

Round About the NT

www.youth.nt.gov.au

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2011 Youth Minister's Round Table



Connor & Dion

Hi guys, welcome to the third meeting update of the 2011 Youth Round Table. Where has this year gone? We've all been so busy that it only seems like yesterday when we last met.

On Saturday the 13th of August we began our meeting with a few activities to familiarise ourselves with each other before our first guest speaker, Marion Scrymgour, Parliament Secretary for Territory 2030 arrived.

Ms Scrymgour started by asking us about our projects and she was able to give us some very insightful advice. She then spoke of the Territory 2030 Strategic Plan and how our projects related to this document. Ms Scrymgour not only sought our feedback on the Strategic Plan, but also asked for ideas on how to engage with NT youth.

Our next guest was Phil Elsegood of Cross Cultural Consultants. Mr Elsegood has been a researcher for over 30 years and shared his expertise with us. He also ran a session on public speaking and gave us tips on how to present to an audience.

Jeanette Callaghan from the Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Program (NTEIPP) returned to run two exercises with us. The 'Strong Tree' exercise allowed us to speak about the various issues that surround youth binge drinking. We then participated in a 'Body Mapping' exercise where an outline of Lauren Moss' body was drawn.

We were then asked to write or draw on Lauren's 2D body map some of the effects that can happen from binge drinking. By the end, 2D Lauren looked a little sad and sorry. In the afternoon we broke into our groups to work on our projects and review our timeline schedules to make sure we would finalise them before our final meeting in December. After day one was finished we relaxed and enjoyed a sumptuous barbeque by the pool. On Sunday, after a hearty breakfast, we had a session with Brooke O'Malley-Wittwer and Jo Virtue from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). They met with us to seek feedback on the Northern Territory Emergency Response discussion paper titled 'Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory'. Brooke and Jo also sought our ideas on how to engage NT youth.

The next session was a Body Image and Self Esteem workshop that was run by Youth Round Table members Hannah Woerle and Lauren Moss. The workshop encouraged us to talk about the things that affect young peoples thoughts on these issues. We then finished by handing each other different coloured ribbons that signified positive traits. We really enjoyed the workshop, as it was a very uplifting experience to be told some of the positive things people think about you. At lunch time on Sunday Minister Knight arrived with his new Youth Advisor, Kate Simpson and Clare Gardiner-Barnes, Chief Executive of the Department of Children and Families.

After providing an update on our projects, we then updated Minister Knight on how the Youth Round Table had been involved in community events and other networks throughout the year.

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Minister Knight was then happy to answer Round Table member's questions and offered some great advice on how we might move forward in our projects. All in all, the rest of the day went very quick as we worked amongst our groups or individually. We've all come a long way and we can't wait for the last meeting in December, but also don't want this experience to end.

Dion Dodd (Chair) and Connor Reid (Vice Chair).

2011 Round Table Projects

SKIN DEEP

The Skin Deep Team has collaborated with *headspace* Top End to bring the forum: 'Happy, healthy and resilient: Exploring options for young Territorians with eating disorders' to Darwin. The forum was held at the Casuarina Library Community Room on 1 September from 5.30pm – 7.30pm. Feedback on the forum will be included in our project report. Lauren & Hannah.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Hello, here is a short update on my project. I have made a website to promote youth events in Alice Springs. The URL is www.nteventshub.ucoz.com. So check it out and add your events. Gavin.

Y: EMPLOY ME

Since the third meeting we have been busy working on our project. After distributing our surveys to a varied group of people, we have started compiling our results, which are pretty interesting! We've been out and about discussing how people view employment in the NT and what opportunities are available for young people. Our research has also uncovered some great articles that really reflect the employment issues that Gen Y face. We look forward to the last few months of Round Table. Connor & Lianna.



Members participating in a body image and self esteem workshop

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Since the second Youth Round Table meeting, I have been meeting with service providers in Nhulunbuy to promote and plan the youth suicide information night, which I plan on holding at the local high school. The night will be open to the general public, however I am targeting parents, teachers and students aged 14-25, and hope to integrate both Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives.

Throughout the process of planning this night I have been overwhelmed by the amount of support that I have received from local community members and business owners. Without this support the information night would not be possible. To find out more information please contact: oya@nt.gov.au Emily.



Marion Scrymgour
MLA talking to
members about
the Territory 2030
Strategic Plan

My project is on youth suicide awareness and prevention. I'm aiming to help identify possible gaps in the general public's knowledge and services around this devastating subject. Since the start of the year, I have been to forums, political debates and I am currently a member of a suicide prevention network right here in Darwin. I started my research reading reports that have already been released on suicide prevention and awareness. I looked at strategies from local, interstate and international reports that show how others have tried to overcome this very serious issue. My research is currently at the surveying stage, where I will be sending out surveys to schools, services and networks right across the NT to gauge their response and knowledge. I look forward to the results and the finished product which isn't very far away. Dion.

SIZE DOES COUNT

My project is at the stage where it's time to bring all the information together. Most of the interviews are finished. Now I just need to access previous studies and reports the government has already conducted. My biggest learning curve is putting my report together in time and making my presentation interesting and informative for the Ministers and guests. Most of all I hope that my report and presentation have a positive influence on education. Zoe.



