



Community Relations Commission
For a multicultural NSW

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS
YOUTH LEADERS DAY**

RESPECT AND RECIPROCITY

15 AUGUST 2007

REPORT

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Community Relations Commission Youth Leaders Day 2007

INTRODUCTION

The Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW is committed to the promotion of a cohesive and harmonious multicultural society based on mutual respect and responsibility. The Commission has a statutory responsibility to consult widely with our diverse community with respect to its objectives. The Annual Community Relations Symposium has been held each year since 2001 as an effective mechanism to assist the Commission in meeting these key commitments and objectives.

The Community Relations Annual Symposium 2005 identified a need for the Commission to dedicate a day to the voices of young people as part of the Symposium in order to adequately explore and discuss the issues of concern to multicultural youth in NSW. As a result, the inaugural Community Relations Commission Youth Leaders Day was held in 2006. The planning and implementation of this special youth event was organised in consultation with the Multicultural Youth Network (MYN) which was established in 2005 by the Commission with the aim of engaging young people interested in making a real contribution to harmony in our diverse community.

The members of the MYN played a key role in the development and implementation of Youth Leaders Day 2007 which was held on Wednesday 15 August at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Parramatta as the first day of the Community Relations Annual Symposium 2007.

The overall theme of Youth Leaders Day 2007 was 'Respect and Reciprocity' with an emphasis on youth leadership, harmony building and community engagement for young people. The event was very well supported and attended by over 200 youth delegates, presenters, speakers, workshop facilitators, and CRC staff. Youth Leaders Day 2007 proved to be one of the highlight achievements in 2007

The MYN members were actively consulted throughout the planning of the event and took part in the implementation of the day as workshop facilitators. A special training session was organised by the Commission to build the skills and confidence of the MYN members in workshop facilitation. Workshop guidelines and facilitation notes were prepared along with resource materials to assist the MYN members in the running of interactive activities, group discussions, icebreakers and other aspects of the workshops to ensure that the sessions were engaging and effective.

In order to deliver a strongly youth-focused event, Youth Leader Day 2007 featured 15 presentations that were mostly presented by young people and facilitated by

members of the MYN. This high-level of participation by young people in all aspects of the day resulted in an event which was characterised by a great level of energy and creativity. These qualities were particularly evident at the concluding plenary session which despite being held at the end of the day, culminated in an engaged discussion about what growing up in a multicultural society means for young people and what they can do to lead the way for their communities in the areas of harmony, anti-discrimination, community engagement and cross-cultural dialogue.

YOUTH DELEGATE ATTENDANCE

Youth Leaders Day 2007 built on the success of the inaugural event held last year and was well supported with an attendance of over 200 people on the day.

Invitation letters were sent to more than 300 high schools from the private, public and religious secondary education sector in addition to a number of relevant youth organisations. The invitation list included a broad cross-section of high schools from the Sydney metropolitan area and beyond.

The response to the mail-out of invitation letters was very positive with registrations being lodged promptly and places being filled within a few weeks. Several schools inquired as to whether they could send more than the designated 2 student representatives. A number of teachers expressed the view that Youth Leaders Day represented an excellent opportunity for students to learn and share ideas with other students from diverse cultural and schooling backgrounds in a positive setting.

The success of the inaugural Youth Leaders Day held in 2006 and the positive feedback received from youth delegates provided good word-of-mouth promotion of this year's event. This resulted in a high level of repeat participation in 2007 from schools that registered students to attend Youth Leaders Day in 2006

Of the 161 high school students that attended Youth Leaders Day, 48% were from the non-government schools and 52% were from the government school sector. This was a good result as it ensured that there was a diversity of students represented from across the secondary education sector.

In addition to high school students, there were also a number of delegates from universities, community youth organisations, local councils, government departments, and high school teachers, plus representatives from the CRC including Regional Advisory Council members and Commissioners.

