

SNAPSHOT

MYAN National Youth Panel COVID-19: 'Exploring the new normal'

21 July 2020

As a migrant or refugee, we call this land of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples our home. We can only do that because of their ongoing custodianship.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people have LAYERED identities and are the EXPERTS of their own lives

Organisations are consulting with EXPERTS

We are NOT HOMOGENEOUS

The POSITIVE STORIES need to be highlighted

As young advocates it is important to work inside and outside the systems to create change

Young people and elders from migrant and refugee backgrounds are leading action to keep everyone safe during COVID

We all need to come together as part of the social fabric post-COVID

From hoarding to mutual aid - we can't be egocentric anymore

The new normal reflecting on what we've neglected and change into the future

Keep doing this
Be CREATIVE as we all PIVOT



REPRESENTATION

A better Australia post COVID = UNITY

We need to highlight the voices that have been neglected

Migrants and refugees not fighting for space

The narrative is that "We're all in this together" but what about asylum seekers, others on temporary visas?

SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

The expertise and experience of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds need to be RECOGNISED and RESOURCED - financial or other reimbursements

There is a need to embed EMPATHY in our systems

Services and programs need to be seen as SAFE SPACES, opportunities to connect with other young people

Access to multilingual information - this should not be an afterthought

Support young people in their transitions

SYSTEMS AND SERVICES (CONT.)

Embed youth voices in STRUCTURES:

- Governance (Advisory Groups)
- Strategy
- Workforce
- Capacity building and support
- Collaboration

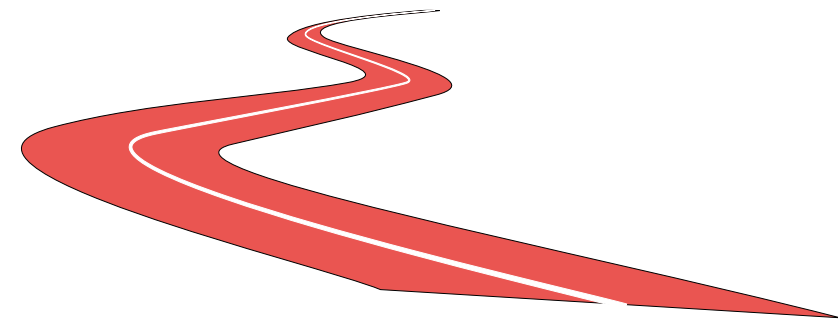
Need holistic approaches to ACCESSIBILITY and DECISION MAKING for young people

There should not be an expectation for a Person of Colour (POC) to educate everyone in the systems they enter

Take up space

Listen

We need LEADERS who LOOK LIKE US - this fosters ACTION and inspires new young leaders and positively influences policy and politics



What are the pathways and meaningful opportunities that are available for DIVERSE YOUNG PEOPLE?

EDUCATION

Educational disparity - technology, parent engagement, support, caring responsibilities

Uni/tertiary cuts to courses and staff, disruptions to student life and international students

Accessibility inequalities to online learning - need to find new ways to support accessibility

RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

Media targeting a person due to their cultural background can affect everyone from that cultural background

Racism is not new but has been highlighted further

Not acknowledging the positive changes made by people from refugee and migrant backgrounds

MENTAL HEALTH

Understand the impacts of inter-generational trauma and mental health

DATA is needed on (youth) mental health in migrant and refugee communities



SAFETY and CULTURAL DIVERSITY in service environment is essential

The 1st time someone shares their story is the MOST IMPORTANT TIME

Service providers need to be CURIOUS and RESPECTFUL

QUOTES FROM THE PANELLISTS



"Events like this demonstrate that young people are not homogeneous and come from various lived experiences with insights that all need to be considered in our decision-making and engagement processes. The panel was initiated and led by young people as we worked together to develop the questions, using themes derived from our earlier consultations ... we look forward to more opportunities working alongside young people to have their voices heard"

- Mehak, Youth Leadership Officer at MYAN (Event moderator)



"Young people, especially emerging young leaders are so willing, so passionate to give their time but you absolutely need to value that time, knowledge and expertise with either money or some sort of opportunity to meaningfully reimburse. Not only does it show you are taking them seriously but that you are going to use that information for something else"

- Swathi Shanmukhasundaram, MYAN YAN Victoria, Centre for Multicultural Youth



"It's very important to break the taboo, the shame, the stigma and silences of mental health and just as well the stereotypes that exist ... acknowledging the disorders that we have shouldn't be something that people fear..."

- Harpreet Dhillon, MYAN NSW



"The work that the young people have done in the community hasn't been acknowledged... because there is no representation in [the media] those stories are not shared instead the negative stories are shared ... and have a negative impact on us as individuals"

- Butrus Haider, Multicultural Youth Queensland



"Too often when you don't have young representation within your governing structure, unfortunately, your work within youth can ultimately look tokenistic... recognise where you have the missing loopholes that don't actually cater for young people"

- Zahra Al Hilaly, MYAN YAN WA, MYAN WA

Watch the full panel event here:
shorturl.at/oKOT7