



YMCA AUSTRALIA
COMMUNITY
IMPACT REPORT
2016

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We believe in the power of inspired young people.

Vision

We are making a positive difference by providing each and every person with the opportunity to be healthy, happy and connected.

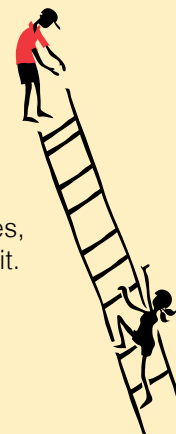
Mission

The YMCAs of Australia work together, from a base of Christian values, to provide opportunities for all people to grow in body, mind and spirit.

Our Values

The YMCAs of Australia are guided to achieve their Mission by the following Christian values:

- We value the whole person, consisting of a body, mind and a spirit each of which is of equal importance.
- We value diversity of people, communities and nations.
- We value equality of opportunity and justice for all people.
- We value healthy communities based on relationships between people which are characterised by love, understanding and mutual respect.
- We value acceptance and personal responsibility.



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The YMCA in Australia today is a Movement of leaders, of people who continue to work together to advance a shared dedication to provide opportunities for all people to grow in body, mind and spirit.

When we think of YMCA leaders we think of our 12,366 staff and 2,311 volunteers all of whom are passionate, purposeful people dedicated to strengthening communities and enriching lives. We see the great strength that comes from listening and understanding the insights that others have to share. The YMCA in Australia's story is about people, those people who lead and those people we partner and support. Together we can create something for the better. A new story.

YMCA leaders have come together often over the last 12 months, dedicated to ensuring connection and capacity-building. Conversations have been robust, inspiring and difficult at times as we acknowledge the struggle between varying priorities yet, together, we have not been overwhelmed by this struggle and have acknowledged that in order to change we need to understand how things are changing around us. A united Movement doesn't mean a homogenised Movement but it does mean a Movement that is brave and courageous, a Movement that cares about the world we are building for future generations

As Dr Seuss so eloquently put it in his book "Oh the places you'll go":

"You have brains in your head
You have feet in your shoes
You can steer yourself
Any direction you choose
You're on your own. And you know what you know
And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go."

The past year has seen the Movement work hard to collectively:

- Deliver 31.2 million participations by offering programs and services in over 700 local communities
- Re-imagine the role and relevance of the YMCA in Australia
- Form and express our belief in the Power of Inspired Young People
- Ensure the YMCA is an organisation that is fit for purpose for the next generations
- Ensure children and young people are safe and able to reach their potential within a YMCA
- Ensure survivors of child sexual abuse within a YMCA have an accessible redress option.

In July 2015, we decided that "as custodians of the YMCA Movement in Australia it is our role to ensure that the impact of our Movement on communities we serve will grow and evolve to meet the needs of these communities today and into the future." By November 2015, after initial consultation, we recognised that the YMCA, as a greatly valued and iconic Movement, requires current day leaders to ensure a relevant, vibrant Movement with sufficient collective and collaborative ways to operate. It is our job to reap the benefits of the expertise of the Movement and realise the full potential of the YMCA as an influential social actor.

We thank all YMCA leaders, staff, volunteers, partners and supporters and we hope you enjoy the stories you are about to read that depict the power of inspired young people and the continued work that is being done by the YMCA around Australia.



Andrew Smith
President
YMCA Australia

Melinda Crole
Interim Chief Executive Officer
YMCA Australia

YMCA AT A GLANCE

Programs, Services and Participations

In **over 700 communities** across **176** local government areas, the YMCA offers a range of programs and services that contribute to healthier and happier communities.



Sport & Recreation

5 million participations
65 recreation centres/stadiums
2 golf courses
1 sailing club
1 athletics centre



Australians engaged with our health clubs nearly **11 million** times

Overall Participation

In 2015-16, the YMCA experienced **31.6 million** participations in our programs, services and activities.



