

## **Introduction**

"Young ones, kids, juveniles, young adults, young people, youth, adolescents and teenagers". All of these terms are commonly used to describe the age range of people between 12 to 25 years. It's difficult to settle on an age grouping that everyone agrees with, but for most people, this age period is the time of life when people are growing from children into adults. Being in this "in between stage" means that the needs of young people can sometimes be different to the needs of other people in the community.

The Darwin City Council, for the purpose of the "Youth Strategy", has agreed to the age range of 12 to 20 years. The age groups on either side of the 'youth' age bracket stand out very clearly and those groups already have many of the services that they need, more so than young people in the 12 to 20 group. Keeping this in mind, the Council recognises that young people have differing and special needs.

Just as the age range is really broad, so are the challenges faced by young people. Young people are not all the same, in fact each person is an individual and unique. Some of the things that make up the differences include whether young people are at school, work or unemployed, their culture, religion, life experiences, interests, etc. As young people spend a lot of their time in the community when they go to school, training for a job, working, playing sport and hanging out, they are probably one of the most well seen groups within the community.

Local Government is the level of government closest to the community and because Darwin City Council is a community organisation, it is in an excellent position to see what is happening in the Darwin Community. The challenge for Council is not just to know about the different issues young people face, but to also take action on this information. Like many organisations, Darwin City Council has what's known as a Corporate Plan which is similar to a very technical map used to guide the Council through its daily business and into the future.

The Darwin City Council's Corporate Plan outlines what it is aiming to do:

**To investigate and assess areas of social needs  
within the community and plan effective responses.**

### **Need a translation...?**

Put simply, this means the Council through the work of its Officers, must go out into the community to find out what is needed, listen to and seek out the different voices and views, consider *all* community members and work *with* the community to work out the best way for Council to deal with whatever the situation may be.

The Darwin City Council Youth Strategy is a formal guide used to make clear the role of the Youth Service Officers and the groups they work with for the years 2000 to 2004.

## **Policy Statement (what Council promises in writing)**

Darwin City Council has a commitment to young people because they are important, valuable members of the Darwin community who play a part in making Darwin a great place to be. Council will make sure that young people are given a fair go when planning and sharing Council's resources and budgets, and in making Council a youth friendly place.

## **Aims of the Youth Strategy (what the goals are)**

After talking with lots of youth services, young people and groups, the Youth Strategy was written. The strategy helps Council to plan and make services available which best meet the needs of young people in the community. This will make sure that resources (money, staff, land, etc) are used effectively and that youth issues are dealt with in an organised and planned way. This strategy shows that Council has a commitment to young people as important members of the community and looks at how young people can use Council services better.

Even though Council is not responsible for a lot of the issues faced by young people in Darwin, Council can go some way in looking at what can be done about these matters. The Youth Strategy aims to clearly outline Council's responsibilities in youth affairs so that there is no confusion with other levels of government, community organisations or young people. The Youth Strategy aims to avoid unrealistic expectations of what Council can and can't do.

## **Acknowledgments**

During the time that Darwin City Council was preparing its Youth Strategy, it looked at Youth Policies from many different organisations and this helped to develop the Darwin City Council Youth Strategy. In particular, the City of Salisbury's *Responding to Young People: Youth Policy and Strategy Framework* was very helpful. Work with the Palmerston City Council's Youth Coordinator also helped to make sure both councils' policies for young people in the region are similar. The commitment and hard work done by the Youth Advisory Group made sure that the Strategy relates to the needs of Darwin youth.

The 2002 Youth Strategy Review was undertaken by the Youth Advisory Group membership, as its' first task of 2002. Their recommendations have been written into this document and Council is grateful for their effort and commitment to working for youth in Darwin.

## **Key Areas (the most important areas for working on)**

The Youth Strategy is broken down into smaller areas for ease of working on. The following statements and strategies outline the 18 most important areas that make up this plan.

- Policies
- Participation & Citizenship
- Partnerships
- Health & Wellbeing
- Arts & Culture
- Employment
- Housing
- Isolation
- Racism and Multiculturalism
- Library Services
- Planning
- Funding
- Information
- Recreation and Entertainment
- Public Space Safety
- Education and Training
- Promotion of Positive Images
- Transport

### **1. Policies**

#### **Policy Statement**

Council policies will show a commitment to recognising the needs of young people within the community.

