

# AIA's Youth Strategy Update- 2020

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In February 2020 YAG developed and published our first Youth led, Amnesty International Australia National Youth Strategy.

Despite having to delay some aspects of our strategy due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, YAG were able to pivot plans and achieve progress with the strategy.

## AIA will be diverse in the way we engage with school requests

Schools requests can now be fulfilled through video conferencing - increasing the number of schools AIA can visit, navigating COVID restrictions and having the added benefit of reaching more outside of metro schools and school groups.

An interim national process was created to ensure that regions without AIA Schools support could also have school engagement.

## 2021 KPI Met - AIA will have meaningful ways to engage under 18s within our movement

Implemented the Youth Leadership Committee (detailed below) a successful program, that will now be rolled out in 2021 across the country. The Youth Activist Program (detailed below) sought to fill an important gap in the on-boarding of new youth activists.

### Youth Leadership Committee (YLC)

YLC is an initiative which allowed activists aged 14 - 18 to be directly involved with AIA, trialled in NSW. The team of six volunteers led the participants through activism projects. Selection into the YLC was based on an application process. 30 applicants applied for the first trialled program and 20 were selected to participate.

### Youth Activist Program (YAP)

YAP created an embedded pathway for youth activists who attend Get Actives. Get Actives are the first opportunity to join an information session for those interested in joining Amnesty. Within Get Actives there is now an introduction to youth activism at AIA, and a dedicated program for under 25s. The program includes activist training sessions and then opportunities for autonomous activism.



### Youth Leadership In AIA

- YAG led the Youth Consultation part of AIA's Vision Consultation, with youth activists, embedding youth within other projects and ensuring that youth activism was integral to AIA's future until 2025
- YAG members, Fin Spalding and Anita Nair, created a media release on International Youth Day - identifying the need to empower and include youth in all forms of decision making, with Fin as an AIA spokesperson. The two also represent Australia globally through being members of the Youth Power Action Network. This opportunity allowing them to contribute to the next Global youth strategy.
- Melani De Alwis, youth activist from WA, was integral to developing our Yassaman freedom flowers action for International Women's Day. Melani's initiative of utilising QR codes is now a widespread tool utilised during Covid-19 to ensure people can take part in activism safely

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## Youth Leadership In AIA continued...

- Bridget Donovan (YAG) led a YAG project which seeks to include Indigenous texts as a compulsory part of the national curriculum. Throughout the year Bridget worked with AIA Indigenous Rights team to drive the project, creating a concept paper, petition and letters to send to teachers for signatures, with an aim for getting at least 100 teachers' signatures. This included, in December of 2020, meeting with Education minister Dan Tehan's senior advisor about the campaign.
- Victorian youth activists, Margherita Mezzasoma, Annie Cui along with Ashra Anver ran a conversations event for our My New Neighbour campaign in Boroondara, Victoria
- The Western Australian (WA) Schools group, led by Tara Boylan, created a human rights education resource for students and teachers to use. The schools packs, which included crosswords, infographics and quizzes, was created for Year 7 - 12 students and made direct links with the WA Curriculum. The pack aimed to promote human rights education in schools and highlight Amnesty campaigns. The WA Schools Network then contacted a Humanities and Social Sciences co-ordinator who circulated the resource to all relevant teachers within the state

## 2021 Projects



### Anytime Amnesty Podcast

YAG will be launching a podcast called Anytime, Amnesty in 2021 (set for April/May). The podcast will be aimed at youth audiences and seeks to introduce various social justice campaigns. It connects various campaigns to daily news, introduces its various aspects and provides steps for individuals to engage with the topics. Episodes will include, Digital Welfare, Sustainable Fashion, the Climate Crisis and more.



### Youth Representatives on All Activist Leadership Committees

In 2021 a main focus will be to contextualise the national Youth Strategy into regional projects as well. Creating projects and strategies alongside groups outside of YAG, ALC, University and school groups, to share ownership and contribution to the Youth Strategy goals. To achieve this, YAG will seek to have YAG members on all ALCs to support the implementation of the Youth Strategy in each region. A part of this process will be to identify and develop other youth leaders.



### Youth Social Media Group

A clear barrier of the AIA youth movement is a lack of clear collective. There are many youth activists within AIA's movement, however, not many spaces where they are grouped specifically as 'youth' activists. Given the new 'program' structure of youth initiatives, youth activists may not have avenues to connect with activists outside of their relevant space. This impedes the feeling of a visible and strong youth movement who can mobilise and empower one another. We know that social media is a key area for young people and we hope to begin a central space where this community may be able to develop. Once the platform is researched, resourced, integrated and decided upon- it will allow YAG to have a streamlined process to share specific youth opportunities within AIA and filter requests through this space. Dispersing these opportunities can support the development of many youth leaders and create diverse ways for young people to engage at AIA. It also allows YAG to better manage capacity by sharing requests among the diverse Youth leadership that AIA has to offer.