OUTLINE OF THE DAY

Opening speeches

The delegates were welcomed at the Governor's Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Parramatta by the Chairperson of the Commission, Stepan Kerkyasharian AM and

Youth Commissioners Katrina Banh and Angelique Vongsaya. The Welcome to Country was delivered by Aunty Nancy Davis from the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship, The Hon. Barbara Perry MP opened proceedings with a quote from the French philosopher, Dr Joseph Joubert, "Ask the young. They know everything". In her speech, Minister Perry went on to discuss how young people, although at times derided for their youth and inexperience, have indeed,

"very valid opinions and insightful perspectives of all facets of life, from things that affect young people directly to things that affect our community as a whole. What is clear is that young people have a key role in building strong communities. [Young people] bring a renewed enthusiasm to our society, with your hopes and passions. In today's world, young people encounter many stereotypes of what young people think and do. We are confronted by images of drugs and alcohol and youth that just don't care. Yet you and I know that young people are out there, working hard and making a difference in our community - your work, volunteers, many of you work as volunteers and you have something very important to contribute to our community."

Minister Perry went on to add that as a community we face many difficult issues and challenges, and that in order to overcome these, we need to include young people as part of the solution,

"[Youth Leaders Day] is an opportunity to nurture and develop young people to be strong leaders in our community. It's the young people of today who will shape the future of this country, yet young people should not be viewed solely as the keepers of tomorrow. You have a great deal to offer here and now. [Young people] can and do make great contributions."

Workshop Sessions

Each concurrent workshop featured three presentations covering different aspects of the workshop topics. These topics were formulated through a process of consultation with stakeholders through various forums including planning meetings with the MYN, feedback surveys from Youth Leaders Day 2006, and an email survey to relevant community youth organisations.

In addition, extensive research was undertaken to find the most successful and innovative projects currently being developed and run in the community with regard to multicultural youth and issues of concern to them. The workshop topics for Youth Leaders Day 2007 were as follows:

Workshop Strand A

Multiculturalism in the Digital Age: growing up with new media technology

Workshop Strand B

Actively Engaged: participation through sport

Workshop Strand C

Harmony Builders: multicultural youth and community partnerships

Workshop Strand D

New Visions: creative young voices of diversity

Workshop Strand E

Youth Leadership: towards a new leadership structure

Keynote Address

Suraya Turk, Deputy Chair of the NSW Youth Advisory Council (YAC) was the keynote speaker at Youth Leaders Day 2007. Ms Turk has been a youth and community representative on a range of government advisory bodies including the National Action Plan Advisory Body, the Youth Justice Advisory Committee, and the National Student Forum in Canberra. Currently, Ms Turk is completing a degree in Science/Law at the University of Western Sydney which she combines with paralegal work for a firm of solicitors and volunteer work at the Marrickville Legal Centre.

In her keynote address, Suraya Turk spoke of the way in which individuals are “empowered by language and knowledge of political processes and understanding of culture or religion”. She went on to give personal anecdotes of growing up as a young Lebanese-Australian woman from a Muslim background. She emphasised the importance of family in her journey to adulthood and in helping her to forge a strong sense of identity. Ms Turk outlined her hopes for the future and the aspirations that drive her work and dedication to community work:

“I want to live in a world where people have equal access to opportunities, education, welfare and security. But more importantly I want to live in a society where the preservation and development of culture and freedom from discrimination is of utmost importance. I want to live in a strong and harmonious community which is made up of a collective of tolerant, open-minded and rational individuals who believe that all young people can achieve their full potential.”

Award Presentation & Film Screening

The Commission presents an annual award for the best film produced each year by a student of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) which either:

- celebrates the cultural and linguistic diversity of Australia,
- canvasses issues arising from the Australian immigrant experience, or
- deals with issues in one or more cross-cultural settings.

The 2007 award winner was Paola Morabito for her short film ‘Bread’ which tells the story of a young Vietnamese-Australian girl who misses out on participating in a crucial soccer game because she has to work in the family bakery. This short film

was screened at Youth Leaders Day 2007 during the luncheon and was very well received by the youth delegates who appreciated the poignant and insightful way that the film dealt with the themes of migration, social isolation, family responsibility and cultural differences.

Performance

The entertainment was provided by the South West Youth Peer Education (SWYPE) which is run by Mission Australia. SWYPE is a youth service operating in Sydney's South Western region with a focus on education and improving outcomes for young people aged between 12-24 years who may be at a point in their lives where they are facing decisions, challenges and setbacks. SWYPE uses learning tools such as performing arts, music, sport, cultural arts as effective forms of engagement.

The group performed a street theatre-style routine called 'Clock Werx' to a captivated audience. The performance centred on a story about the hectic happenings inside a kooky grandfather clock. Each part of the clock represented a different issue regarding the relationship between teacher, student and the community.

