

Federal Election 2019 Policy Platform

MYAN is Australia's national peak body representing the rights and interests of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

Australia's young and diverse population is our reality and our strength.

This Election platform is an agenda for Australia's multicultural youth.

45% of Australia's youth population is from a refugee or migrant background, a third of all arrivals in the Humanitarian Program are under 25 and more than half are aged between 18 and 25. Australia's young and culturally diverse population is our reality and our strength.

This Platform sets out what the Federal Government can do to enable the effective settlement of young people - by investing in programs and strategies that advance a strong, cohesive multicultural society. MYAN is calling for more attention to policies and strategies that will ensure better settlement outcomes for young people, including through promoting better access to education and employment, providing opportunities for youth participation and leadership, addressing disadvantage and promoting social cohesion.

We call for the appointment of a Federal Minister for Youth, a National Youth Plan, and a funded national voice for all young Australians. We also call for continued funding to MYAN Australia and investment in MYAN state/territory partners.

For more details, read the full MYAN Election Platform available from www.myan.org.au.

We call on the incoming government to:

SETTLEMENT

1. Adopt and implement a National Youth Settlement Strategy to guide and support the effective settlement of young people, including in any regional settlement plans.
2. Increase the size of the Humanitarian Program
3. Establish a pilot resettlement program for unaccompanied children and young people.
4. Ensure all migrant young people facing situations of vulnerability are eligible for settlement support, regardless of the visa sub-class of their parents.

EMPLOYMENT

5. That any future federally funded employment services incorporate specialist services for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.
6. Expand the Youth Transition Support Services to be delivered in all states and territories as a fully funded program.

EDUCATION/ TRAINING

7. Fund specialist staff and programs in schools, including multicultural youth workers, to support young people to remain in education.
8. Fund the TAFE/VET sector adequately to ensure there are appropriate and accessible programs nationally for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

9. Develop a national youth strategy for AMEP to ensure that young people's needs are adequately met through the program.
10. Develop a National English as an Additional Language (EAL) Framework to guide, direct and monitor funding allocation for English language learning in schools.

HEALTH & WELLBING

11. Ensure Federal funding for youth health and mental health services (i.e. headspace) includes dedicated resources and specialised staff to build cultural capability to meet the needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.
12. Develop a national youth health policy that recognises the specific needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and includes a focus on the social determinants of health.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

13. Continue funding for the Reconnect Specialist program beyond June 2021 and further expand specialist providers in high/new settlement areas.
14. Reinstate data collection in homeless services on age, country of birth and ethnicity to more accurately improve service delivery.

CIVIC & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

15. Re-invest in and expand the national Anti-Racism Strategy and related campaigns and programs.
16. Develop a National Youth Leadership Initiative to support young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds to implement strategies that build social cohesion, civic and social participation
17. Cease using the visa cancellation regime to respond to youth offending (especially for those under 18).
18. Develop a national sport and recreation inclusion program to facilitate partnerships between the sporting industry and multicultural sectors.

ASYLUM SEEKERS & TPVs

19. End mandatory immigration detention in Australia and offshore in legislation and in practice
20. Immediately restore access to the SRSS program for all people seeking asylum until a resolution of their status is complete.