#### **Translation**

All of Council's documents and plans which detail how Council business is done will take into account the needs of youth in the Darwin community.

#### **Current Strategy**

- Council's Corporate Plan notes young people as a special part of the community. A Youth Services Project Officer (YSPO) is employed to facilitate youth involvement and projects with Council for young people in Darwin.

#### **Additional Strategies**

- The Darwin City Council Youth Strategy is to be checked out every year. The YSPO and the Youth Advisory Group together will review how the Strategy is working and suggest changes to it if they are needed.
- Council policies and future plans will always try and look at the needs of young people in Darwin and aim to shape the way they plan things so that the needs of young people are taken into account. This is to be done by the Officers who review the Corporate Plan and other Officers who make suggestions for improvements and changes. The Youth Advisory Group also gives information and advice to Council. The YSPO in conjunction with the Youth Advisory Group will develop additional opportunities for young people to be involved in Council's policy development for issues concerning young people.

- When the Technical Services Department is making plans or designs for facilities that young people will utilise, the Technical Services Department will actively seek the advice and input from the Youth Advisory Group as a matter of normal working practice.

## **2. Planning**

### **Policy Statement**

Council will consider the needs of young people in all of its planning processes.

### **Translation**

Council uses many different ways to plan things for the City of Darwin. Council will make a point of making plans with young people in mind. Council will also ask young people to help make the actual plans when possible, after all it makes sense to check with the experts...the young people themselves.

### **Current Strategy**

- Young people are involved in making plans that will directly affect the youth of Darwin. The YSPO is responsible for this and makes sure that young people are involved in the way this planning takes place. This might take the shape of calling a meeting, talking with schools, surveying young people or having town planners attend the Youth Advisory Group meetings as required.

### **Additional Strategies**

- Young people are included in discussions and talks whenever Council asks the community what it thinks. The YSPO is responsible for this and makes sure that youth are part of any talks.
- What young people need and things that are important to them are taken into account when resources are planned for, like the planning of parks, public spaces, services and facilities. Council will formally ask the YSPO and the Youth Advisory Group for assistance when considering youth needs and issues.
- The Youth Advisory Group, as it develops, will make sure when young people are consulted, that a very broad range of young people are included, such as groups of young people who may not be well represented.

## **3. Funding**

### **Policy Statement**

Adequate funding is made available to fulfil Council's commitment to young people.

### **Translation**

Council makes sure that enough funds are set aside each year so that all of the activities in the Youth Strategy can be carried out.

### **Current Strategies**

- Council employs one full time Youth Officer, as well as providing support for a part time Youth Officer position which receives funding from Territory Health Services. Council also provides a number of 'youth exclusive' activities.
- Council, through the work of the YSPO sets up 'youth exclusive' working groups, project teams and advisory groups when needing youth advice and expertise. Council provides funding, staff time and resources to the running of the Youth Advisory Group, the GRIND Youth Newspaper, the GRAFFICK Measures youth arts project, an annual youth event and workshops. The YSPO is responsible for these groups and committees and young people assist in identifying priorities for the spending of these funds.
- Council has provided funding and support for the development of a Youth Space area in the Civic Centre to support young people's participation in Council youth projects. This area is also the home of the GRIND Head Quarters.
- Council provides funding to its four libraries for Children and Youth services. Library staff are responsible for providing youth services within the libraries.
- Council has provided funding for Recreation in the establishment and maintenance of the Water Gardens Skate Park. The NT Department of Sport and Recreation also provided funding for this project.

#### **Additional Strategies**

- As needed, Council is to provide and/or apply for more funding to deal with any extra strategies that are written within this policy - either through the budgets already in place, government grants, community and business (corporate) sponsorship. The Corporate Plan states that Council will ... *seek alternative sources and methods for the funding of Council's programs and activities, incorporating an appropriate debt management policy.* This means the YSPO is responsible for checking out other ways of funding new and suggested youth programs and does this with advice and suggestions from the Youth Advisory Group and Council.
- Council provides funds and support for events and activities which relate to Council's role and responsibilities for young people within the community such as recreation, entertainment or arts events.
- Part of the Community Support Program budget is set aside exclusively for youth applications. The YSPO will advertise this to young people and the youth sector in Darwin that 'youth only' funds within the Community Support Program are available. The Community Services Development Officer (CSDO) is responsible for managing the Community Support Program.

