



THE
ANNUAL
YOGIE
AWARDS

2022

Award Winners

presented by
Yvette Berry MLA



youth
coalition
of the ACT



ACT
Government

www.youthcoalition.net

The Youth Coalition of the ACT acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the lands of the ACT and we pay our respects to the Elders, families and ancestors.

We acknowledge that the effect of forced removal of Indigenous children from their families as well as past racist policies and actions continues today.

We acknowledge that the Indigenous people hold distinctive rights as the original people of modern day Australia including the right to a distinct status and culture, self-determination and land. The Youth Coalition of the ACT celebrates Indigenous cultures and the invaluable contribution they make to our community.



YOGIE AWARD WINNERS

PRESENTED BY
YVETTE BERRY MLA

THE ANNUAL YOGIE AWARDS 2022

AWARD CATEGORIES

ORGANISATION, SERVICE, PROGRAM AND PROJECT AWARDS

1. Innovation in Service Delivery
1. Outstanding Achievement in Youth Participation
2. Excellence in Implementation of Evidence Informed Practice

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

1. Youth Work Champion
2. Outstanding Contribution to Young People
3. Outstanding Youth Worker
4. Outstanding New Talent
5. Lifetime Achievement

YOUTH COALITION STAFF AWARDS

1. Staff Acknowledgement Award
2. Public Service Award

The Annual Yogie Awards (the Yogies) recognise, celebrate, promote and reward outstanding practice in working with young people in the ACT and surrounding area. They also highlight the exceptional commitment, talent and innovation that exist in the youth sector. In 2022, we are celebrating nineteen years of the Yogies.

The 2022 Yogies will be presented by Yvette Berry, MLA, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs. Awards are presented in 10 categories that recognise the work of groups and individuals, with young people, workers, individuals, programs and services invited to provide nominations.

A judging panel, comprised of a representative from the Youth Coalition; a representative from the Community Services Directorate; and a representative from the youth and community sector, determines the Award winners, with the exclusion of the Staff Acknowledgement Award and Public Service Award (which is identified by the Youth Coalition staff team).

A commendation may be awarded when a nomination has been received that the judging panel believe deserves recognition. We invite you to get involved in promoting the great work of the ACT Youth Sector by sharing your comments and congratulations using #YOGIES2022

INNOVATION IN SERVICE DELIVERY

This award recognises an organisation, service, program or project that has demonstrated exceptional “thinking outside the square” to create beneficial change for young people.

WINNER

THEY LEADS

YWCA CANBERRA, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TEAM

They Leads is a leadership conference designed to inspire, empower, and amplify the voices of LGBTIQ+ young people and allies aged 12-25. At the conference young people were free to express themselves and explore their own journey whilst hearing from inspiring local LGBTIQ+ leaders and building skills to increase connection with their peers and community.

YWCA Canberra’s youth engagement program is an inclusive service supporting young people (10 – 25 years) in the Tuggeranong region. YWCA have a strong history of delivering ‘She Leads’, a suite of leadership conferences and workshops in the ACT. LGBTQIA+ young people identified the need for a tailored leadership conference for gender and sexuality diverse young people in the ACT. They Leads was created to ensure LGBTQIA+ young people had a safe, relevant, and accessible event where they could connect and explore leadership.

The event had a strong collaborative focus, including collaboration with:

- local LGBTIQ+ businesses to ensure that funding would flow back into the local LGBTIQ+ community and allow young people to see LGBTQIA+ people thriving and leading fulfilling, successful lives.
- young people who had input into the presenters and topics, as well as also identifying peers to perform and showcase their talent.
- organisations including inviting other staff to attend to listen to key-note speakers whilst also hosting information tables ensuring direct service promotion to attendees. Organisations who hosted tables included Directions, A Gender Agenda, Meridian, Woden Youth Services, M-Hub and SHAFPACT. Warehouse Circus and headspace Canberra ran workshops on the day.
- schools and organisations to support young people to attend the event. Numerous connections with schools have continued, identifying the depth of need to upskill staff within the community and education sectors to better support LGBTQIA+ young people. A new program (accredited professional development and school-based program) is in development with roll out in early 2023.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

DAYDREAM MACHINE

Daydream Machine is a Canberra STEM-based studio (established January 2022), running programs to support young neurodivergent people (10-21 years) to explore their interests and talents in music, arts and technology. Daydream Machine runs tailored programs for every participant with defined project outcomes in a safe, inclusive learning space - the students are learning specialised industry-standard skills in areas of their interest, developing realistic, exciting career pathways.