Health & Wellbeing

11.9 million participations
112 health & fitness clubs
137,529 health club members

Youth Specific Programs

1,507,311 participations
a huge increase of **65%** from 2014/15.



Training

YMCA is a Registered Training Organisation and delivers training across Australia in over **40** qualifications.



Our People

12,366 staff
2,311 volunteers



Aquatics

3.4 million participants
155 aquatic facilities
65 outdoor pools

Financial Stability & Sustainability

Turnover in 2015/16 was **\$415M** (up 0.53%)
Total assets (owned and under management) **\$350M** (up 18.87%).



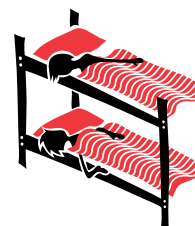
Camping & Outdoor Education

114,329 participations
20 camps



Children's services

2.8 million participations
321 OSHC and vacation care
48 kindergartens
33 early learning centres
5 family/in home day care



And more

22 disability services
2 op shops
2 hostels
2 schools
1 hotel



SOCIAL IMPACT

Troubled teenager to triumphant young adult

A story from Jordan's mum: "I tell here the tale of my son who has been transformed from troubled teenager to triumphant young adult. My son is one of those who is not scholastically or socially gifted and who doesn't find society a fair race to run in. For some, the path to adulthood is paved with good fortune and opportunity; for people like Jordan, it is a confounding and often hurtful journey. While our culture espouses the idea of being an individual, in reality being different can be a burden, and despair becomes an ever-present emotion.

With difficulties entering the job market, Jordan signed up as a volunteer at the local Y in Forster, NSW, and soon found a sense of belonging. His familiarity with the place led him to participate in gym sessions. I stood back and watched Jordan's life transform.

Jordan is now an enthusiastic, outgoing, confident (a little too much sometimes, but hey), strong young man, with big plans. He says he is on a path to success, and I believe him... He is standing proud with a solid belief that anything is possible.

Jordan's association with the Y has established a healthy foundation, not only physically, but mentally. Being an individual who cuts a bit of a different path is no longer such an issue. His success in the gym and as a Y-member has translated into a sense of person.



Jordan

From disengaged to empowering others – Matt's story

Matt is a youth worker employed by the YMCA in the Vocational School in Brisbane. He gained this position after he successfully completed a youth worker traineeship as a YMCA school student. Matt's first contact with the school was five years ago as a 14 year old who was referred by a mainstream school as he had little or no respect for his teachers.

At vocational school, Matt's enjoyment for school returned during automotive and hospitality lessons. He was recognised by his teachers for being a positive peer leader, and offered a school based youth worker traineeship.

Matt's story shows that the YMCA can be a place where young people like himself can grow in confidence and give back to community. Youth empowerment is a journey.



Matt (middle), photographed with Mark (left) and Jay (right).

SOCIAL IMPACT

YMCA ReBuild program – James' story

I grew up in Preston with my mum, dad and siblings. I attended the local primary school and went to church every Sunday with my dad. I played rugby and did Little Athletics – I was an average kid from Preston you could say. It was at 15 my parents became concerned with me. I went from always being home before sunset to being 15 minutes late, from being 15 minutes late to lying to mum and dad, telling them I was at a friend's house. But really I was at house parties or roaming the city until 4.00am drinking with my new found friends. I still remember my dad saying to me "be careful with your friends" and I would reply confidently, "Dad I'm 15 now - I think I know what I am doing". Yeah right.

At 16, I was arrested for the first time which 'killed' my parents. I was arrested several more times after that day for serious charges. I no longer went to church or family functions. It was all about me and partying with my mates. At 19, I was arrested for a series of armed robberies and was sentenced to four years jail. I served two years and got out because of good behaviour. When I got out I was lost and angrier than ever because of whom I had been surrounded by for the last two years.