## **4. Participation/ Active Citizenship**

### **Policy Statement**

Council will encourage and support young people to become more actively involved in Council's decision making processes and within general community life.

### **Current Strategies**

- The former Skate Park User Group has folded now that the Water Gardens Skate Park is well established. Council works with the Northern Territory Skaters Association, a group that represents Darwin's skate community. The YSPO supports this group informally and assists with practical support such as photocopying and the use of the youth space.
- The Darwin Youth Sister Cities Organisation (DYSCO) has been supported by Council since 1989. DYSCO no longer operates, but young members of the Sister Cities movement are to be referred to as Youth Ambassadors and will be included into the Sister City committees as a mechanism for promoting inclusivity. The responsibility for this project falls with the Sister Cities Project Officer.
- A Youth Advisory Group was approved in April 2000 as an official advisory committee to Council. The Youth Advisory Group receives an annual Council budget and is convened by the YSPO. This group meets every month and holds extra meetings if they are needed.

The group is made up of 15 young people aged between 12 to 20 years and gives advice to Council on issues which affect young people in Darwin. The group also hosts events and develops projects for and with youth. Members come from a broad range of backgrounds, and young people who face specific challenges, such as young people who have a disability, are especially encouraged to join. The YSPO is responsible for this group.

### **Additional Strategy**

- An information and education project is to be developed about how local government works and how young people can become more actively involved in Council decision making. This program will be advertised in schools and the wider youth community. Council has an education program available for primary school visits to Council.
- The youth education service will build on the primary school program and will be advertised widely to secondary schools, youth services, etc. YSPO will work with the Youth Advisory Group to develop this project.
- As an additional means of communicating with Council, the YSPO will support members of the Youth Advisory Group verbally reporting to Council's Community Services Committee on a quarterly basis. This verbal presentation will provide an opportunity for young people to develop their public speaking skills, be more active participants in Council processes, give members an insight into how standing committees operate and gain a greater understanding of the passage of their advice to Council.

## **5. Partnerships**

### **Policy Statement**

Council recognises the value in working with other levels of government, other Councils, the community, the business sectors and young people to deal with youth issues.

### **Translation**

The Council appreciates that the best way of approaching work *with* and *for* young people is to begin by talking with them and those that provide services for young people including other government departments and the broader community.

### **Current Strategy**

- Council and Council's Youth Officers are involved in a variety of working groups, reference groups and working relationships with many organisations. This helps Council to be well informed when it comes to youth issues.

### **Additional Strategies**

- That Council involves all of its departments when carrying out community development and planning in dealing with youth issues. The Corporate Plan states that *Council staff are to co-operate and co-ordinate with other internal departments to the best interests of Council and the City.* Departments are to work together when developing and putting in place community work and planning procedures which relate young people.
- That Council look at new ways of working with other organisations so that dealing with the needs of young people in Darwin can be improved upon. YSPO to carry out this action.

## **6. Information**

### **Policy Statement**

Council will make available information that is meaningful and important to young people using lots of different ways.

### **Current Strategies**

- Council is represented at and supports the running of the monthly Darwin and Rural Workers with Youth Network (DARWWYN). These meetings provide opportunities for workers to exchange information within the youth sector of Darwin and surrounding areas. Council receives funding from Territory Health Services (THS) to provide this service. The THS funded Youth Networks Project Officer (YNPO) coordinates the Network. Council's YSPO represents Council at these meetings. DARWWYN is also represented on the Youth Advisory Group by two members.
- Council produces a Youth Information Card which is updated annually. The card is distributed to all schools and youth service providers.
- Council produces a Youth Services Directory which details all youth services for Darwin, and is updated on a continual basis. This directory is aimed at the Darwin youth services

sector and is available for download from Council's web site. It can also be obtained from the YSPO if internet access is a barrier.

#### **Additional Strategies**

- The Youth Advisory Group and other interested young people are to work with the YSPO to develop the Darwin City Council youth issues web site so that it provides more relevant information to young people and is user friendly. This is to be updated by youth project volunteers in collaboration with the Public Relations Manager who is responsible for uploading the changes.
- Council has developed a youth newspaper that is run by youth for youth. The GRIND is produced quarterly by a large team of young people and is distributed to all schools and youth service providers and some businesses. Skill based workshops are run complimentary to this program, based on needs identified by the team.