When all the parts of the clock finally came together to work in synchronicity, they learnt a valuable lesson,

If we utilise our time effectively and work to the same rhythm, we will have stronger links between the learner and the teachers, and in turn work more effectively in our communities.

Concluding Plenary Session

The concluding plenary session discussion was lead by Jioji Ravulo from the Youth Offender Support Programs run by South West Youth Services, Mission Australia. Jioji Ravulo is also a founding member of the Pacific Youth Network Committee (PYNC) which is a group of young people from the Pacific communities who aim to address youth issues within their community.

The concluding plenary session featured a slideshow-style presentation of visual depictions of the key themes and ideas as captured digitally by the young people at each of the workshop sessions. The visual depictions were produced at the workshop session with participants being asked to divide into small groups and brainstorm about what they understood to be the emerging themes of the workshop presentations and discussion. Each group was then asked to perform an impromptu tableau depicting one of the emerging themes and to hold this pose for a digital photo.

The 'slide show' which resulted in the collation of these photos was a very effective tool in guiding the concluding discussion which aimed to bring all the divergent discussions from the five workshop strands together in a meaningful and interesting manner. This creative treatment of the emerging themes at the conclusion of the day was readily embraced by the youth delegates whose level of enthusiasm, insight and

capacity for lateral thinking was exemplary resulted in an effective and cohesive conclusion to the day's discussions.

EMERGING THEMES OF THE DAY

The information below is a summary of the emerging themes and content from each of the five concurrent workshop sessions:

Workshop Strand A

Multiculturalism in the Digital Age: growing up with new media technology

Youth Facilitator: Victor Kollie, CRC Multicultural Youth Network member
Assistant Facilitator: Malcolm Haddon, CRC Staff member

Presentation 1: Miguel Sumera from the Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE) presented on the Youth Digital Cultures project which engages young people and youth organisations through digital arts skills and creative programs.

The beginnings of this initiative came about through a dynamic fusion of performance, film and online initiatives created as part of the project *TAG...Leave your Mark*, a digital media production in which young people from diverse cultural backgrounds mapped out some of their concerns through creative expression which was sponsored by the Foundation for Young Australians. Continuing on from the success and creativity of this project, Youth Digital Cultures aims to build the creative and social capacity of young people from different cultural backgrounds in the area of digital technology.

Miguel Sumera highlighted the 'guerilla' tactics of many forms of youth expression,, such as graffiti, which are not given significant space in the mainstream arts arena. Young participants in the workshop were invited to take advantage of ICE's drop-in service where young people can use ICE's resources to assist with their own creative projects.

Presentation 2: Lyndon Sharp and Andrew Ivan from the Office of the Board of Studies NSW presented on the Making Multicultural Australia (MMA) website.

MMA is one of Australia's top websites in the field of multicultural, anti-racism and Australian cultural diversity information. Mr Sharp and Mr Ivan discussed some of the challenges of maintaining and updating a website that originated nearly 10 years ago in partnership with the Community Relations Commission and the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).

During its 10 years, the MMA has won awards as an important educational site. The presentation gave some insight into user demographics, web content and the developments planned to update and expand its content and design in response to feedback. The MMA website is to be included as an option for study in the HSC

English curriculum. Participants at the workshop were not previously aware of the MMA website, but saw it as being a useful resource for school assignments.

Presentation 3: Miguel Olmo and Natalie Chiappazzo presented on the services and projects of the Blacktown Youth Services Association (BYSA). Miguel Olmo noted that youth centres are not just for young people with problems, but for any young person who wants to use the centre's resources for the benefit of his or her community. Mr Olmo repeated the adage that 'knowledge is power' and stressed that in the Information Age, computer literacy is a key to knowledge. Lack of computer literacy amongst sections of the community is creating a 'digital divide' which denies people access to opportunities. Workshop participants were invited to provide feedback on the presentation through the BYSA MySpace website.

