

FEDERAL ELECTION 2022



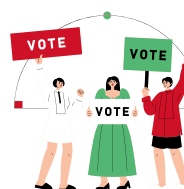
Investing in young people to shape a better future

Targeted investment in young people is critical for Australia's prosperity. Against a backdrop of unprecedented social and economic upheaval, this is a crucial time to work with young people to install a vision of a future that they feel hopeful and confident in.

MYAN Australia calls on the next government to take action in the following areas.

Youth Representation

Young people are the experts in their own lives and should create and advise on solutions that will address issues that affect them, other young people, and Australia.



Humanitarian/Migration Program

Continuing our long history of accepting humanitarian entrants and supporting them through the provision of our world-renowned globally settlement services must remain a priority for Australia's migration program.



Education

Investment in education for students from refugee and migrant backgrounds must address structural barriers to participation, and ensure that their participation in the Australia education system is inclusive and contributes to equitable educational outcomes and opportunities.



Employment & Income Support

Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds face additional systemic barriers when seeking employment, which can leave them more vulnerable to economic shocks.



Mental Health

Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds face experience significant structural barriers to accessing appropriate mental health support and are underrepresented in mental health services as a result.



Racism & Social Cohesion

Racism works against Australia's goal of building a fair and inclusive society. By contributing to marginalisation and isolation, racism is a key barrier to social inclusion. Institutional and systemic racism create significant barriers to young people's participation in education, employment, and recreational activities. Experiences of racism diminish a young person's sense of connection and belonging, and reduce their participation in education, employment, and recreational activities.



Digital Safety

Young people deal with negative racially motivated online experiences including unwanted contact, cyberbullying and harassment, either experiencing this directly or being witness to it. Young people are also at risk of intersectional online hatred and discrimination including sexism, ableism, homophobia and transphobia, all of which increase a young person's risk of experiencing harm online.



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MYAN POLICY PLATFORM

Key Asks

Investment in young people

- Reinstatement of a Federal Youth Minister as a member of Cabinet.
 - Develop a national youth policy that recognises the specific needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.
 - Establishment of a Federal Youth Advisory Council, made up of young people under 30 from diverse backgrounds.
 - Increased rates for income support, Austudy and Youth Allowance, rent assistance and ongoing funding for affordable housing.
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Rebuild our humanitarian/migration program and strengthen the settlement of young people and their families

- An increase in resettlement places for children and young people in the Humanitarian Program, with a focus on unaccompanied and separated children.
 - A commitment to the review and reform of youth settlement services and increased investment in settlement services for children and young people.
 - An increase in opportunities for unprotected humanitarian visa holders to access higher education and training, including access to Higher Education Loans Programs (HELP), Commonwealth Supported Places and concession rates and the removal of international fee requirements.
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Education and employment pathways

- Targeted career advisory programs within the school sector that emphasise VET, apprenticeships, and alternative post-school pathways.
 - Specialist job creation programs designed with industry to fill workforce gaps.
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Mental health

- Dedicated resources and specialised staff to build cultural capability in mental health services to meet the needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.
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Racism and social cohesion

- Adopt and resource the Australian Human Rights' Commission proposed National Anti-Racism Framework and related campaigns and programs.
 - Establish an advisory body young people and service providers from diverse backgrounds to advise and design anti-racism initiatives and innovative strategies to combat racism and build social cohesion.
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Digital safety

- Invest in measures that improve industry, regulatory and community responses to cyber-racism, and address its impacts on the mental health and wellbeing for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