Within eight months I was back in Prison – surrounded by everything that comes with prison life – negativity and darkness. I had a lot of time to think in Prison and I started to think more about changing my ways. I remembered doing the Bridge course in jail and was given the contact details of people who could help and support me when I was released. When released I decided to contact Bridge who organised a job at ReBuild for me. Initially I just wanted a job for the cash.

"Show me your friends and I will show you your future" is what an old jail head told me once. I was now for the first time in a long time surrounded by positive people. People that cared and didn't judge me. The tiny things I noticed, like having normal conversations that weren't related to crime and negativity. I started to get into a routine and actually enjoyed going to work.

The first few months after being released are the hardest and it's so easy to fall back into old ways. Looking back that's why that job and the people I worked with were so important. I have rebuilt my relationship with my mum and dad who have always been there for me. I am working and I am just about to finish a Certificate in Civil Construction and I am back at church most Sundays. This is half of my story and the rest is yet to be told.

"I had a lot of time to think in prison and I started to think more about changing my ways."

In 2016 the YMCA Bridge Project celebrated 10 years of supporting young people on their transition from custody to community, with a 97% success rate.



Recranked – providing opportunities for disadvantaged and at risk youth

Recranked started in Ballarat in 2012, and has already seen over 550 unwanted or unused bikes donated by the community, then repaired and redistributed to disadvantaged people in the community. Bikes have been distributed to schools, programs, families and individuals.

Recranked has seen many lives impacted by this simple gift. One story is of a young newly arrived refugee male “David” who came to Australia with one bag to his name. One of the first opportunities David received was a Recranked bike. This transport provided him with access to the local soccer field where he was able to participate in his favorite sport. There he made friends and developed a support network. Within months David managed to secure some job training and used his bike to attend those sessions. Recently the Recranked Program Coordinator, Wallace Martin saw him and he was excited to tell Wallace that he had secured full-time work as a plasterer’s laborer. He was grateful for the gift of the bike which opened up opportunities for him.

Recranked is about to start an engagement program in a school environment. The program will provide an alternative education stream for kids at risk of disengaging.

The inspiration of a mentor and the power of a mentee

Anna was referred to YMCA WA’s mentoring program in 2008, as she had no mother figure in her life and was living with her father and three younger siblings. Anna was in a carer role for these siblings at 12 years of age and taking on the responsibilities of a mother herself. Anna excelled at school and participated in school sports but needed emotional support and interaction with an older female role model. Program staff matched Anna with her mentor, Aine. Aine is married and has two younger daughters. Aine was interested in supporting a young person to have a more positive outlook on life.

The match resulted in an early bond between the two, meeting weekly with casual activities allowing the friendship to develop. Aine expressed her sense of inspiration and amazement for Anna and felt empowered as a mentor in the program. Anna was pleased to have someone who “got her” and appreciated having time out of the house to engage in recreational activities more suited to her young age. Seven years later Aine and Anna’s relationship continues to grow. Aine supported Anna throughout her time in high school and as she transitioned into studying Medicine at UWA. Aine says that seeing Anna commence studying such a difficult course encouraged her to go back to studying and she is now undertaking her MBA, where the two girls now hang out together on campus. Their relationship is no longer one where the mentor supports the mentee to reach their full potential, but rather a relationship of equals who encourage each other to reach their full potential.



YMCA Swimathon raises over \$1.1 million in five years

In the YMCA Swimathon's five year history, the event has now raised over \$1.1 million, enabling the support of thousands of people with disabilities and others in need to have the opportunity to learn to swim and be safe around water. The YMCA Swimathon mandate is simple - everyone should have the opportunity to experience how much fun it is to swim and enjoy water.

The 2016 YMCA Swimathon was held at 60 YMCA managed pools across Australia on February 28.

Event ambassadors from Melbourne's west, Maddie, 14, and her sister Kayla, 10, have swum in four YMCA Swimathons raising over \$8,000 to support local people with disabilities. Incredible! The girls both love swimming, which gives them a rare and welcome feeling of freedom without pain. Maddie and Kayla both have Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that leaves them prone to chronic joint pain and dislocation.

