



NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL YOUTH SUMMIT - REPORT

Executive Summary

The MYAN (Australia) is the nationally recognised policy and advocacy body on multicultural youth issues. The MYAN works in partnership with young people, government and non-government agencies at the state and national levels to ensure that the particular needs of multicultural young people are recognised, and to support a coherent and consistent approach to addressing these needs in policy and service delivery. The MYAN has representatives from each of Australia's states and territories and facilitates a national approach to youth settlement through these affiliated state/territory-based networks. The MYAN is auspiced by the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) in Victoria.

In October 2014, MYAN (Australia) hosted 'FUSE' – Australia's first ever national multicultural youth summit. Held in Sydney, and working with the themes of 'Connect', 'Ignite' and 'Trail-blaze', FUSE brought together 40 of the brightest multicultural young leaders from across Australia to put a multicultural lens on national youth issues. FUSE equipped young people with the skills, confidence and networks to become influential Australians.

Through workshops and panel presentations, FUSE delegates learnt from each other, heard from experienced advocates and met MPs and other decision-makers. The program also included a powerful performance from Tasmania's Students Against Racism, followed by a Q&A with Dr. Tim Soutphommasane, Australia's National Race Discrimination Commissioner, on issues of racism, identity and belonging.

FUSE concluded a jam-packed 3-days at the GWS Giants Learning Life Centre with delegates presenting to a panel of MPs - Senator the Hon. Concetta-Fierravanti-Wells, Mr. Craig Laundry MP, and Mr. Matt Kean MP - and Australia's National Children's Commissioner, Ms Megan Mitchell.

The MYAN would like to thank all those who made FUSE happen, including the young people who came from each state and territory, embracing each and every opportunity that FUSE presented. We would also thank Amnesty International, City of Stirling, Katanning Sports and Cultural Club and Rotary Club of Katanning and DSS for their financial contributions.

FUSE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Promote the outcomes of FUSE, including producing a report to promote the voices of young people and the importance of national events like FUSE in supporting active citizenship.
2. Develop strategies for policy and advocacy work in relation to young people's presentations and recommendations from the Panel Session on Day 2.
3. Capitalise on the outcomes of FUSE (e.g. skills, knowledge, energy, confidence, networks) by:
 - Providing opportunities for young people to apply their skills in a range of settings, including local/state, national and international forums. Utilise the MYAN networks to support this.
 - Working with interested FUSE delegates to establish a national MYAN (Aust) Youth Advisory Group
 - Investigating the possibility of MYAN state/territory-based FUSE events and supporting FUSE delegates to achieve their vision
4. MYAN (national and state/territory) to facilitate ongoing communication among FUSE delegates and between delegates and the MYAN. This will support networking, communication and promotion of leadership opportunities (e.g. through establishing a FUSE Facebook Group, linking in with MYAN Australia events etc).
5. MYAN Australia to investigate holding a regular national youth event to build on the success of FUSE and utilise FUSE delegates in its planning and delivery.

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1. Introduction & Background

1.1 FUSE

Hosted by the MYAN (Australia) between 22nd and 24th October, 2014, in Sydney, FUSE was a landmark event -Australia's first national multicultural youth summit. With its themes of 'Connect', 'Ignite', and 'Trail-Blaze', FUSE brought together 40 of Australia's brightest young multicultural leaders to build skills, network and engage in advocacy with decision-makers.

1.2 RATIONALE

Young people from refugee/asylum seeking and migrant backgrounds often face a range of barriers that place them at greater social and economic disadvantage than their Australian-born counterparts, including: racism and discrimination, limited social capital, and, for new arrivals, learning a new language and culture.

These barriers often mean that their voices are marginalised and many lack the social capital - confidence, networks, tools and knowledge - to advocate for their needs, influence decision makers or be supported as leaders in their communities.¹

The MYAN works from the premise that young people from multicultural backgrounds have unique experiences and knowledge, including personal/lived experiences of human rights issues, and should be supported to articulate the issues impacting on their lives and identify solutions. FUSE was designed to facilitate this.