## **7. Health & Wellbeing**

#### **Policy Statement**

Council will be active in encouraging the good health and wellbeing of young people in the community.

#### **Current Strategy**

- Although Council provides recreational facilities and activities such as public swimming pools, tennis courts, a skate park, Fun in the Parks, FREEPS, library services and the Fun Bus, very few services are aimed specifically at young people.
- Council's Recreation Services Project Officer, Children and Community Projects Officer and Library staff are responsible for the above programs and facilities and in developing more youth specific programs.

#### **Additional Strategies**

- Council to encourage government to provide youth specific and/or youth friendly health care services for young people in Darwin. YSPO to use youth networks and Council as needed to carry out this activity.
- Council to look at and consider options in dealing with the lack of services specifically aimed at young people. This information will be provided by the Youth Advisory Group and on advice provided to Council.
- Council will ensure details for youth health services are included in the Youth Information Card each year.

## **8. Recreation and Entertainment**

#### **Policy Statement**

A range of suitable recreational facilities and activities are to be provided for young people in Darwin.

### **Current Strategies**

- Planning for youth recreation needs will be based on the Youth Recreation Needs Assessment undertaken in December 2001. YAG, NTSA and GRIND members were active in gaining information and assisted with data collection in this research project. This research will pay particular attention to looking at the recreational options for young people who do not use existing recreational facilities, such as young women and youth with a disability. The tropical climate should be taken into account when proposing and developing youth facilities.
- Council provides 3 pools and 3 tennis court facilities and provides the Water Gardens Skate Park. The RSPO is responsible for managing these facilities.
- The Skate Park User Group ceased operation in 2002 now that the Water Garden's Skate Park is well established. The Northern Territory Skaters Association (a youth based community group) is now the mechanism that advises Council on issues concerning the skate park.

### **Additional Strategies**

- Council to develop a recreation policy including a specific segment on youth and recreation. Council's RSPO is responsible for this task and will work with and ask for advice from the Youth Advisory Group.
- Council to provide a youth entertainment event for the young people of Darwin every 6 - 12 months and to be a part of National and/or Territory festivals such as National Youth Week. The YSPO and youth project volunteers such as YAG and GRIND members are to organise and run such events.

## **9. Arts & Culture**

### **Policy Statement**

Young people's participation in cultural life in the community is encouraged and supported by Council.

### **Current Strategies**

- Corrugated Iron Youth Arts Company has received assistance from Council's Community Support Program from time to time. The Community Support Program is advertised annually, and funds are set aside for youth applications.
- Council hosts an Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee (ACDAC). This committee is managed by Council's Community Services Development Officer (CSDO) and is given administrative support.
- Although there is no formal representation on this committee by young people, Corrugated Iron Youth Arts is represented. Young people are to be encouraged to become involved in ACDAC. YSPO to work with CSDO to assist with youth representation.

### **Additional Strategies**

- Council to encourage the organisers of the Festival of Darwin to assist young people to become involved in the Festival. Council provides funding and in-kind support to the Festival of Darwin. Council's representative on the Festival of Darwin Committee will encourage youth participation in the Festival and future funding agreements will include a guarantee that efforts will be made to encourage youth participation in this event.
- Council to support the development of youth arts projects where appropriate. This action may include letters of support or in-kind support.
- Council, in partnership with the Department of Justice has funded the development of a 12 month crime prevention youth arts project, entitled Graffick Measures. This project will create aerosol art murals on Council owned toilet blocks throughout the suburbs and local youth will be responsible for developing designs for their own murals. A youth worker will coordinate the project and 2 young aerosol artists will be employed to implement the project to operate on school holidays and weekends. The YSPO will supervise the project.
- Council to support organisations and agencies which provide opportunities for youth specific art and culture activities for the city's young people. Such support can include letters of support for external funding sources, and other sources of in-kind support as required.
- Council to encourage local arts and cultural events planning to actively support young people to become involved in cultural activities within Darwin.

## **10. Public Space and Safety**

### **Policy Statement**

Council recognises the rights of young people to freely meet together and "hang-out" safely in Darwin's public spaces.