Emerging themes of 'Multiculturalism in the Digital Age' workshop:

- Understanding that knowledge is power
- Overcoming the 'digital divide'
- Keeping youth informed
- Overcoming media stereotypes and the need for balanced media portrayals
- Overcoming the generation gap
- Breaking down cultural barriers and stereotypes
- Recognition of different youth cultures
- Engaging youth/giving young people a voice
- Fostering of cultural diversity and community harmony

Workshop Strand B

Actively Engaged: participation through sport

Youth Facilitator: Lindsay Tagg, CRC Multicultural Youth Network member
Assistant Facilitator: Myriam Bahari, CRC Staff member

Presentation 1: Anne Bunde-Birouste, Dave D'Silva, Florian Birouste, and Saa James presented on the Football United: Refugee Youth Soccer Development Program. This project was developed in association with the School of Public Health and Community medicine at the University of New South Wales and aims to assist young refugees in their immigration and integration to Australia through an ongoing soccer development program. Football United delivers a variety of programs including weekly after-school soccer skills training, vacation training camps, coaching and referee training, family gala days, mentoring program and 'football in the park' every Saturday for refugees and local residents.

Saa James, aged 17 years, gave a personal account of his experiences of leaving West Africa as a child as a result of internal conflicts and war. The Football United program has given Saa James the opportunity to build confidence, develop friendships and build life skills. The uniqueness of the program lies in the way that it brings refugees from different parts of the world to play a sport they all know and love.

Presentation 2: Mecca Laalaa, Zahra Hijazi, Fatima Kourouche and Dr. Jamal Rifi presented on Lakemba Sports Club (LSC) which has recently emerged as one of the most dynamic and innovative local community sports clubs in the Canterbury region. Working against the odds, the club brought cricket back to Lakemba, tripled its numbers of karate and soccer players, graduated 22 Royal Life Saving swimming instructors and 17 Bronze medallion Surf Life Savers.

Mecca Laalaa spoke about the surf life saving program run by the Lakemba Sport Club in which she has participated. She advocates joining a sports club or surf club in order to develop friendships, skills and enjoy the support that comes with team spirit. Mecca Laalaa discussed how religion should not stop young people from participating. She gave the example of the “burquinni” which was developed for women who wear the hijab and wish to participate in water sports.

Zahra Hijazi spoke of her experience as a coach of an under 12 girls’ soccer team, the Lakemba Roos which is made up of Muslims from countries around the world including Russia, Jordan, Lebanon and Pakistan. She promoted the importance of team sports for young people to assist in the development of important life skills.

Presentation 3: Ali Fahour presented on the Multicultural Schools Program which is run by the Australian Football League (AFL) with the aim of introducing migrant communities in NSW to Australian culture through Australian Football. The purpose on this project is to engage ethnic communities through active participation in Australian Football and related community initiatives. In so doing, the Multicultural Schools Program aims bring greater cultural diversity to local clubs and the AFL overall. Ali Fahour presented a video on the program and outlined the program’s key achievements to date. The AFL is planning to strengthen contacts with schools and clubs in NSW with the view of getting teams set up and new competitions being played.

Emerging themes of the ‘Actively Engaged’ workshop:

- Importance of getting involved in sport
- Sport can increase self-esteem and self-confidence
- Sport brings people together for a common goal and promotes togetherness regardless of culture and religion
- Sport enables people to learn useful life skills
- Sport can bridge the gap between culture and religion
- Participation should not be about winning or losing, but rather about supporting your team and respecting your opposition

Workshop Strand C

Harmony Builders: multicultural youth and community partnerships

Youth Facilitator: Angelique Vongsaya, CRC Youth Commissioner

Assistant Facilitator: Sheetal Challam, CRC Staff member

Presentation 1: Claire Atherton and David Weir presented on the Recruitment and Volunteer Liaison Officer program run by the NSW Fire Brigade. As one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, Australia is growing in awareness of the importance of equal access to services and information for all people, regardless of background. The NSW Fire Brigade recognises as an imperative that emergency management organisations take a proactive approach to engaging with diverse communities and developing strategies and policies for working with all members of our multicultural society.

Presentation 2: Hoda Nahlous from the Canterbury Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre presented on the Muslim ‘YES’ (Youth Employment Strategy) project which aims to engage ‘at risk’ Muslim youths to assist in enhancing their employability by placing them in long term employment. This project is particularly targeted at Muslim youth aged 18-25 years in the Canterbury-Bankstown, and inner Western Sydney areas who are currently unemployed and are not studying.