1.3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

FUSE was designed for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds from across Australia to:

- Learn from and share perspectives with peers from around Australia,
- Build the skills, confidence and networks to engage in advocacy, active citizenship and leadership opportunities at the local, state and national levels,
- Build human rights awareness,

- Explore and strengthen leadership capabilities and aspirations,
- Engage with experienced advocates and decision-makers to have an immediate experience of active citizenship and apply newly acquired skills and knowledge, and
- Develop action plans for active citizenship at the local, state and national levels.

FUSE was also designed to build a national network of young advocates and change-makers and a national Youth Advisory Group to MYAN (Australia).

1.4 DELEGATE PROFILE

Five young people from each state and territory attended FUSE. The majority of delegates were aged between 19 and 25 years, and were from diverse faith, migration, education and cultural backgrounds, including Polish, Nepalese, South Sudanese, Brazilian, Afghan, Somali, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Oromo and Bhutanese. Some had been born in Australia to migrant parents, others had migrated as refugees when they were very young and others were relatively newly arrived, having come to Australia within the last two years as asylum seekers. Delegates had diverse skills, knowledge and experience in advocacy and leadership. 18 males and 22 females attended.

1.5 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FUSE was held over three days, with registration, dinner and introductions occurring on the evening prior to Day 1, and an event on the evening of Day 1.

The program was specifically tailored to the advocacy context of young people from refugee/asylum seeking and migrant backgrounds. It was designed to facilitate networking, skills development and practical application of leadership and advocacy skills. Opportunities were provided to engage formally and informally with more experienced advocates and decision-makers.

¹ Centre for Multicultural Youth (2013), Get Your Voice Heard: a guide to active citizenship, CMY, Melbourne.



Day 1 included a mix of large and small group skills-based workshops on advocacy and leadership, fun activities/team building, and an evening performance and discussion. Day 2 was a mix of skills-based workshops, a panel presentation with experienced advocates, and planning for presentations to MPs and decision-makers on Day 3. All delegates participated in the same workshops on Day 1, to provide a 'baseline' of skills and knowledge, with some choice offered on Day 2.

The evening of Day 1 included the 'Living in Between' performance from Tasmania's Students Against Racism. This powerful, interactive performance was followed by a Q&A session with Dr. Tim Soutphomassane, Australia's Race Discrimination Commissioner. This session was designed to promote the work of the Australian Human Rights Commission and its relevance to FUSE delegates.

Day 3 included preparation for and presentation to a panel of MPs and decision makers - providing an immediate experience of advocacy and active citizenship. FUSE concluded with reflections from delegates and formal evaluations.

Space in the program was also provided for relevant organisations to promote their work, including the Settlement Council of Australia (SCOA), the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA), Amnesty International and GetUp! Amnesty International held an information stall over lunchtime on Days 1 and 2.

1.6 RESOURCES

FUSE was funded through the Department of Social Services and Amnesty International. A Planning Group was established to support planning, promotion and recruitment of delegates. This included input from young people on development, concept and delivery of FUSE.

The MYAN Policy Advisory Group supported FUSE through: a pre-event briefing with delegates in each state/territory, accompanying delegates travelling from inter-state, being the contact support person for delegates during the summit, and post FUSE to support state-based activities. FUSE was also supported through MYAN NSW and its partners, including the Greater Western Sydney Giants.

"The best part was meeting all the other young people around Australia who are dealing with the same issues and are passionate and driven to see a positive change in our society and being the main driving force behind it."

2. Workshops & Panel Sessions

2.1 WORKSHOPS

Workshops were facilitated by those with expertise in multicultural youth advocacy and leadership training, active citizenship, and cross-cultural leadership. Workshops included: theory on advocacy/creating change, practical examples of advocacy and human rights activities, and supporting young people to build on their strengths and utilise their own stories in their leadership and advocacy work. All delegates participated in the same workshops on Day 1, with options provided on Day 2. Workshop descriptions are provided below.

Day 1

Pitch Perfect

(Andrew Cummings, MYAN NSW)

This workshop explored the various elements that contribute to a quality presentation. Participants were encouraged to think about the effective communicators they know, explore the factors that help them get their messages across, and consider how to apply those same principles for their own presentations.

Strengths and Self-Care

(Marida Roux, MYAN QLD & Melissa Honey, Multicultural Youth NT)

This workshop explored how young people can use their strengths to be community leaders today, tomorrow and long in to the future. It looked at the rewards and the barriers to being a community leader, and practical strategies for taking care of ourselves in the long-term.