### **Current Strategies**

- Council's Regulatory Services Officers, through the Public Places by-laws and the Litter Act, control the use of public space in Darwin. Regulatory Services Officers are provided with training in the appropriate by-laws.

#### **So what is a By-Law...?**

- Under the Local Government Act, the Council has the power to make laws which regulate and control certain activities and functions within the municipality. These laws are called by-laws and examples include dog management and pool fencing control. Littering is controlled through the Litter Act.
- Council's Technical Services Department is to actively seek advice from the Youth Advisory Group when planning and designing public space and associated facilities. This

approach is to be developed as regular work practice to demonstrate Council's genuine appreciation of youth as experts of youth issues. The YSPO and Technical Services staff are responsible for collaborating to develop this approach.

#### **Additional Strategies**

- Council to investigate options for young people in Darwin to use public space for "hanging-out" in a safe environment and that young people are involved in the design of such spaces. Youth Advisory Group to look at options for involvement and advise Council.
- Council to support the rights of young people to gather socially in safe public places without being unfairly targeted. YSPO together with Youth Advisory Group may advise Council. YSPO is already involved in groups which aim to deal with this issue.

## **11. Employment**

#### **Policy Statement**

The development of employment opportunities for young people within Darwin is encouraged by Council.

#### **Current Strategy**

- Council employs several staff under the age of 25 years and supports traineeships for young people within the organisation. The Corporate Plan states that Council will *Support and participate in appropriate employment training schemes such as traineeships etc.* Council's Human Resources Manager oversees such employment and traineeships. Council offers two office and business traineeships and two horticultural traineeships per year.

#### **Additional Strategy**

- Council to use every opportunity with its many commerce and business connections to encourage employment opportunities for young people within the business community of Darwin. The Corporate Plan states that Council will *Encourage the co-ordination of a strong, stable and secure employment base for the city.*

## **12. Education and Training**

#### **Policy Statement**

The development of suitable education & training for young people within Darwin is encouraged and supported by the Council.

#### **Current Strategies**

- Council regularly hosts a variety of student placements. Council provides learning opportunities for students in several areas within the organisation.
- Council encourages educational opportunities as approved by Council decisions on such matters as they arise.

### **Additional Strategies**

- Skill development opportunities are to be created by the YSPO in collaboration with support from the youth project teams. Content for workshops will be formed in response to youth identified learning areas. The workshops will be formed in response to youth identified learning areas. The workshops will be opportunities for young people to plan, host and organise these forums, in addition, to upskilling in given areas.

## **13. Housing**

### **Policy Statement**

Council will encourage safe, affordable housing options to be provided for young people within Darwin.

### **Current Strategy**

- Council's Youth Officers are currently involved in several groups and committees to encourage and support access to and existing youth housing options for young people in the Darwin area.

### **Additional Strategies**

- Council to encourage the NT Department of Housing and also rental agencies to make available suitable affordable housing options for young people in Darwin, including all available supports provided by the NT Department of Housing. This activity involves the advocacy role of the YSPO and youth sector networks. Advocacy can sometimes be described as defending, speaking up or supporting the rights of others, such as youth housing rights.
- Council to encourage the development of low cost accommodation options through its involvement in town planning processes. Technical Services staff in discussion with YSPO and the Youth Advisory Group to provide information to the Town Planning Committee as required.

## **14. Promotion of Positive Images**

### **Policy Statement**

Council is committed to promoting the positive images and achievements of the youth of Darwin whenever possible.

### **Current Strategies**

- Council's GRIND Youth newspaper has been established to provide a voice for young people in the community and to promote the positive images of young people's participation in community life.
- Council recognises the achievements of its citizens through its' Australia Day Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards. The Protocol and Special Events Manager coordinates this event. A representative or Chairperson of the Youth Advisory Group is

to be included in the selection panel for the Australia Day, Young Citizen of the Year wards.

- Council provides recognition and Certificates of Appreciation to young people involved in various youth orientated Council committees and groups such as the Youth Recreation Working Group. The YSPO makes sure all young people involved receive this token of appreciation.

## **15. Isolation**

### **Policy Statement**

Council recognises how young people can be affected by the isolation of Darwin, both in terms of distance to other major cities and for many young people, the lack of extended family and support. Council is committed to try and lessen the impact of this isolation.