"For us to do most things it needs an outside the box way of thinking and loads of compassion and understanding. The YMCA was the only place to take us on whole heartedly without any discrimination. Swimming is such an important skill and the YMCA have an amazing all inclusive feel to their centres. No-one is too hard or turned away. That is why I jump in and swim to raise funds for them, regardless of the fact that each YMCA Swimathon I have done I have ended up in plaster! It's my way of saying thank you for accepting all walks of life with no discrimination and helping me learn to swim." - Maddie.



YMCA Swimathon - 14 year old girl, Maddy Parker (right) advocates for awareness and funding to support EDS with her sister Kayla (left).



To learn more about the YMCA Swimathon, visit www.ymcaswimathon.org.au

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

When our 'babies' go to Rio!

Congratulations to our YMCA Aussie Olympians and Paralympians who went to Rio in 2016.

The YMCA is proud to have been involved in their journey with their training in our YMCA facilities throughout Australia.

Congratulations to you all - we are so proud to have worked with you and to see your dreams come to life in making it to the Olympics!



Picture: Mitch Bear, Geelong Advertiser: Jake Bensted "Jake the snake" trained for Judo at Geelong YMCA Judo Club and made it to the final 16.

[Click here to watch a video of Jake!](#)



KTown Indigenous Hip Hop Project is a hit!

A rap song called “Shadows” about suicide and peer pressure in the Northern Territory town of Katherine has become a social media sensation, with tens of thousands of people viewing the video. Aboriginal rap group KTown said it was the raw honesty of their music, which explores growing up in a disadvantaged area of the small town that had attracted attention.

The video, winner of the Top End Music Awards People Choice Award 2016, was produced by the Indigenous Hip Hop Project (IHHP), an organisation that believes in the power of art to create social change. IHHP founder Dion Brownfield teamed up with the Katherine YMCA and Aboriginal health service Wurli-Wurlinjang to help fund the project.

Songwriter Michael Camerson said most people in Katherine had experienced some sort of mental health issue and the song Shadows openly discussed this.

“My verse was based on suicide, peer pressure, no reliance at home and the basic struggle of living in Katherine. What I see my mates go through, and what I’ve gone through, I’ve been able to put it into a song for everyone to relate to,” Michael told ABC News.

“You’re feeling lost in your mind, and people can’t relate, you’re full of hate and suicide is what you start to debate.”

“I’m feeling lost right now, trying to find my way but I don’t how, but I know what I’m doing, trying to catch my dreams and I’m gonna keep pursuing”

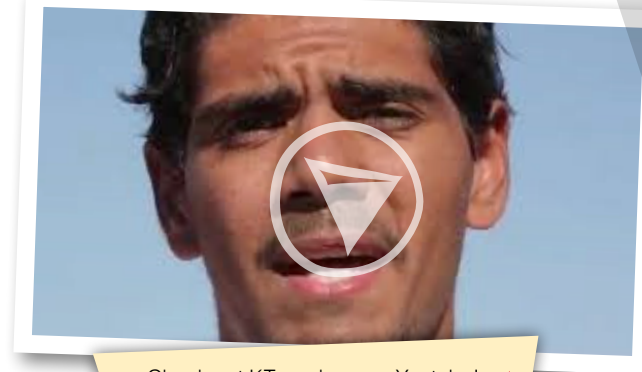
“Living through the struggle, now I’m stepping up, train hard, work hard, never giving up.”

“Living in the darkness of the night, every little star will shine so bright, if we lose our way, shine the light, shine the light.”

- lyrics from “Shadows”



Michael Camerson photographed, KTown songwriter “Shadows” (ABC News: Steven Schubert)



Check out KTown here on Youtube!