Leadership in a multicultural society

(Alice Gomez & Tizita Yohannes, Centre for Multicultural Youth)

What makes you a leader? This workshop explored concepts of "leadership" and in what ways participants identify as leaders. As well as understanding some common leadership styles, the impact of cultural identity and values on practicing leadership in different contexts was explored.

Networks and relationships

(Alice Gomez & Tizita Yohannes, Centre for Multicultural Youth)

Who do you know, and who do you want to know? This workshop provided the space for reflecting on the

value of recognising and utilising existing networks, as well as identifying new connections made through the FUSE Summit. Key tips for effective communication in maintaining good working relationships with others was also explored.

Students Against Racism (SAR) – using stories to build understanding

(Gini Ennals & SAR participants)

SAR was established in 2008 to give a voice to CALD students in Hobart who had arrived as refugees. In this session participants learnt about the process for setting up a SAR group and the value of advocating for change through storytelling; how to involve your audience and; concrete activities that participants can undertake upon return to their home state/territory. The session focussed on activities from the 'Living in Between' workshop, a SAR workshop designed to build cultural understanding, explore the refugee and settlement experience, and discuss the main issues faced by CALD young people.

Advocacy: creating change

(Kenneth Kadirgamar & Sarah Tam-Perez, Multicultural Youth NT)

This workshop was designed to inform and inspire FUSE delegates about change and advocacy concepts and activities. It explored key aspects of 'change making' theory, the scope of advocacy activities, barriers to engaging in advocacy and, some strategies to address these.

2.2 PANEL SESSIONS

Panel sessions were held on Day 2, with experienced advocates and Day 3, with MPs and the National Children's Commissioner.

The session on Day 2 was designed to: (i) give participants a practical idea of engaging in advocacy, (ii) increase delegates' understanding of the diversity and opportunities involved in advocacy work, (iii) build confidence by asking questions and hearing practical stories from people's experience, (iv) connect with diverse and experienced advocates, (v) inspire delegates to engage in advocacy and active citizenship and (vi) learn some key strategies for engaging with MPs.



“FUSE helped me appreciate that there are different qualities in a leader and that every voice is important”.

“The experiences Alphonse brought to the panel were very relevant and honest. And allowing for an Indigenous voice to be heard on the panel was fantastic.”



The panellists reflected diverse advocacy experiences relevant to the youth and multicultural context and included: Jan Muhuntan (UN), Kate Pasterfield (Chief of Staff to Min. for Youth), Pete Dawson (Recognise This campaign), Alphonse Mulumba (Labor Party candidate in TAS state government), Nadine Liddy (MYAN Australia). The panel was chaired by Amna Karra-Hassan (Multicultural NSW Advisory Board) and Maia Giordano, (MYAN NSW Project Officer).

The session on Day 3 provided an opportunity for young people to: (i) apply (newly acquired) advocacy skills and knowledge (including public speaking), (ii) engage in dialogue with MPs/decision makers, and (iii) promote key human rights issues and recommendations relating to refugee and migrant young people in Australia.

Panellists were: Sen. Fierravanti-Wells (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Services, responsibilities for settlement and multicultural services), Mr. Craig Laundry, MP (Member for Reid, NSW), Mr. Matt Kean MP (Member for Hornsby), Ms. Megan Mitchell, National Commissioner for Children.

Delegates presented to the panel in groups, on 5 topics:

1. Racism and discrimination,
2. Media representation,
3. Asylum seekers,
4. Education, training and employment, and
5. Access to services, with a focus on health.

Young people spoke about the challenges of settling in a new country and growing up in Australia with migrant parents. They shared stories of racism, belonging, identity, looking and feeling different, and the need to better understand rights and responsibilities in Australian society in order to exercise these.

They also spoke about the challenges they face in accessing appropriate and adequate education, training and employment support and opportunities, including a lack of targeted ESL programs.

They described themselves as inspired, passionate, adaptable and with a willingness to work hard and overcome challenges. They also shared their views on what has helped them succeed, including a welcoming environment, being listened to, and homework and peer support programs.