Presentation 3: Kelsey Jones from the Australian Red Cross presented on the Migrant Youth Orientation Program (MYOP) and Newly Arrived Youth Program (NAYP). The Australian Red Cross is the leading humanitarian organisation in Australia, improving the lives of vulnerable people through service delivery and the promotion of humanitarian laws and values. The Migrant Youth Orientation Program (MYOP) is an educational support service which aims to assist newly arrived young people in adapting and contributing to Australian life through a program of excursions from Intensive English Centres. The Newly Arrived Youth Program (NAYP) provides weekend and holiday activities for recently arrived young people around the Fairfield and Liverpool areas. Both of these programs work to build harmony through providing positive activities and volunteer opportunities for young people across the community.

Emerging themes of the ‘Harmony Builders’ workshop:

- Education about diverse cultures and religions is the key to creating harmony within schools and the broader community
- School activities should include programs about harmony building which encourage positive interaction between students of different cultures in order to break down barriers
- Acceptance of oneself is important in accepting others
- Partnerships are important in building harmony, discouraging youth gangs and eliminating drugs
- Young people can work as volunteers to assist new migrants and take part in mentoring and welcome program for refugees

Workshop Strand D

New Visions: creative young voices of diversity

Youth Facilitator: Gisselle Gallego, CRC Multicultural Youth Network member

Assistant Facilitator: Priya Singh, CRC Staff member

Presentation 1: Cara Pflugger and Sheelaugh Poole presented on Tantrum Theatre's recent production called Riot! which was inspired by the Cronulla riots and a recent gathering of ultra-nationalist groups in Newcastle's Islington park. Tantrum Theatre's three professional playwrights and 24 young people from African and Australian backgrounds collaborated to create Riot! The show received wide publicity as a result of its controversial themes and even inspired a protest by an ultra-nationalist youth group outside the theatre. This presentation discussed the outcomes of the show including the community partnerships that were forged between members of the wider Newcastle community and recently arrived African migrants.

Presentation 2: Dean Williamson from the South West Artistic Youth (SWAY) magazine, Lucia Parrella from ArtStart NSW Youth Arts and Skills program; and Bronwyn Braham, Manager of the Emerging and Community initiatives at TAFE NSW Access and General Education Curriculum Centre, presented on the ArtStart NSW Youth Arts and Skills Program. This program is an initiative of the NSW Government aimed at providing opportunities for young people aged 12 to 24 years of age to develop skills through participating in arts and cultural projects. This workshop showcased ArtStart's development of an online presence and festival in order to maximise the accessibility of the program by young people regardless of where they live in NSW.

Presentation 3: Suzanne Chamma from the Westies project presented on the 'Jammin in the Middle E' which was an innovative television project devised, co-written and acted by young people from the Arabic-speaking community in Western Sydney. Participants drew on their life experiences to create and develop the characters and narrative with assistance from drama and writing professionals. 'Jammin in the Middle E' was hugely successful and filmed for broadcast. It aired to critical acclaim on national television in 2006 and again in 2007.

Emerging themes the 'New Visions' workshop:

- Employing the arts as a constructive way of communicating, decreasing isolation and fostering new learning experiences
- Creating a heightened audience impact through the use of the arts and drama by young people from culturally diverse backgrounds
- Using different art forms to facilitate the sharing of ideas in culturally sensitive and non-threatening way
- Ways of using different art forms to encourage young people to get involved with their community
- Art can connect people who may share similar thoughts or feelings, decrease loneliness and provide a different approach to learning
- Overcoming communication barriers by providing young people with non-linguistic mediums to express themselves

Workshop Strand E

Youth Leadership: towards a new leadership structure

Youth Facilitator: Katrina Banh, CRC Youth Commissioner

Assistant Facilitator: Elizabeth Zammit, CRC Staff member

Presentation 1: Hai-Van Nguyen presented on the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) Volunteer program. RACS is an organisation that provides pro-bono immigration advice and legal assistance to asylum seekers who cannot afford legal advice. It runs a volunteer program with a number of permanent solicitors. However, the bulk of the staff consists of student volunteers and lawyers. Ms Nguyen spoke of the work undertaken by RACS which she argued epitomises the Australian community spirit which aims to help those in need and gives a human face to the government's migration policy.

RACS aims to promote the issues asylum seekers face by raising public awareness and to advocate for a refugee determination process which both protects and promotes the rights of asylum seekers in the context of Australia's international obligations.

Hai-Van Nguyen also discussed a recent essay writing competition organised by the organisation Australians Against Racism. The result was a publication called 'Dark Dreams'. Hai-Van Nguyen discussed how the competition was a great way for young people to get to know refugees and learn about their experiences and thus foster understanding of the plight of refugees.