All of Daydream Machine activities have been developed with the sole aim of enhancing the inclusion of young people with disability - this has been achieved by providing an inspiring, safe, inclusive space for young people with disability to meet other like-minded people and explore, develop and showcase their creative fields of interest. Daydream Machine, which was founded by 2022 ACT Local Hero and 2021 YOGIES Outstanding Youth Worker Luke Ferguson, uses the power of music, art and film to break down barriers to participation and enhance self esteem of young neurodivergent people, shifting the focus to their innate gift to spark joy in others. Daydream Machine is removing stigma and changing people's perceptions of what young people with disability are capable of.

This year, Daydream Machine's participants have, amongst many other things:

- Collaborated with the United Nations Information Centre on numerous projects including a UN 'Pause' Campaign disco at St Vincents Primary to raise awareness about the spread of misinformation.
- Participated in the Disability Strategy Conversation with the Office for Disability.
- Performed at an AOTY Luncheon.
- Had three finalists in the National Edstart Achievement Awards - one student, 12 year-old Grace, won the Performing Arts category and is using prize money to record an album.
- Been interviewed by the Canberra Times/ABC Radio about their various projects.
- Performed live at several DM showcase gigs (all performers got paid) - the Minister for Disability attended the concerts, spoke with the students and purchased some of their art.
- Performed at a UC Inclusion Day event.
- Received four awards at the 2022 ACT Children's Day Awards.
- Planned a DM Expo for Dec.

As all DM activities are student-led, developed with their input, it is sustainable. Participants are passing on their new-found knowledge/skills to their peers - that's when true change happens, and community inclusion is really impacted.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN YOUTH PARTICIPATION

This award recognises an organisation, service, program or project that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to developing meaningful partnerships with young people.

WINNER

RUBY'S RENOVATION PROJECT SAFE & CONNECTED YOUTH PROGRAM

The Safe and Connected Youth Program provides intensive, therapeutic support to young people aged 8-15 years and their families. The program works holistically with the family and ensures the young person's voice is at the centre of decision making. The program provides assertive outreach, meditation, family counselling and therapeutic accommodation.

Over the past three years, the program, in collaboration with Housing ACT, IKEA and the Youth Coalition have been working with a cohort of young people, who have experienced homelessness, to design and furnish the program's therapeutic accommodation. This process began at the beginning stages of renovating the property, where young people were taken through and supported to share with Housing ACT what they would like to see in the house, and what would make it feel like a home. Once renovations were complete, CRS supported the same group of young people back out to the house to see the renovations and share their thoughts on the design. The group were asked to give their input on what they felt would make the house a space that was "home-like" and where young people would feel welcome and safe. The program then supported a group of young people, some from the initial group, and some existing clients of the program, to attend IKEA to create a mood board and shop for the house furnishings. As a result, both the activity room and counselling room at the house are fully designed by young people. Young people were compensated for their time throughout the process to acknowledge their input, ideas and suggestions. By co-designing the space with young people, the program has been able to capture the voice of the young person and ensure the environment is reflective of the vulnerable cohort SACY supports. Through engaging the same young people throughout the process, they were able to have ownership over the process and witness their contribution come to fruition. This process gave these young people hope in the sector and a sense that their experiences and their decisions have been able to make a difference for future young people needing support.

EXCELLENCE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE INFORMED PRACTICE

This award recognises an organisation, service, program or project that has implemented practice or policies which have been informed by evidence and/or evaluation leading to the improvement of practice with young people.

WINNER WOKE PROGRAM

The WOKE Program provides evidence-based, early intervention for young people and their parents struggling with problems associated with emotion regulation difficulties and at risk of developing borderline personality disorder. The 14-week Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) based program provides assessment, pre-treatment, concurrent individual therapy, and skills group training for young people; and skills group training and concurrent individual therapy for parents. Delivered by clinical psychology students at the University of Canberra, it provides training for the future workforce in provision of evidence-based practice for youth with complex issues. The Program is committed to providing access to a free, evidence-based service to young people and their families in the ACT region, delivering excellent participant outcomes since commencing in 2019.

The WOKE Program was developed to address a major service gap in the ACT by providing early intervention for young people experiencing social/emotional problems and vulnerable to developing borderline personality disorder (BPD). This is a well-acknowledged treatment gap and area of major need for young people and their families in ACT.

WOKE is strongly evidence-based in two ways:

1. the foundational DBT approach has the strongest evidence for young people with emotional dysregulation
2. a robust research evaluation framework was implemented alongside the Program to determine effectiveness of the adaptations. This comprised analysis of key change and outcome measures before, during, post, and follow-up, and interviews to derive rich qualitative information about the experiences of young people, parents, and the student clinicians.

