 2010! Next year’s Youth Homelessness Matters Day is on the 14th April 2010.

Please check out our new website: www.youthhomelessnessmatters.net
YEAL- Youth Emergency Accommodation Line

“YEAL” is an amazing resource for both young people and workers. The fact that it is updated daily is very useful for all. Without such a project the ability to assist in finding appropriate accommodation promptly would be massively reduce.

The YAA YEAL Project via our Homeless Youth Support Worker position provides direct access to support/advice and resources for young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and the broader community.

This is what many working in the sector refer to as the “vacancy line”. However YEAL today so much bigger than a vacancy line, with a variety of resources for young people and workers that include direct access during business hours, an updated register of vacancies that can be access via telephone or via the web, and resource development such as the YAA direct publication, a comprehensive resource of services for young people across NSW and the ACT.

YEAL had close to 1000 episodes of support over the financial year. Through our 1800 number we take an estimated 200 calls per month. This does not include our recorded message system which young people can access 24 hours a day with the latest vacancies around the state, nor does this include our Website which more and more is a convenient anonymous safe way for young people to access support. Over the financial year we also have built the capacity of our online resources for young people and workers. You can now go onto our website, and click the relevant link to see for yourself.

YEAL is a team effort, in the past year we recently enhanced our capacity for our Homeless Youth Support Worker to attend your networks interagency and do community education forums to educate and promote this valuable resource.

Christina Cavallero is our key Homeless Youth Support Worker. Jerome Leech and Chantel Cottrell make up the YEAL Casual Staff Pool.

Canterbury Youth Services & Wruwallin House

YAA currently offers direct services for young people via Canterbury Youth Services, a supportive housing program for young people aged 16-24 years of age and Wruwallin House a 24/7 staffed supported accommodation facility in Bankstown for young people 16-19.

The Canterbury / Bankstown region is one of Australia’s most culturally diverse council areas with a large population of residents who identify with a variety if cultural and ethnic groups. This is reflected in the YAA NDCA data for 2008-09 year which tells us that both services have had young people from a wide range of diverse background and cultures accessing services with over 20 different nationalities including; Sierra Leone, Sudan, Liberia, Cook Islands, Somalia, Chile, New Zealand, Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Rwanda, Thailand, Uganda and Vietnam to name a few.

As a secular organisation, YAA provides services for young people that have no gender, religious, ethnic or sexuality bias and no young person is to be excluded on the grounds of gender, religion, nationality or sexual preference. We believe this to be important considering the diverse demographics of the region.

Both services provide a range of support including prevention, early intervention, support accommodation and outreach support to at risk and or homeless young people. Both services also provide housing options for young people either directly or in partnership with Community Housing Providers (Affordable Housing & St George). In addition other services offered range from sexual education, drug and alcohol information session, Police and Legal Aid interaction workshops, sports activities, games night and cooking classes to name a few. These programs not only provide young people with improved knowledge, but allows them the opportunity to network with other young people in a safe and stable environment.

Feedback from young people utilizing Wruwallin House and Canterbury Youth Services.......

“CYS means a lot to me and I am scared of what the future could be like without any support”

“Good to talk to staff about things i need to achieve in life, tell them how i am feeling, when I'm happy with and what I'm not.”
Canterbury Youth Services

Since 2008 YAA has administered Canterbury Youth Services. In these 12 months CYS has strengthened its commitment to preventing & breaking the cycle of homelessness with young people in the region. CYS works with young people aged between 16–24 years of age, with a strong focus on culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The Canterbury Youth Services team includes 3 permanent staff: Simone Payne (Team Leader), Jim Itil, and Emily Woods.

Canterbury directly manages 4 properties and has several other properties under the management of community housing partners providing young people with housing options.

Just some of the achievements include . . . . .

- Around 100 support periods in the 2008-089 Financial Year.
- Over the last 12 months, word of mouth has spread quickly amongst young people, and community/government services, resulting in an increase in overall referrals.
- An expansion and delivery of a wide range of activities tailored to meet the needs of young people and provide living/life skills to equip young people to live independently. (Over the year 16 specific clients workshops/activities).
- Over twenty clients have been involved in consultations held by Housing NSW and the Commission for Children and Young People with some constructive and valuable feedback.
- CDSE funding grant which assisted in delivering series of workshops which included music, art and a planned recreation camp.
- CYS was able to negotiate a formal partnership with St George Community Housing to supply additional housing.
- CYS is close to securing another office site along with a “hub of services” at Belmore Resource Youth Centre. This is exciting given that it provides another easy access point for young people to access CYS staff and other providers.