NT RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR JUVENILES

I am still researching and establishing the need for residential rehabilitation for juveniles in the Katherine region. I want to approach local service providers for thoughts on this.

Tylee.

PRIDE OF THE YOUTH ROUND TABLE!



Emily Osborne

Youth Round Table members would like to congratulate our Nhulunbuy member Emily Osborne on winning the NT 2011 Pride of Australia Youth Leadership Award. On top of her work raising awareness of youth suicide for the Youth Round Table, Emily is a young carer who helps look after her sister who has Rett's Syndrome.

She has used blogs and videos to raise the profile of young carers both in and beyond her community. Emily is also a year 12 student and School Captain. We are all proud of Emily's win and her dedication to making a difference. Congratulations Emily!

KNIGHTS OF THE YOUTH ROUND TABLE NEED YOUR HELP!

On Friday, 23rd September, Darwin region members will be participating in the 2011 Relay for Life event. This annual event is an initiative of the Cancer Council to raise much needed funds to support them to continue the fantastic work they undertake.

The Round Table is proud to be part of this initiative and we recognise that many people in our community, including some of our own families and friends, have been touched by this disease in some way.

If you would like to donate to the Knights of the Youth Round Table please visit (<http://nt.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/TeamPage.aspx?teamID=46993&langPref=en-CA&Referrer=http%3a%2f%2fwww.relayforlife.org.au%2fGetInvolved%2fSponsorATeamOrIndividual.aspx>).



Body Image and Self Esteem workshop ribbon explanation



Kevin Kadirgamar

NEW NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK NT YOUNG MEMBER

Hi! My name is Kenneth Kadirgamar and I am currently in my second year of a bachelor's degree of engineering at Charles Darwin University. I have been living in Darwin for about seven years now and I love it. I love the weather and the people and wouldn't live anywhere else. I was born in Sri Lanka and like many

Sri Lankans, I love my cricket. I have been playing it for as long as I can remember and couldn't imagine my life without it. I also have a great passion for public speaking and have been involved in many speaking competitions and debating for many years. It is a great privilege to be chosen as the Territory's National Youth Week Young Member for 2012. I hope that I will be able to represent the views of young people in the NT to the best of my ability and make sure that National Youth Week continues to flourish throughout the NT and around Australia.

Tobi



Lianna and Connor



A PROUD NIGHT: DION WINS NAIDOC YOUTH OF THE YEAR

On Saturday, 9th July, Dion Dodd and Lauren Moss joined Minister Malarndirri McCarthy to celebrate the closing of a great National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week. The night was full of laughter, fun and dancing and importantly the night recognised Indigenous people who are making invaluable contributions in our community.

This year Dion was honoured with the NAIDOC Youth of the Year Award. Dion was nominated for his community contributions, which include being the Chairperson of the 2011 Youth Round Table and raising awareness of youth suicide across the NT. Youth Round Table members would like to congratulate Dion on this greatly deserved recognition!



Lauren Moss and Dion Dodd

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YOUNG WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

On 5 October, Anglicare NT will be hosting a free Young Women's Festival on the grounds behind the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT in Darwin commencing at 10:00am. The festival aims to strengthen and empower young women through free skill workshops that will run throughout the day. Youth service providers will hold stalls to provide information. Of course, it will also be a day of fun with a variety of entertainment that will feature Shelley Morris, young musicians, dancers and a FREE lunch too!

Hope to see you there on the day.

OYA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check out what's going on during the year. The calendar reflects activities and events registered with the Office of Youth Affairs.

To view the calendar please visit:

www.youth.nt.gov.au/calendar

It will also flag grant rounds and important dates for key events including the Youth Round Table and National Youth Week.

Keep an eye on what's new to keep in the loop!

Do you have an event you would like to promote? If yes, please fill out the form on the Office of Youth Affairs website:

www.youth.nt.gov.au

YOUTH ROUND TABLE RAFFLE

Youth Round Table members are running a raffle to fundraise for the Young Women's Festival being held in Darwin on Wednesday, 5 October on the lawns of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. The grand prize is one nights accommodation for two people at Crowne Plaza Darwin plus a \$100.00 dining voucher to Redsalt restaurant. Second prize is a pampering package to Elements Day Spa. Third prize is one nights accommodation for two people at Rydges Darwin Airport Resort.

Tickets are \$2.00 each and the raffle will be drawn at the Young Women's Festival.

Contact: oya@nt.gov.au to purchase your ticket.

Contact the Office of Youth Affairs to find out how you can get involved.

Email: oya@nt.gov.au

Website: www.youth.nt.gov.au

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We still need your help to get the message out there that our voice matters. You can become a member of our [facebook group page](#) titled NT Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians. It would also be great if you suggested our facebook group page to your friends. You can also contact the Office of Youth Affairs to find out how you can be involved in youth activities.



Emily drawing an outline of Lauren for the Body Mapping exercise



Body Image and Self Esteem Workshop ribbons



Dion placing ribbons on Minister Knight's arm as part of the Body Image and Self Esteem activity