YMCA & Nike – Skate Park League

In 2015 Nike Pacific supported the YMCA to deliver a series of 66 interconnected grass roots programs (Skate Park Leagues) across Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. In addition to these programs, we were able to deliver five major events representing four state finals and one National Championship (Australian Skateboard League). To our knowledge, the leagues (SPL & ASL) are the biggest interconnected skate park related skateboarding series in the world.



1,476
members nation-wide



66
events held
across four
states



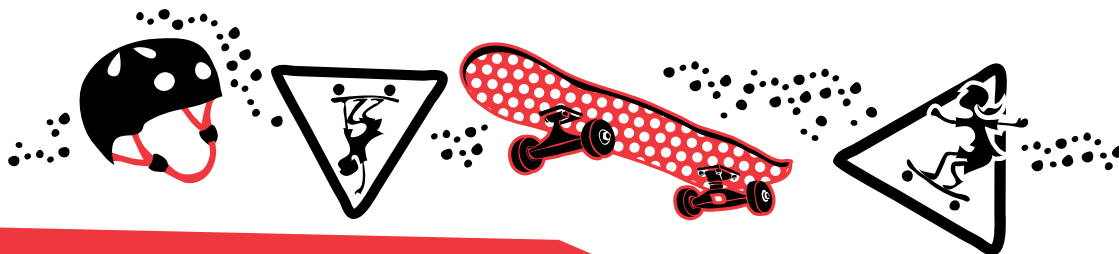
2,839
competitor
participations



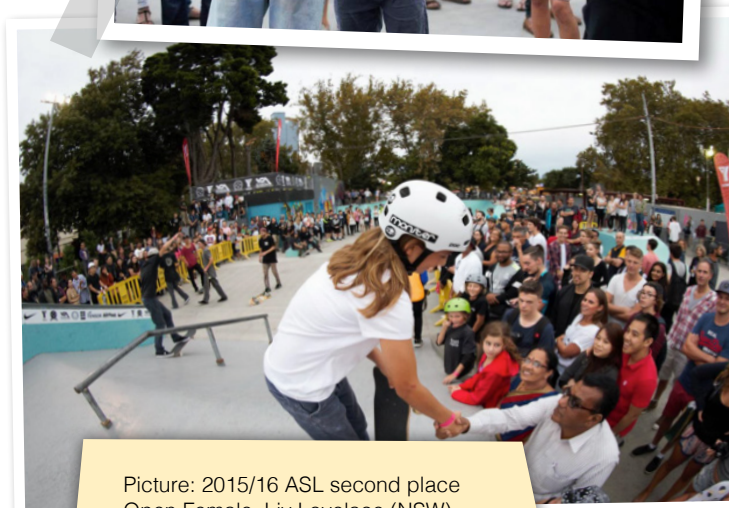
12,287+
crowd attendances



35,000
average weekly
digital media reach



Picture: Matt D'Ambrosio (Vic)
2016 ASL National Finalist



Picture: 2015/16 ASL second place
Open Female, Liv Lovelace (NSW)

YMCA Change Agents - changing the world

The YMCA Change Agent Program is an international leadership development program to empower young people. It also aims to grow the ability of the YMCA movement. The program has a special emphasis on working in their local YMCAs to positively impact the lives of young people based on the YMCA change model of space, transformation and impact.