Wruwallin House

Wruwallin house was administered under Youth Accommodation Association (YAA). Bankstown similarly to Canterbury service is a extremely diverse community and clients accommodated came from various cultural backgrounds including, Phillippines, Jordan, Chile, Nigeria, Sudan, Sierra Leone, New Zealand and China.

The Wruwallin house property provides supported accommodation to 5 young people both males and females 16 to 19 years. The young people can stay in a safe and supportive environment for up to 2 years which really allows a focus on personal/social development and ensuring young people are connected to education/employment and or social/recreational linkages upon moving to full independence. Some of these young people may move into semi-independent housing arrangement with ongoing support from staff. Wruwallin house is staffed 24 hours seven days a week, this enables staff to meet the needs of the young people that present with more complex needs.

The Wruwallin house permanent staff team is small and includes Jo Naylor (co-ordinator), Wayne Atkins and Diana Halse. A number of relief workers also support young people in the service including Kassie Paice, Julie Yeung, Elaine Macnish, Frances Ralph, Kim McPherson, Derek Tweed, Dirk Lackman, Mark Andrews, Amanda Byrne, Barbara Tobin, Jerome Leach and Rachel Cecilio.

Just some of the achievements for the year include . . . . .

- Wruwallin house accommodated 14 clients in and 4 clients in our semi properties in the 2008-09 year.
- Of the 9 clients that left the refuge, 2 moved into semi independent living, 3 moved back to live with family, 2 moved into independent living and 2 moved back into a crisis refuge.
- Of the 3 clients that left the semi independent property, 2 moved into independent living and 1 moved into another semi independent service.
- Of the Young People who left Wruwallin House over the year 3 were supported back to family, 4 into more permanent housing and of the 3 clients that left the semi independent property, 2 moved into independent living and 1 moved into another semi independent service.
- CDSE funding grant which assisted in the purchase of new IT equipment, Bedding and other essential items for Wruwallin House.
The Health Outreach Team (HOT) is a NSW Health funded project who target those who work with homeless or at risk young people across New South Wales. Currently, the project employs two staff and has a focus on sexual health and blood borne virus prevention, taking a broad view of sexual health which also examines body image, self esteem and negotiation and communication skills. HOT has been running in various capacities for over 12 years as part of the Youth Accommodation Association.

The HOT team compromises two full time health educators Jackie Davis and Brandon Bear. While many would be familiar with the work of HOT in delivering training / education programs and resources, HOT in addition does a lot of behind the scenes work and contributes to the 'big picture' work of YAA.

In 2008-09 HOT also has worked on Sexual Health Week, a number of on-site inservicing at youth homeless services, promoting sexual health to TAFE and University students who are entering the field of youth work and contributed to a number of publications writing about the importance of sexual health including Parity and Youth Studies Australia.

Training and Education over 2008-09 ……

Over 2008-09, HOT completed workshops in Walgett, Orange, Tamworth, Moree, Inverell, Maitland and Taree Dubbo, Wollongong and Nowra. Over the course of these trainings we were able to work with over 150 youth and health workers, including those who work with very marginalised populations such as homeless young people, indigenous young people, same sex attracted young people and young people who are victims of family abuse.

The work continued with South East Sydney Illawarra Health’s HIV and Related Programs Unit, their Youth Health manager Kirketon Road Centre, South East Sydney Illawarra Health and the Hep C Council of New South Wales to continue rolling out trainings on sexual health, communication and consent in the Sydney area.

The Hep C Council, have also been invaluable in supporting us at a series of trainings run in South West Sydney and in Wollongong, where we value our partnership with the HIV and Related Programs Unit and Healthy Cities Illawarra.

HOT also worked again with Hunter New England Area Health’s HIV and Related Programs Unit to run trainings in Tamworth, Inverell, Moree, Maitland and Taree, and developed a new relationship with Greater Western Area Health Service to run even more training in Walgett, Dubbo and Orange.

Within Sydney HOT worked with the Western Area Adolescent Team and High Street Youth Health Service to run training for workers in Western Sydney as part of a series of professional development courses, as well as continuing our involvement in Sexual Health Week, a partnership project between the four Area Health Services and Family Planning NSW and HOT.