Recommendations from this session include:

- Ensure that programs are targeted to the needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, so their particular and diverse needs are addressed and they are supported to take up opportunities that exist. Programs should be flexible, responsive and scaled to increasing and diversity of needs.
- Ensure national consistency in youth-specific ESL programs.
- Educate the mainstream Australian population about cultural diversity and advocate for more cultural awareness training focussed on young people in government services, including police.
- Support young people to better understand their rights and responsibilities through a national program that teaches young people about human rights and responsibilities in the Australian context.
- Involve family/parents in developing and implementing solutions.
- Promote activities, e.g. through the MYAN, that facilitate young people's engagement with decision-makers so that decision-makers hear directly from young people about their experiences and possible solutions.
- Promote national activities/events that bring young people together to share experiences, develop advocacy skills, and identify common issues and solutions to take back to the local, state/territory level.



“The best part was meeting all the other young people around Australia who are dealing with the same issues and are passionate and driven to see a positive change in our society and being the main driving force behind it.”



“When people shared their stories I felt like I wasn’t the only one (dealing with these issues).”

3. Outcomes

Formal and informal feedback from delegates and other participants reflected that FUSE was a successful event in achieving a range of outcomes for young people.

3.1 SKILLS AND FUTURE ADVOCACY WORK

- 99% of delegates indicated that they had gained new skills;
- 89% of delegates stated that they were confident enough to apply the skills that they learned at FUSE on returning to their home state;
- 94% of delegates indicated that they would get more involved in advocacy/campaigning/active citizenship initiatives as a result of FUSE.

3.2 TOP 5 LESSONS

The top 5 lessons identified by FUSE delegates were:

1. The importance of self-care
2. Identifying strengths
3. Story telling as an advocacy tool
4. Public speaking skills
5. Identifying the leader within

3.3 TOP 5 HIGHLIGHTS

The top 5 highlights of FUSE were:

1. Students Against Racism Workshop
2. Panel Sessions
In particular, delegates valued the opportunity to engage directly with decision makers, including MPs, in both a formal and informal way. A number of delegates commented that they had never been given this opportunity before FUSE.

3. Understanding the issues faced by young people nationally

The majority of delegates commented that they hadn't ever previously had the opportunity to meet and learn from peers from across Australia. This feedback was particularly strong from those in WA and the NT.

4. Developing new friendships

5. Scope of program and pitch of workshops

3.4 ONGOING INVOLVEMENT IN ADVOCACY AND THE MYAN

Delegates identified two key things that they need in to support their ongoing involvement in advocacy and the MYAN:

3.4.1 Effective Communication

A significant number of delegates noted that it was very important for them to not only remain in contact with one another and extend their networks but also to remain in contact with MYAN (Australia) and their respective MYAN state and territory representatives/networks.

Delegates identified the creation of a Facebook Group; subscribing to the MYAN eNewsletter; and exchanging emails as effective tools to remain engaged with one another, and the MYAN.

3.4.2 Support –Training and Mentorship

Young people identified the need for ongoing opportunities for training and skills development to build on FUSE, the strengths they identified through the summit, and to support them to run projects and get their voices heard at the local and state levels.

"I realised that looking after yourself is the most important thing."



"I have always struggled to understand my own worth. I had qualities I wasn't aware of. I've discovered my strengths and what I can do."

'Great job, thank you for being amazing. Thank you for bringing us together.'

FUSE Delegate



'Cannot wait for the National Youth Advisory Group. We will do amazing stuff together.'

FUSE Delegate

'The program was great. I got so much out of it and we should do this more and reflect on the great things [we achieved] and how we can improve, if needed.'

Fuse Delegate



'It was awesome. We really enjoyed it and we want this event annually.'

Fuse Delegate

4. Recommendations

4.1 FUTURE EVENTS

Young people provided the following suggestions for future events:

- Include the same opportunities to meet (formally and informally) and hear directly from more experienced advocates and MPs
- Allow more time and briefing to prepare for group presentations to MPs
- Include workshops on understanding Australia's political process – both at the state and federal levels
- Increase the number and diversity of delegates, including representation from Indigenous and Pacific Islander young people
- Offer more targeted workshops to accommodate the diversity of delegates' skills, knowledge and experience. Given delegates' diverse migration histories, life experiences and English language proficiency this would assist in meeting the broader diversity of needs

'Participants came away highly motivated and with a sense that they can actually help make change and that is not only something others can do. The participants were highly motivated by each other's achievements. They all came away with a larger network on a national basis which may help them in the future.'