WOKE has led to improved practice with young people by providing: a much-needed referral option for the ACT, a highly effective intervention for young people and their parents, and training of a skilled workforce ready to work with critical mental health concerns for young people.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS **YOUTH WORK CHAMPION**

This award recognises an individual youth worker who excels in three areas of youth work – excellence in supporting young people, commitment to developing and improving their individual practice, and supporting and advancing the work of the youth sector.

WINNER **ANGUS TAME**

Angus demonstrates excellence whilst working with some of the most vulnerable, and marginalised young people. Angus' ability to connect with vulnerable young people reflects an authenticity that promotes hope, empathy and connection and stems from his own experiences of adversity and as a LGBTQIA+ community member. Angus has been the driver of tailored LGBTQIA+ events this year, including the inaugural They Leads, an event for LGBTQIA+ young people to explore leadership and hear from inspiring members of the queer community, and YWCA Canberra's LGBTQIA+ Prom. Angus has provided robust case work, program design and development, partnerships, and collaboration across the sector, improving outcomes for LGBTQIA+ young people.

Just four examples, amongst many reveals how Angus supports young people through a commitment to improving individual and organisational practice:

1. Angus delivered 2 key sell-out events in 6 months for LGBTQIA+ young people, with over 250 young people attending YWCA Canberra's LGBTQIA+ Prom and They Leads leadership conference.
2. Angus is currently undertaking a Cert 4 in mental health. In November he attended Pride in Practice conference in Melbourne. Angus will present to the CYFSP Practice Leadership group.
3. Through sharing his experience and knowledge of LGBTQIA+ and the young people's needs to CSD, Angus effected change, with Non-binary and female identifying individuals now eligible to apply for the Aubrey Fagan grants.
4. Angus will soon pilot a 4-week school-based program and will cofacilitate with members of his team. The objective of the program is for LGBTQIA+ Young people to have an increased understanding and connection to their community through promotion of relevant, evidence-based harm minimisation strategies that are often vague or absent from heteronormalized education. An adapted program is being planned for delivery to youth workers across the sector (including schools) to increase their knowledge, skills and resources to work with LGBTQIA+ young people in their respective settings.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO YOUNG PEOPLE

This award recognises an outstanding individual who works hard, often 'behind the scenes', to support young people or the youth sector.

WINNER

JOEY BROGDEN

Joey is a youth mental health advocate supporting multiple projects in the ACT that are working towards enhancing the mental health system for children and young people. Joey has recently been involved in the "Right care, first time, where you live" research collaboration between the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing and the University of Sydney, as the youth lived experience champion for the program.

Joey's involvement in the Right Care Project was crucial to the design and development of the youth systems model. Joey was able to effectively engage with the research team and policy makers within government and non-government to translate mental health policy and systems modelling to support other young people to engage with the program in a meaningful way. She has skilfully reshaped the research delivery to support enhanced youth lived experience engagement within the program through ongoing consultations with the research team to ensure that the format and contents of the research's engagement met young people where they were at. This included introducing various technology platforms for use in workshops.

For this program Joey advocated for a specific youth engagement process to be undertaken ensuring that the young people felt comfortable and supported enough to engage with the wider research program. Joey was able to recruit a range of young people with lived experience to the program through various channels and engagement means, which meant that the program benefited from a diverse lived experience voice. She is also incredibly skilled at identifying strengths in other young people and supporting their engagement based upon their strengths.

Joey's leadership skills and ability to motivate people to participate were clearly demonstrated in her work on this program. We have witnessed Joey successfully engage with stakeholders ranging from young people with lived experience, policy makers, health professionals, academics, ministers and service providers to enhance the program's outcomes.

Joey is currently studying at university and volunteers her time to support different initiatives where she can share her experience and advocate for better systems and initiatives to support youth mental health. By advocating on behalf of young people, Joey has been able to ensure lived experience is at the heart of key projects supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our younger community.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH WORKER

This award recognises an individual youth worker who has demonstrated their exceptional commitment to supporting young people through their ethical, participatory, and strength-based practice

WINNER

EVA GASIEWICZ

Eva has been a Youth Worker with the Education Directorate for almost 20 years. She delivers a wide range of programs to the students at Gold Creek School and has an excellent network of professional contacts, honed from decades of collaborative practice. Eva has been integral to the development of the Breakfast Club, Young Carers' Group, Multicultural Groups including the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) and Girls' Boxing (safe and diverse space). Eva's practice is flexible and she is often called upon to support staff engaging with young people who display risk taking behaviours. Her ability to engage young people extends across race, religion, gender and class. Eva is a wonderful example of Youth Work at its best.