In Western Sydney HOT ran training for 15 youth workers covering core sexual health issues and communication, including how to effectively use the HOT Resources. In the city we ran a communication skills and consent workshop which was attended by over 15 people.

In South West Sydney HOT worked with over 65 workers in three locations, Fairfield, Campbelltown and Liverpool to run two day trainings covering core sexual health information, communication, introduction to resources and a special focus on working with CALD communities in these areas, with presentations from Pacific Islander community representatives in Campbelltown, and a presentation from Harpreet Kalsi in Liverpool, who has a strong knowledge and history in working with sexual health in CALD communities. These presentations were eye opening for participants and HOT staff alike.

The demand for in-service training for workers is still growing, with Anglicare, the Kings Cross Adolescent Unit and Leichhardt Youth Refuge among others all requesting and receiving a small workshop run by one of the host staff. Through these small but effective trainings, HOT has been able to interact with over 30 youth workers.

HOT was also lucky enough to be invited to speak at the Regional Youth Development Officers Network conference. We presented three sessions, covering the youth workers role in sexual health, sex and the law and the effect of visual media on young people’s sexual health. These sessions reached around 100 people.

Our resources also continue to prove popular with over 110 One 2 One kits being sold, due in large part to Hunter New England and South East Sydney Illawarra purchasing One 2 Ones for each service who attended trainings in these areas. Over 30 of the HOT Games were sold in the 2008-09 financial year, which shows the continued support for both of these resources.

One of our most important partnerships is with our HOT Advisory Committee, and we would like to acknowledge the enormous support and guidance they provide. The advisory committee is made up of representatives from Twenty10, St George Youth Health Service, Liverpool Youth Accommodation Assistance Company, Kirketon Road Centre, The Hep C Council of NSW, Wruwallin House, Liverpool Youth Refuge, Canterbury Youth Service and Options Youth Housing, as well as being advised by The Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hep C Service, NSW Health and South East Sydney Illawarra Youth Health.

For more information about HOT have a look at the resources we have created, or the trainings which HOT deliver for youth workers at the YAA Website.
Dear Members

I am pleased to present the 2008-2009 financial report and audited statements for YAA for the year July 2008 to June 2009.

In accordance with the appropriate accounting standards the books for July 2008 to June 2009, have again been independently audited by Stephen Sproats. Accordingly the figures in the balance sheet and consolidated profit and loss represent the financial position of YAA as of 30th June 2009.

As has been reported in previous annual reports, as part of an investment in the current HR structure, in recent years YAA has been operating under five year financial plan. As of June 2009, YAA is in a better financial position that we originally forecast back in 2005.

The current investment in the YAA HR structure has enabled huge improvements in the projects and services and significant increase of YAA’s presence and capacity in the sector, in the regions, in Government and in the public sphere.
This year we have been able to fund some more ambitious projects such as the successful ‘Stop Revive Survive’ Youth Homelessness Conference in August 2008 and the YHMD resources for the campaign in 2009 and to upgrade the IT system.

I am pleased to report that despite the additional costs that YAA turned over a surplus, which will be critical in the next few years in order to maintain the current HR structure, special services and peak function capacity.

Total income this year was $1.9 million dollars, including $1.7 million in grants from Dept Community Services and NSW Health. This year expenses were up 6% on the previous year due to increased wages and superannuation costs. The YAA conference in August broke even thanks to additional sponsorship by DoCs, SYFS and the Children’s Commission.

And last but not least, a special thankyou Jean Robinson (Administration and Finance Manager) who ensures that the CEO and Board are able to operate to accurate and timely financial advice. Jean makes sure that the whole administration and finance process runs smoothly and efficiently . . . thank you Jean.

Brain Tranter
YAA Treasurer
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

TO MEMBERS OF YOUTH ACCOMMODATION ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Youth Accommodation Association (NSW) Inc which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009, Income & Expenditure Statement, Cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and the executive declaration.

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

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditors judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence
I am independent of Youth Accommodation Association (NSW) Inc, and have met the independence requirements of the Australian ethical pronouncements.