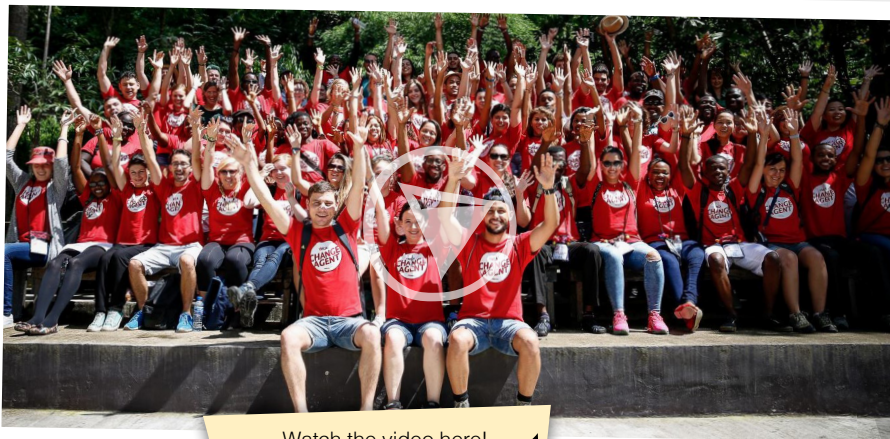
Coordinated by the World YMCA, the program engaged 300 young leaders in 2015-2016 in training opportunities (on line and face-to-face), projects and initiatives on a local and global level, and also provided a mentorship service for continuous support.

Collectively Change Agents are a resource for action. They are champions for change and impact. All participants are expected to implement at least one project.

One shared project by the 9 Australian YMCA change agents was to encourage all YMCA's to commit to buying recycled paper only, to lessen our environmental footprint.

Stay tuned for details about the next round of YMCA Change Agent opportunities. It's going to be amazing!

Read more here!



Watch the video here!

Youth Parliament - giving young people a voice

The first Australian YMCA Youth Parliament was held in Brisbane in 1963. Today, YMCA Youth Parliament takes place in New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. This year YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament celebrated a key milestone, 30 years of empowering young people.

In late June 2016, 120 young people sat in the chambers of the Victorian Parliament House and discussed the issues that were most important to them. From 'S' plates for senior drivers to increasing access for breast milk donations to youth mental health, the 16-25 year olds contradicted the stereotype that young people aren't interested in politics. Several of the bills discussed at this year's Youth Parliament will now go on to the State Parliament for review.



Read some provocative and inspiring blog posts from the Queensland Youth Parliament Executive here.



CEO for the day

What young people told the YMCA the day they ruled the Y

On Monday, June 6, 2016 - which was the YMCA's 172nd birthday, YMCA Australia was run by young people. Led by National CEO for the day Lachlan Headlam, 26, of Geelong, young people from Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, South Australia, Top End, Canberra, Whittlesea and Victoria came together to the National Office in Melbourne with big ideas and passion.

They told the YMCA they want more ethical and environmentally friendly purchases in YMCAs across Australia, and that we should be buying recycled paper as a starting point, as well as the ingredients to engage a young, casual workforce (with 45% of our employees under 25).

What Young people Need from their YMCA:

1. Young employees need great managers and teachers.
2. Young staff need to be genuinely engaged in decisions that affect them
- i.e. goal setting, vision creating.
3. Professional and personal development opportunities - both formal and informal.
4. Mentoring.
5. Communicate with staff in person where possible - but via mobile and social apps, too. Use emojis and pictures 🤗 😊 🙏
6. Share the stories of senior managers who were once casual employees, to help demonstrate the career pathways possible.
7. Young people want to be involved in more meetings so they can learn more about the business and how the organisation works.

Lachlan Headlam's reflection at the end of the day, "I am really privileged to say that I work for the YMCA because they show that they believe in me and young people all around Australia and the world". - Lachlan Headlam, National CEO for the day.

#giveavoicelymca - This "checklist" was created by young people to help the YMCA understand how to best engage our young employees.



Click here to read a blog by Lachlan on what it was like to be National YMCA CEO for the day



HEALTHY LIVING

YMCA Australia calls for sugary drink tax

YMCA Australia supports the call for a tax on sugary drinks in Australia. We have joined with our partners at the Rethink Sugary Drinks campaign to call for urgent action on reducing the impact of sugary drinks in Australia.

A study by the Obesity Policy Coalition calculates that a 20 per cent tax on sugary drinks could save more than 1,600 lives and raise \$400 million per year for much-needed obesity prevention initiatives.