### **Current Strategy**

- Council accepts that social isolation can affect young people in many and different ways. A lack of extended family and lots of military and government contract families can result in Darwin being a very mobile and transient community. In acknowledging this social isolation, Council provides support to agencies which provide help, support and/or counselling to young people and their families in Darwin. Such support may be in the form of in-kind support, letters of support for external funding and through its Council Officers attending reference group meetings.

### **Additional Strategies**

- Council to promote programs which encourage young people to become well connected with their community. Strengthening links to the community can take the shape of activities that Council is already involved in, such as the Youth Information Card, the Youth Services Directory, GRIND and youth project teams. YSPO is responsible for this action.
- Council to make sure that programs and services delivered by Darwin City Council are genuine and provide a real and useful opportunity for young people to participate in activities within their community.
- Council to recognise that young people in Darwin do not have as many choices of services that young people in some other regions of Australia have. Council to work with the community and other levels of government to deal with this issue. YSPO and YNPO to use existing networks, advocacy opportunities (such as special meetings) and community consultation to deal with this issue.
- Greater promotion and advertising of Council youth projects, particularly the GRIND youth newspaper needs to occur as a means of fostering community connections for isolated young people.

## **16. Transport**

### **Policy Statement**

Council encourages suitable transport options to be available to young people in Darwin.

### **Current Strategy**

- Council provides widespread safe bike tracks throughout the community. Council to continue to provide safe, well lit and shaded bike tracks and regularly assess the standard and safety of these Tracks. Technical Services staff manage the maintenance of the cycle paths.
- A cycle path map was developed and distributed in 2000. Contributions were also received from Department of Sport & Recreation, Palmerston City Council and the Department of Transport & Works
- Council to encourage the NT Government Department of Transport and Works to provide well lit and shaded bus stops throughout Darwin. YSPO to work with Technical Services staff to carry out this activity.

### **Additional Strategies**

- Council to encourage bus companies to provide suitable services to the community on a daily basis including transport services that operate until a reasonable hour throughout Darwin. YSPO to carry out these discussions.

## **17. Racism and Multiculturalism**

### **Policy Statement**

Council recognises the multicultural community of Darwin. Young people are encouraged to celebrate cultural expression, differences and an understanding community.

### **Current Strategies:**

- Funding is allocated for the Sister Cities program which is specifically set aside for youth involvement. Formerly known as the Darwin Youth Sister City (DYSCO), the youth members are to be known as Youth Ambassadors and are to be included in the broader Sister City movement, to promote a sense of connection and inclusivity.
- Participation of Indigenous youth is to be actively encouraged by the YSPO so that youth involvement in Council projects is genuinely representative of Darwin youth.
- Council supports various cultural festivals such as The Greek Glenti, Festival of Darwin, etc. This has included financial and in-kind support as required. The Corporate Plan states that Council will support appropriate festivals, commemorations and events held within the local government area.

### **Additional Strategies:**

- Council provided programs and services for young people are to be suitable for young people from differing cultural groups and cater for the cultural needs of such young

people. YSPO to consult with the Youth Advisory Group as well as other Council advisory committees to carry out this task.

- Young people from Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non english speaking backgrounds (NESB) are to be encouraged to be represented in community discussions and advisory groups so that their specific needs can be dealt with. YSPO to carry out this task.
- Discussions and partnerships to be explored with advisory committees and groups run by other government and non-government organisations which focus on Indigenous or NESB young people and the Youth Advisory Group as required. YSPO and the Youth Advisory Group to carry out this task.
- Activities such as community education and awareness projects be a part of Council's youth programs so that barriers are broken down and issues of cultural diversity are dealt with. YSPO to carry out this task.

## **18. Libraries**

### **Policy Statement**

The objective of Darwin Public Libraries' Children & Youth Services is to provide access to material and services which meet the identified recreational and informational needs of young people in Darwin.

- Darwin Public Libraries adheres to and complies with all aspects of the Australian Library and Information Association's (ALIA) policies pertaining to service delivery to young people. Darwin Public Libraries also adopts the definitions that ALIA apply to young people.
- The Term 'young people' comprises both children and young adults. 'Children' refers to those aged between birth to twelve years inclusive. The term 'young adult' refers to young people aged from thirteen to eighteen inclusive.

Reviewed by Youth Advisory Group & YSPO February 2002