Auditor’s Opinion
In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Youth Accommodation Association (NSW) Inc as at 30 June 2009, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

Stephen A Sproats
Registered Company Auditor

Dural

Registered Company Auditor

3932

8 September 2009
### Balance Sheet

**YOUTH ACCOMMODATION ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC**

**Balance Sheet**

*As at 30 June 2009*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated Funds</strong></td>
<td>$869,832</td>
<td>$713,432</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Represented by:

**Current Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount 2009</th>
<th>Amount 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash on Hand</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank</td>
<td>88,569</td>
<td>64,018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>23,026</td>
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<td>Term Deposit</td>
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<td>11,883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
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<td>10,633</td>
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<td>Shares – Community Bank</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Money on Deposit</td>
<td>748,838</td>
<td>1,192,273</td>
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**Fixed Assets**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount 2009</th>
<th>Amount 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant &amp; Equipment – at cost</td>
<td>227,434</td>
<td>266,233</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>(148,494)</td>
<td>(148,395)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>78,940</td>
<td>117,838</td>
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**Total Assets**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,524,311</td>
<td>1,426,988</td>
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**Current Liabilities**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount 2009</th>
<th>Amount 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creditors &amp; Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>62,046</td>
<td>113,696</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision for Projects</td>
<td>242,500</td>
<td>230,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants in Advance</td>
<td>197,029</td>
<td>205,748</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision for Employee Costs</td>
<td>152,904</td>
<td>163,612</td>
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**Net Assets**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$869,832</td>
<td>$713,432</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Audited Financial Statements

### YOUTH ACCOMMODATION ASSOCIATION (NSW) LTD
### CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Received</td>
<td>1,708,169</td>
<td>1,594,291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>79,918</td>
<td>61,969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>17,485</td>
<td>15,915</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision for Projects</td>
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<td>65,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>25,712</td>
<td>16,291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>55,835</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Revenue</td>
<td>30,766</td>
<td>60,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>1,917,905</td>
<td>1,814,697</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                        |            |            |
| **EXPENDITURE**        |            |            |
| Advertising            | 2,920      | 3,490      |
| Audit Fees             | 6,450      | 5,850      |
| Bank Charges           | 1,330      | 1,002      |
| Conference             | 36,027     | 17,305     |
| Consultant             | 1,406      | 32,570     |
| Client Disbursements   | 38,850     | 51,649     |
| Depreciation           | 33,377     | 19,198     |
| Equipment              | 53,527     | 32,125     |
| IT Support             | 26,686     |            |
| Insurance              | 35,952     | 27,803     |
| Materials & Resources  | 97,146     | 57,028     |
| Management Costs       | 11,020     | 17,679     |
| Motor Vehicle          | 16,877     | 9,674      |
| Payroll Tax            | 15,813     | 32,183     |
| Printing, Postage & Stationery | 24,456 | 17,593 |
| Provision for Project costs | 12,000 | 131,500 |
| Provisions for Employee Costs | -10,710 | 30,693 |
| Repairs & Maintenance  | 14,918     | 8,406      |
| Rent & Electricity     | 81,195     | 61,930     |
| Sponsorship            | 5,000      |            |
| Subscription           | 4,672      | 3,964      |
| Sundry                 | 23,236     | 29,038     |
| Superannuation         | 89,951     | 79,408     |
| Telephone              | 39,653     | 39,302     |
| Training               | 2,684      | 4,606      |
| Travel                 | 24,467     | 22,932     |
| Wages                  | 1,071,967  | 924,177    |
| Workshop               | 641        | 1,672      |
| **Total Expenditure**  | 1,761,505  | 1,662,783  |

**OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)**

FOR THE YEAR

$156,400   $151,914
30 Years.....

.....Of YAA
30 Years of YAA

TRAINSPOTTERS GUIDE TO 30 YEARS of YAA and the SECTOR . . . . Michael Coffey October 2009

In ye ‘olden days’ . . . before YAA

Youth homelessness has been a social issue in Australia since the beginning of white occupation, with the term ’street arabs’ being used during the 19th and early 20th centuries to describe homeless young people, and the Neglected and Criminal Children’s Act 1864 which defined neglected children as “Any child found wandering about or frequenting any street thoroughfare tavern or place of public resort or sleeping in the open air and who should not have any home or settled place of abode or any visible means of subsistence.”

Service provision to homeless young people over one hundred years ago centred on notions of apprehension and detention of children and young people who were placed in reformatories or boarded out, a process known as ‘child saving’. Governments acted as quasi parent where the state had powers to care for children who were deserted or abandoned, ill treated or found living on the streets. The model used was one of ‘resocialising’ young people to more productive ways of life, and removal from families of origin was often permanent. In the 1960s and 1970s new notions developed which emphasised models of rehabilitation by admitting young homeless people to the care of the state.