Co-author Dr Lennert Veerman from The University of Queensland's School of Public Health said that "the greatest effects of a sugary drinks tax are likely to be seen in young people, who are the highest consumers of sugary drinks".

We know that most successful public health initiatives like seatbelts, tobacco and alcohol have been accompanied by legislative change.

Now is the time to stand up and consider the impact of sugary drinks on the health and wellbeing of Australians - especially children and young people.

Banning sugary drinks in action

YMCA Victoria has made a commitment to work with government and suppliers to remove all sugar sweetened beverages from the community recreation centres and camps it manages by 2017.

In Australia 47% of children consume sugar sweetened beverages every day. There is strong evidence that consumption of soft drinks contribute to significant levels of tooth decay and erosion, and consuming too much sugar is a major contributor to people becoming overweight or obese. It is well established that obesity is a leading risk factor for Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers.

YMCA Victoria sells 374,000 sugar sweetened beverages a year. This equates to 14.4 tonnes of sugar. With 16 million visits to facilities per year, a large proportion of which are children, YMCA recognises the position they have to positively influence the eating behaviours of children and families through improving the food and drinks they provide.

YMCA Victoria is calling for Government to take a leadership role and remove all sugar sweetened beverages in facilities funded through taxpayer dollars. If sugary drinks were banned in other government owned and funded sport and recreation facilities, it would send the message of the importance of a healthy diet alongside physical activity. It would also have a profound impact on public health.



Check out the YMCA Blog [here!](#)

Starting young to Take Off with YMCA and Bluearth

The early years of a child's life has a profound impact on their long term future health and wellbeing. With almost 3 million annual participations in YMCA early learning centres and kindergartens, the YMCA recognises its responsibility to children's health and wellbeing.

One partnership furthering this responsibility is between the YMCA in Canberra, Bluearth Foundation and the ACT Government. The "Take Off" Project aims to build movement rich environments and improved physical and nutritional literacy among families and educators who work with children aged 6 weeks-12 years from over 2,500 ACT families.

The 3 year project aims to reduce childhood obesity by empowering children and their families to develop strategies to embed healthy lifestyle behaviors into their daily routines. Already the YMCA has introduced a new Healthy Food and Drink Policy, a traffic light system, educators have received training from Nutrition Australia, and a healthy Take Home Meal Service has been introduced for parents with children in the ACT's five YMCA Early Learning Centres.



A parent says thank you

"I want to say thank you to all of the beautiful people who care for my boys. Thank you for loving, caring and educating them.

They bring home stories of their full and happy days with you.

They come home having learnt something new about the world... you make the most of everyone's learning opportunity and we see this at home.

Sending them to you makes leaving them possible because I know they are participating in early education, not child minding.

I am constantly grateful and we love you all!"

- thank you letter from a mum at Stawell YMCA childcare centre.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE YMCA

Safeguarding Children

"We can no longer say we are on a journey towards becoming a child safe organisation....it's who we are now," said YMCA Australia President Andrew Smith opening a YMCA National Conversation (webinar) on Safeguarding Children and Young People.

"Safeguarding children and young people is part of our everyday life. The priority of child safety and child protection is evident right across our organisation, at all levels, across the movement. While we are no longer on a journey, and we have much we can be proud of, we also still have work to do, and we can't ever afford to get complacent," Andrew Smith said.

"When organisations start to make decisions in the interests of children, rather than the interests of the organisation, that's when you know you have a child safety culture," continued Dr Joe Tucci, CEO of the Australian Childhood Foundation.

"The YMCA is a child safe organisation – it's soaked in the culture, into the layers of the organisation - it's now in its people, and its people are carrying forward the message. The story of the YMCA and its culture is a story about a meaningful understanding of the issue.

"YMCA has an important role to play in helping educate the community about the very real issue of child abuse. It continually rates as a very low community issue, until people understand the life-long impacts, then it quickly becomes a high priority. People need to be reminded about the extent of child abuse," said Dr Tucci.