MYAN PAG member

'FUSE facilitated connections between young people who still are in communication; the opportunity for delegates to hear about what others were up to in their home states, what is working for them and what their barriers and successes were.'

MYAN PAG member

FUSE RECOMMENDATIONS

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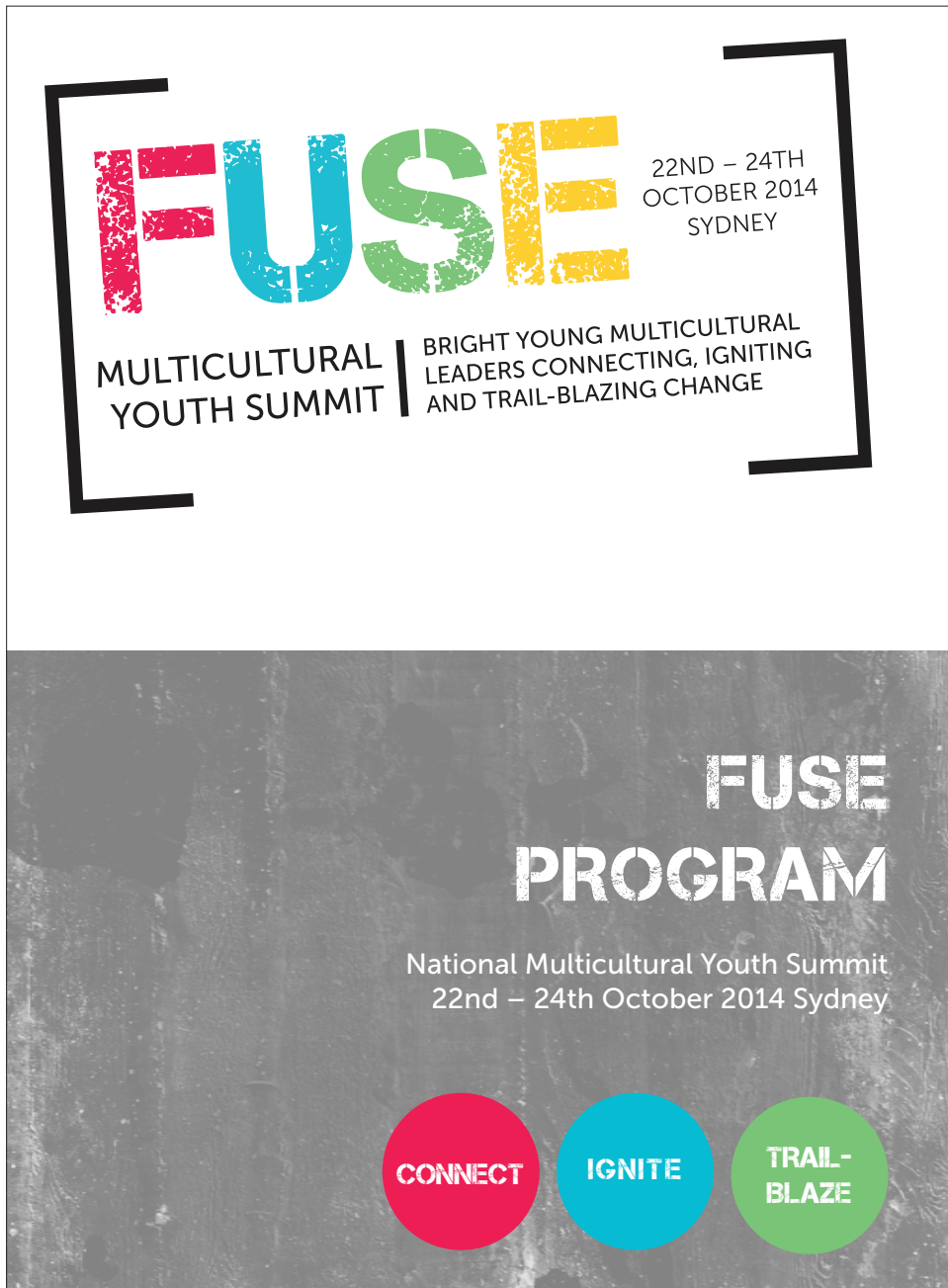
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- Providing opportunities for young people to apply their skills in a range of settings, including local/state, national and international forums. Utilise the MYAN networks to support this.
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5. MYAN Australia to investigate holding a regular national youth event to build on the success of FUSE and utilise FUSE delegates in its planning and delivery.