NCOSS began in 1930 and ACWA was established in 1958

1970s

In 1970 the first video game was released (Pong) and in 1971 MacDonalds opened its first store in Australia at Yagoona. Meanwhile up in Qld. In Qld Kedron Lodge — commenced in 1972 and still operational in 2006. Brisbane Youth Service — commenced in the early 1970’s and still operational in 2006. Special mention Father Wally Dethlefs — who was has been instrumental in setting up many of the youth services in Brisbane, legal advocate especially for young people in jy detention centres and as a commissioner in the Burdekin and NYC Inquiries.

In 1974 the Commonwealth introduced the Homeless Persons assistance Program (HPAP),

The One Step Forward report noted the “indicated that much more was involved than a number of young people running away from home. The changing structure of economic and social life was thought to be exerting pressures beyond the control of the young and forcing them into homelessness”.

The first NSW youth refuge “young peoples refuge” opened in February 1975 in Chippendale as a temporary alternative environment for young people. As an alternative to large state run institutional homes/remand centres or religious orgs which provided foster care services.

In July 1976 Bankstown Youth Refuge (Wanbinga) and Taldemunde opened with funding described by the SMH as being on an experimental basis.

From Peter Cronau’s notes that early youth refuges used the ‘house parents’ model, where the first refuge paradigm was that their residents needed ‘love’ and ‘restoration of family’ they often employed house parents to do this. Apparently there was a rapid turnover of staff/’houseparents’ This was phased out over the years in preference for the ’youth worker’ model.

The first Mardi Gras ‘parade’ was a protest held on June 24 1978 to commemorate the Stonewall riots (June 27 1969). Many participants were arrested, and the event was held annually as an ongoing protest. By 1981, the parade had been shifted to February, and it began to attract attention as a festival rather than protest.

And in 1979 the commonwealth /states established a three year pilot Youth Services Scheme (YSS) to provide emergency accommodation, referral and info services to young people under 18 described as ‘runaways’ ‘street kids’. This pilot extended to 5 years until SAAP was established.

YAA began in 1979 as the Youth Refuge Action group. Which was a group of workers in services who got together to discuss problems and break down the extreme isolation which existed between them, share information and support each other. After a few meetings he group shifted from being about ‘reflection’ and ‘support’ towards ‘action’ and ‘advocacy’. “We decided that things needed changing outside of our services, that just talking about it amongst ourselves wasn’t going to do much and that we needed a base from which to work for change” — David Annis Brown

From the minutes of the first meeting 19-9-79 they agreed that “YRAG would be a vehicle for lobbying (using simple statistics); info sharing; support and an arena for sharing ideas and new methods being implemented in the refuges”. The Youth Accommodation Coalition of Victoria was also established in 1979 as a coalition of groups and individuals concerned about youth homelessness.

Mobile ‘cell’ phones were invented in 1979 they were massed produced in the late 1980’s. VHS format was introduced in 1978, players became affordable early to mid 1980s.

1980s

The YRA Philosophy sub committee in 1979–80 reported “It was identified by workers at the time that there were not consistent links between ideologies, principles and practices, which created difficulty and confusion.” And concern over the ‘geographical distribution of funds for Youth Refuges’. They set up an ideology committee for YRA . . . I wonder what they did?.
Membership of YRA in 1980 was 25 services. One of the prolific YAA - people from this era... Paul Van Ryk notes that “It’s very important to recognize an acknowledge that many of the workers in supported accommodation and housing politics and servicing were from backgrounds of radicalization in broader struggles – women’s rights, Aboriginal rights, gay and lesbian rights, and early environmental struggles; and it’s important first to recognize that many of us who worked in the supported accom area also did considerable work in the housing sector being critically involved in the various versions of Shelter at State and national levels. It was this that led us to making the connections between the personal and the political when it came to looking at root causes of homeless among the young people we dealt with and to knowing that only operating on a case-work band aid approach was inadequate. We knew that we would get little unless the pillars of sexism, racism and homophobia were continually undermined in our relations with each other in the workplace, with our funders, and with young people.