Training our people to be guardians

- In the past five years, a total of 24,080 (17,784 + 6,296 since July 1, 2015) YMCA staff and volunteers have completed their online YMCA Safeguarding Children and Young People Training. (As of June 30, 2016).
- 91% of all YMCA Associations have achieved Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) accreditation (20 in total, 2 to complete their accreditation).



Read our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy here



RECOGNISING OUR PEOPLE

Peter Burns - I.C. Howard Award Recipient

YMCA Canberra employee, Peter Burns, 34, was the 2015 recipient of the I.C. Howard/Y International Service Clubs \$5,000 Staff Scholarship. This is an annual award for the furthering of the education of YMCA staff, proudly sponsored by the Y International Service Clubs of Australia and YMCA Life Governor Ian Howard. Peter will use the scholarship to fund a 25 day US study tour of three to five leading providers of outdoor recreation for people with a disability, jointly supported by his local YMCA.

"In the next five years I want to be a national leader in the development and delivery of innovative, capacity building, active recreation programs for people with a disability," Peter said.

Earlier this year in Melbourne, Peter caught up with Ian Howard, 93. Ian and Peter shared a coffee, stories about their lives, and their hopes and dreams for the YMCA's future.

At 22, Ian was in the Royal Australian Navy. He returned to Australia post war, newly married, with not a cent to his name and started making furniture. This grew into a furniture empire and in his spare time, he volunteered for the YMCA, and helped it grow, too.

Peter completed a law degree, then decided that getting older people and people with disabilities active was his calling and that's where his career with the Y began seven years ago. Today his role with the YMCA is focused on innovation, and he will use his scholarship to visit the United States and innovative community recreational centres. These two will be looking forward to catching up again on Peter's return, and to great outcomes for the Y, long into the future.



Tribute to Bruce Harris

Able to distil complex financial matters into memorable wildlife metaphors, retiring National Council of YMCAs of Australia (National Board) Director Bruce Harris, will sign off from the Board in November 2016.

Bruce contributed 24 continuous years as a YMCA director – including 17 with the National Board, serving with 7 Presidents and 8 CEOs, and an 11-year stint as Treasurer. Based in Kalgoorlie, West Australia, Bruce often spent four days at a time away from home for YMCA duties.

He began his directorship with the Eastern Goldfields YMCA (EGYMCA) in 1992 in Kalgoorlie when his departing former business partner thrust a large cardboard box in his arms: "Congratulations, you are now the Treasurer of EGYMCA".

With a long list of achievements and outcomes for the YMCA Movement and for the broader community including Life Memberships with APEX, the EGYMCA, and induction into the Australian Prospectors & Miners' Hall of Fame, one of Bruce's proudest moments was seeing his daughter, Kelly Harris, elected to the Board of YMCA Bendigo earlier this year.

There is no wildlife metaphor in Bruce's parting words, rather sincere recognition for all volunteers with the YMCA (and their partners).

"I recognise that it is not without personal sacrifice of time and cost that volunteers fulfil their role with dedication, wisdom and skill, but that all are driven by the same devotion and commitment which saw this Movement originally established. The Movement would not function without this governance responsibility filled by many people with such proficiency and enthusiasm."



recognising our people



GOVERNANCE

We value and respect our voluntary directors who give generously of their time and talent. Meet the members of the Board of the National Council of the YMCA's of Australia.



Bruce Harris



Purdey Eades



Catharine Payze



Deborah Patterson



Daniel Cheverton



Stephen Ellich



Alan Morton



Christopher Lewis
Treasurer



Peter Malone
Vice President



Maree Davidson



Andrew Smith
President

Life Governors:
Ms Caz Bosch
Mr Ian Howard
RT Ken Mason AM
Mr Graham Wheeler AM
Mr David Davis OAM
Mr Robert Romanes OAM
Mr Richard Edwards OAM

Not in photos:
Robert Prime (South Australia)



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