Presentation 2: Ben Brown from the Disability Initiative Project at Youth Connection based in Gosford, and Joel Clark from the Foundation for Young Australians presented on the Grant Program of the Foundation for Young Australians. The Foundation for Young Australians is an independent national grant-making organisation which funds and works in partnership with youth-led initiatives with the aim of positively contributing to young people and their communities. Ben Brown and Joel Clark who are members of the foundation's volunteer committee discussed some of the multicultural and indigenous initiatives that have been funded to date by the organisation's Grants Program.

Presentation 3: Dr. Rugmini Venkatraman from the NSW Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women (VAW), Georgina Vega from the Australian Arabic Palestinian Support Association Inc (AAPSA) presented a workshop along with Sara Sachawars and Bahar Pordeli from Macarthur Girls High School about the Play'n It Safe project. This project is an interactive, educational board game designed by local young people for young people aged between 15-25 years, who may be new drivers, soon to commence driving, or even passengers. Young people playing the game will gain greater information, awareness and knowledge of practical methods of encouraging and utilising safe driver and passenger practices. The project was a joint initiative by AAPSA and VAW which was funded through the Arrive Alive grant from the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) and supported by Parramatta and Auburn Councils.

Emerging themes of Youth Leadership workshop:

- Young people are not the leaders of tomorrow but of today
- Leadership means being instrumental in effecting the change that you want to see happen
- Youth participation in decision is critical to the success of society
- Become more understanding of your community and of issues in the community
- Take the initiative to turn ideas into real actions
- Be the change you wish to see in the world
- Become aware of the opportunities for young people who are willing to make a difference and get involved in community based work and volunteering
- Have clear, well-defined goals to help you to make your ideas a reality
- There are many organisations willing to support and even fund your ideas
- Satisfaction from leadership is not necessarily in the form of a tangible reward but from knowing that you have made a positive contribution

OUTCOMES OF YOUTH LEADERS DAY 2007

In summary, the following outcomes were achieved through the Youth Leaders Day 2007 event:

- Approximately 190 young people participated on the day as delegates, presenters and workshop facilitators.
- 67 high schools sent a total of 161 students of which 52% were from government schools and the rest from the non-government educational sector including Catholic, Muslim, Jewish and independent high schools.
- Of the 67 youth delegates who completed the feedback evaluation forms:
 - 99% would recommend Youth Leaders Day to their peers
 - 81% felt the venue met or exceeded their expectations
 - 69% rated the event overall at the highest rating of '(4) Good'
 - 57% said they speak a language other than English at home
 - The languages detailed included: Arabic, Bengali, Dari, French, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Krio, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish, Temne, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese.
- Many of the youth delegates reported having enjoyed the event and thought it was a great learning experience. The opportunity to meet new people from different cultural backgrounds in a positive learning atmosphere was seen as a highlight.
- Youth delegates suggested that even greater involvement by young people in the planning and implementation of the event would make future Youth Leaders Days even better and assist in the aims of awareness-raising and harmony building.

- The youth delegates also suggested a variety of different formats for the Commission to consider when planning future youth events, including:
 - Evening functions
 - Weekend camps
 - Multicultural sports teams
 - Activities involving food, dance and music
 - Outdoor games and activities
 - Youth Multicultural Awareness Day or similar
 - Youth awards ceremonies to celebrate the achievements and community work undertaken by young people
- The issues that youth delegates identified as being of interest to them and which they would like to see explored at future Youth Leaders Day events are as follows:

How to get involved in the community

- Showcase of organisations run by young people
- Effective models of leadership
- How to join or form a community organisation or NGO
- Effective fundraising initiatives

First person encounters

- Presentations on ethnic cultures and refugees
- Guest speakers talking about their beliefs and values

Strategies for combating anti-social behaviour

- Strategies to manage conflict, racism and stereotypes
- Violence against women and equal rights issues

Discussions on the bigger picture

- Multiculturalism in Australia and overseas
- Cultural diversity in the global context
- Important social issues facing NSW
- Global issues affecting multiculturalism including global warming

These outcomes, feedback and suggestions will be used to inform future youth events organised by the Community Relations Commission including the upcoming 2008 Youth Leaders Day.

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