Catherin Mackenzie (as YRAA NSW and NYCH delegate) writes that In 1981 at the first National Youth Accommodation Workshop in Canberra youth accommodation workers came together from all over Australia to form some sort of national apparatus. NYCH emerged out of that workshop. This was synced with a national campaign using the slogan “Shelter or the Streets”. NYCH received funding and began, it held its first inaugural meeting in Sept 1982.

Initially in 1981 there was an attempt to have a statewide Queensland Youth Accommodation Coalition (QYAC), this broad based Coalition eventually broke into two separate Coalitions – SEQYAC and NQYAC- and funding for QYAC was not successful. In 1981/82 YSS was evaluated documented in “One Step Forward”. Land a senate inquiry into the needs of Homeless youth. Both emphasised the need for long term accom options for Young people. YSS continued in 1983/84 with a national budget of $2.1million. The states and territories also provided $5.9 million.

1983 another “Shelter or the Streets Campaign” was held by YAA and NYCH.

1983, In a resource “Girls Rule OK” produced by the young women’s collective “it is a common assumption that the term “youth” applies to boys rather than boys and girls.”

1984 twist top for bottles invented. Trivial Pursuit was released in 1983.

1984 YAA Vacancy Line established

1985 SAAP established, initially conceived as Crisis Accommodation Assistance Program. Initially women’s refuges resisted recommendations that their funding came from SAAP, as the Federal gov’t had previously committed to a federally funded womens services program that the idea of CAAP wasn’t broad enough. They argued to get “support” into the title.

At the same time Crisis accommodation Program was introduced and linked to SAAP as part of the Commonwealth State Housing agreement. CAP was established as capital funding for SAAP services. 1985 Priority One youth policy statement was released, peaks did ‘whose priority’ campaigns in response. In some States provision was made for the young homeless to pursue their studies less formally in youth refuges.

1985 was the United Nations International Year of Youth

In the Mid 1980s YAA moves from Burnside to Harris Park

Late 1980s YAA does its own youth worker training programs, “The Youth Worker Factory” this continues until 1990.

1986 establishment of the Homeless Youth Allowance Commonwealth Benefit which provided income support for young people. Both of these responses were a ‘crisis response’ to homelessness among young people.

1986 From a statement of philosophy from a service in Nth NSW 1986: “as workers at... we are committed to understanding how young people are oppressed in our society and as a result of this understanding, taking action to ensure that all young people come in contact with are treated as fully human, equal and much respected members of society . . . in reality young people intelligent, zestful, powerful cooperative vital to the world and loving toward each other . . . any appearance to the contrary are merely the effects of past mistreatment and unresolved pain . . . as a united force, lets break the chain of pain and uncover the reality!”

1987 was the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

In 1987 according to the NDC 23% of SAAP clients were 12–15 years (33% in NSW)

1987 Brian Burdekin Human Rights and Equal Opportunities began a comprehensive inquiry into youth homelessness. The final report was released in 1989, known as the Burdekin report The Burdekin Report estimated that 70,000 children and young people were homeless in 1989. The report outlined early intervention and preventative strategies which it recommended should be adopted in responding to the issues.

1989 ABC television did a document called Nobody’s Children in 1989 to help highlight the issues of youth homelessness.

1989 SAAP II commences

1989 YAA moves from Harris Park to the Trades Hall Building on Goulburn Street to collocate with NSW Shelter - as Shelter gets defunded.
30 Years of YAA

1990s
In 1988-90 YAA began to make lots of noise about the number of State Wards in youth refuges.

1990 YAA, DYSA and YACON encouraged to merge. YAA members say ‘no’. DYSA and YACON merge to form YAPA.

1990 YAA gets defunded . . . but against all odds, it just kept on going . . . as the chair of YAA reported in 1990 “the effects of defunding have been debilitating but by no means fatal”

1991 HOT project begins as the “Safer Sensation Hands on Project” SSHOP

1991 YAA buys a fax machine. The YAA “Monthly Mailout” is renamed as the “Grapevine”

1991 NYCH held the NYCH National Youth Housing Conference in Dallas Brooks Hall in Melbourne

1993 A National Youth housing Strategy was announced as part of the 1993 federal budget.

1994 SAAP Act passed

1994 On the evening of June 13 1994, a worker at the Bankstown Youth Refuge was murdered. Neena Bisen, a 34-year-old youth worker with experience in India and the United States, was allegedly stabbed to death by two girls, aged 15 and 17, residents of the refuge. Police say the attack was part of a robbery which had been planned earlier in the day.