Eva is dedicated to empowering the most vulnerable young people and she provides a safe and respectful environment. Young people trust her and come to her in their time of need. Past students return to school to say hello and give her updates on their lives. In the community, she is greeted by older students who are now parents of teenagers and who remember the kindness she offered them during their own adolescence. Some feedback from young people: "Eva supports students who don't have food", "she's very generous, she's fun to be around", "Eva's always so motivated for the students", "she is inclusive". Eva is a wonderful youth worker whose passion and care for young people inspires them to become Youth Workers of the future.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

JEREMY LEALA

Jeremy has worked with local young people for almost 11 years and has spent the last 8 with the Youth Engagement Team at Woden Community Services. Jeremy has a very diverse role and performs exceptionally in all areas. Jeremy participates in all aspects of Youth Engagement including running drop-ins, group/program work, school talks and programs, events and school holiday programs and Case Work Support. Jeremy is passionate about music and was successful in securing funding to build a recording studio for local young people which has now been built and is operational. This was after he identified a need for it in the community and worked tirelessly to make it happen for the young people. He is using the space to deliver free music lessons to young people as well as having them record their own music.

Jeremy applies the same beliefs to everything he does. He treats all young people with the utmost respect and truly believes in them and what they can achieve. He is a kind and caring person who will work with any young person in a non-judgemental and strength-based way. His youth work skillset is vast and he is an extremely valuable member of the team and shares his knowledge and experience with other youth workers. His ability to build meaningful and influential relationships with young people is clearly demonstrated throughout his work and he does this whilst maintaining clear boundaries and professional standards.

Jeremy is liked by all young people who come into contact with him and this is because of his genuine and bubbly personality that makes young people feel welcomed and safe. He is a valuable asset to our sector and to all the young people who get the opportunity to work with him.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS **OUTSTANDING NEW TALENT**

This award recognises an individual youth worker, youth work trainee or volunteer who is new to the ACT Youth Sector, but has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving the wellbeing of young people.

WINNER

DANIEL WHITE

Daniel's enthusiasm and passion for supporting young people is infectious. As a mediator at Conflict Resolution Service within the Safe and Connected Youth Program, Daniel is able to engage young people in raw and vulnerable conversations, that is non-confrontational, and trauma informed. Daniel's work is youth centred, and family focussed, and he understands the young person's place within family systems and the power of working in a holistic family approach. Daniel has a passion for learning and professional development and is always looking for innovative ways to engage some of our most hard to reach young people.

Daniel's energy and drive for improving the lives of young people and empowering families is embedded in everything he does and is demonstrated in his ability when building rapport with young people. Daniel has an aptitude for creating safe, nurturing spaces for the young people and families he works with that enables them to feel comfortable and open to discussing their family dynamics, something that is not an easy feat. Daniel uses this trust to build strong therapeutic alliances and engage in challenging, thought-provoking communication and conflict coaching exercises with families, that enable them to build new skills, and equip them with strategies to support their relationships at home.

Not only does Daniel exhibit a genuine willingness to learn and a commitment to his own self-improvement, but also the skill development of his colleagues. Daniel has presented psychoeducation professional development workshops to the other members of his team that have then enabled them to have greater confidence in supporting young people who are escalated or in crisis. He has also been exploring how to incorporate his experiences and education as a counsellor into the realm of mediation and has provided a number of tools, resources and activities the Safe and Connected Youth team can use to support their clients.

Daniel has made a significant impact on the lives of the families he has worked with.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

STACEY BRIGHT

Stacey is a Youth Outreach Worker with the Raw Potential Youth Homelessness Program at Woden Community Service. She has worked in the community sector for 18 months, and over that period, Stacey has displayed maturity, commitment, and development beyond her years in the sector. Stacey is deeply passionate about her work and young people. Stacey works every day with complex and diverse young people who require significant and ongoing support that is often intense and challenging. Stacey is able to support these young people because of the way she approaches her role. She does it by building meaningful relationships with young people. Stacey does this by not being their friend or parent but instead building relationships that demonstrate she is a consistent, trusted, and accountable adult in their lives that works with them on their wants, needs, and goals, and will do that at the young person's pace and in a way that works for them.