Appendix 1



DAY 1 – Wednesday 22nd Oct, ACON 414 Elizabeth St. Surry Hills, Sydney

8.45 – 9.20	Welcome to Country - Uncle Chicka Madden Welcome to NSW - Hakan Harman (CEO, Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW) Welcome to FUSE - Nadine Liddy, (National Co-ordinator, MYAN Aust)		
9.20 – 10.00	Team Building		
10.00 – 11.30	Workshop Session 1		
	<i>Group A</i> Leadership in a multicultural context <i>Room 3.10</i>	<i>Group B</i> Advocacy – what, how & overcoming challenges <i>Room 3.02-3.03</i>	<i>Group C</i> Building on strengths & looking after ourselves <i>Room 3.11-3.12</i>
11.30 – 12.00	Morning Tea		
12.00 – 1.30	Workshop Session 2		
	<i>Group A</i> Advocacy – what, how & overcoming challenges <i>Room 3.02-3.03</i>	<i>Group B</i> Building on strengths & looking after ourselves <i>Room 3.11-3.12</i>	<i>Group C</i> Leadership in a multicultural context <i>Room 3.10</i>
1.30 – 2.00	Lunch		
2.00 – 3.30	Workshop Session 3		
	<i>Group A</i> Building on strengths & looking after ourselves <i>Room 3.11-3.12</i>	<i>Group B</i> Leadership in a multicultural context <i>Room 3.10</i>	<i>Group C</i> Advocacy – what, how & overcoming challenges <i>Room 3.02-3.03</i>
3.30 – 4.00	Afternoon Tea		
4.00 – 5.00	Day 1 - Wrap Up		
6.30 – 7.30	DINNER – YHA Conference Room		
7:30 – 9.00	Performance - Students Against Racism (SAR) Tasmania Q&A - Dr. Tim Soutphommasane, Race Discrimination Commissioner		

DAY 2 – Thursday 23rd Oct, ACON, 414 Elizabeth St. Surry Hills, Sydney

8.45 – 9.15	Welcome, checking-in & overview of Day 2			
9.15 – 10.45	Workshop Session 1			
	Using stories to build understanding <i>Room 3.10</i>	Networks & Relationships <i>Room 3.02-3.03</i>	Pitch Perfect – public speaking <i>Room 3.11-3.12</i>	
10.45 – 11.15	Morning Tea			
11.15 – 12.45	Workshop Session 2			
	Using stories to build understanding <i>Room 3.10</i>	Creating a National MYAN Youth Advisory Group <i>Room TBC</i>	Networks & Relationships <i>Room 3.02-3.03</i>	Pitch Perfect – public speaking <i>Room 3.11-3.12</i>
12.45 – 1.30	Lunch			
1.30 – 3.00	Panel Session – Q&A with experienced Advocates			
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon Tea			
4.00 – 5.00	Open Session – Planning for MP Panel Pitch			
6.30 – 7.30	DINNER & outing			

DAY 3 – Friday 24th Oct, GWS Giants Learning Life Centre,
1 Olympic Boulevard, Olympic Park

MC – Carmel Guerra (Convenor, MYAN Australia)

9.15 – 9.15	Welcome & Overview of Day 3
9.15 – 11.00	Planning for MP Panel Pitch
11.00 – 11.30	MORNING TEA
11.30 – 1.00	<p>MP Panel Session – Great Ideas and Q&A</p> <p><i>Senator the Hon. Scott Ryan</i> (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education)</p> <p><i>Senator the Hon. Concetta Fierravanti-Wells</i> (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Services)</p> <p><i>Mr. Craig Laundry MP</i> (Member for Reid, NSW)</p> <p><i>Mr. Matt Kean MP</i> (Member for Hornsby, NSW)</p> <p><i>Ms. Megan Mitchell</i> (National Children’s Commissioner)</p>
1.00 – 1.45	Lunch
1.45 – 3.00	FUSE Summit - Wrap Up & Close

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The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (Australia) is
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