Their first National Census of Homeless Students, completed in 1994, David MacKenzie (Swinburne University) and Chris Chamberlain (RMIT)

1994-95 SAAP III commences

1990 the World Wide Web was invented, it begins to take off in mid-late 90’s.


1998 Thomson Goodall were commissioned to evaluate SAAP III

1999 Restoration of YAA’s core funding. YAA moves from Trades Hall to Elizabeth St Redfern

1999 YAA takes on the auspice of Wruwallin House

2000 the Commonwealth Government launched a National Homelessness Strategy aimed at providing a ‘holistic and strategic approach’.

2000, In May more than 250,000 people took part in a march across the Sydney Harbour Bridge, under the word “sorry”, written in the sky.

2001 the Commonwealth Government launched a National Homelessness Strategy aimed at providing a ‘holistic and strategic approach’. The Australian Government launched a National Homelessness Strategy (NHS) in May 2001. The NHS was been rolled out to be a series of pilot projects (with no assurances for their ongoing implementation) and demonstration projects.

2001 YAA takes on the auspice of Young People’s Refuge

2002 Inquiry into Child Protection and DoCS Huge injection of funds ($1/2 Billion) into OOH system, rolled out over next 6 years.

2002 YAA establishes Links Mental Health project for two years

2002 YAA takes on the auspice of Allawah House

2002 New SACS award

2003 Moves to shift SAAP to the Dept Housing, abandoned after lobbying by the sector

2004 Senator Paterson on the SAAP IV Evaluation “I believe the SAAP IV evaluation was comprehensive and I am pleased with its outcomes. The evaluation has convinced me that SAAP is a program worthy of continued Australian Government support so today I am committing to a further agreement,” Senator Patterson said.

“A greater focus on early intervention and delivering better co-ordinated services will help people without stable long term accommodation get back on their feet. We also need to focus on ongoing assistance to ensure stability for people who are making the transition from a crisis situation.” Media Release 28/07/2004

2005 YAA takes on the auspice of Options Youth Housing

2005 SAAP V commences late – October 2005

2006 Coming from a YAIN event in 2005, Youth Homeless Matters Campaign established

2006 YAA commences work on Under 16s In SAAP policy and OOH kids in homelessness services, unlike 1990, this time we don’t get defunded.

2007 YAA takes on the auspice of Canterbury Youth Services

2008 YHMD exhibition event at Carriageworks

2008 Stop Revive Survive Conference in Newcastle.
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YAA Eo/Secretariat/Executive/Board of Management 1979 - 1989
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## YAA Eo/Secretariat/Executive/Board of Management 2000 - 2009

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2000 - 2009
Acknowledgements

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Thank you to:

- Fed Minister for Housing The Hon, Tanya Plibersek MP,
- Minister for Community Services Hon Linda Burney
- Minister for Youth Hon Graham West
- Minister for Housing Borger

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  Julie Hourigan Rose (PIAC) Jenna Bateman Rodd West (MHCC) Maree O’Halloran (Welfare Rights) Tanya Merinda Heidi Becker (NADA) Trish Brambell (St Vinnies) Liz Gilles (City of Sydney), Felicity Reynolds (Mercy Foundation) Cate Sydes (Marist Youth Care) Danielle Domanski (Create)

  - Other State Peak and organisations:

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    SVDP Netty Horton
    
    Salvation Army: David Eldridge, Paul Moulds
    
    Mission Australia: Elen Morgan-Thomas, Leonne Green

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  Meridith Tumball (KYAC)
  
  National Shelter: Adrian Pisarski
  
  National Youth Coalition for Housing:
  
  Maria Leebeek (Qld), Bill Groom (NT), Kara Piltz (SA), Christa Hilton (NT), Jane Lazzari (Vic), Theresa Moore (Tas) Emma Robertson (ACT)

- International


- Health:

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  All the guest speakers at the YAA general meetings and policy forums 2008-2009:

  All services and individuals who supported the Youth Homlessness Matters Campaign in 2009, it will be even bigger in 2010 !!!.
Youth Accommodation Association NSW Inc.
Level 1, 619 Elizabeth Street, Redfern NSW. 2016
PO Box 3115, Redfern NSW. 2016
Ph: (02) 9698 5833
Fax: (02) 9318 2058
Email: yaa@yaa.com.au

Web: www.yaa.com.au
Web: www.youthhomelessnessmatters.net