Stacey cares deeply about the continual development of herself, the Raw Potential program, her teammates, and the youth sector. Stacey has taken it upon herself to develop her leadership qualities and skills and actively participates in training opportunities, sector forums, and focus groups, as well as taking on additional responsibilities as required such as preparing board reports, planning dental rescue days, and working events and drop-in shifts at Woden Youth Centre.

Stacey does all of the above with a positive attitude and presence. However, like everyone, Stacey has days when things can feel really challenging and positivity can be hard to find, but this is where she really shines, Stacey has the self-awareness and insight to know that those are the days that shape us as Youth Workers and she still shows up, accepts support from her team and meets the young people with a welcoming smile. Stacey is an inspiration to others and a highly valued Youth Worker.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

This award recognises an outstanding individual who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to supporting and improving the wellbeing of young people in the ACT, over a number of years.

WINNER

HONGSAR CHANNAIBANYA

Hongsar Channaibanya has been a strong supporter and advocate for multicultural and refugee and asylum seeker young people in the ACT for over 30 years. Hongsar is a humble but highly respected man who has shared his skills and passion for young people and their families from refugee backgrounds.

Hongsar has worked at Companion House for the past 16 years in multiple roles. As a Senior Case Worker, Hongsar is deeply respected by staff and clients. His work has made a significant contribution to the lives of hundreds of people, many of which are very vulnerable with complex needs and in their first years of resettlement after trauma and displacement. He is also passionate about employment, training and education and the vital opportunities these offer young people when they are settling in Canberra. He demonstrates great skill, empathy and understanding in his case work.

Hongsar is from a refugee background himself and is a longstanding and deeply respected leader in the Canberra Mon community. He also has served the Mon community and other refugee communities through many hundreds of hours of voluntary service supporting refugee community members of all ages.

Hongsar's significant amount of work has also included:

- working with ACT Parents and Citizens Association to assist schools to better support young people and families from refugee backgrounds.
- coordinated five ACT Education Forums over seven years which brought together teachers, policy makers, political leaders, Parents and Citizens Association, school principals and students and their families from refugee backgrounds.
- training health care workers and community sector workers in using interpreters and in working cross culturally for many years.
- coordinating events, playgroups, community forums and mentoring opportunities.
- being a member of MYAN (Multicultural Youth Advisory Network) for over a decade and has been a major contributor.
- working with ACTCOSS over many years to highlight the needs and experiences of young people and their families from refugee backgrounds.
- established and coordinated the Happiness Garden where people could grow their own vegetables in peace and tranquillity together and find another path to healing from trauma.
- working in Thailand supporting refugees from Myanmar.

YOUTH COALITION STAFF ACKNOWLEDGMENT AWARD

This award is selected by the Youth Coalition staff team, and acknowledges an individual or group who have significantly contributed to young people in the ACT, the youth sector, and the work of the Youth Coalition of the ACT.

WINNER

FAMILY SAFETY HUB

The Family Safety Hub is part of the ACT Office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety, designed to take a new approach in designing services and supports to meet the needs of people affected by domestic and family violence. Working in partnership with government, the private and community services sector, the Family Safety Hub coordinates projects and programs to design, test and evaluate new ideas that can have a tangible positive impact on the lives of those affected by domestic and family violence. One of priority focus areas of the FSH is supporting children and young people whose lives are impacted by family violence.

The Family Safety Hub and Children and Young People Commissioner partnered to listen to young people's experience of domestic and family violence. 70 young people aged 13 to 24 shared their views or personal stories of living with family violence during in-depth interviews and group discussions. These consultations confirmed children and young people's experiences of family violence are different to those of adults, which mean they need different supports and services which respond to their unique needs. In response to this, the Family Safety Hub supported the development and growth of the Got Your Back program, developed and run by Relationships Australia Canberra & Region. Got Your Back provides young people with a safe place to connect with peers and trusted adults who understand and validate their experiences without judgement, shame, or minimisation.

Building upon this work, the Family Safety Hub has supported the youth sector this year through the development and delivery of the "Talk to Them - Recognising and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence in Youth Work" training. The Family Safety Hub, Relationships Australia and the Youth Coalition partnered to develop and pilot a training package to increase youth workers capability to recognise and respond to young people, in recognition that youth workers are often trusted supports for young people, and well positioned to provide supportive responses and warm referrals to specialist DFV services. As part of this, the FSH funded an evaluation of the process of developing the training package, as well as the preliminary outcomes for training participants.

The Youth Coalition recognises and celebrates the Family Safety Hub's approach to partnering with government, the community sector, and the Canberra community, and the team's commitment to bringing the right people together to design, deliver and test solutions for domestic and family violence, which is already leading to improved support for young people and youth workers.



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