

## Media Release

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## The Foundation for Young Australians announces the 2010 Young Social Pioneers

The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) today announces the 14 outstanding young Australians who will take part in its Young Social Pioneers program, following a successful launch of the initiative in 2009.

Modelled on the International Youth Foundation's global YouthActionNet® initiative, the Young Social Pioneers (YSP) program is designed specifically for young Australians working with purpose and passion for a social cause. Throughout the year-long training program, the 2010 Young Social Pioneers will benefit from skills development, mentoring, intensive group and individual training and access to a global network of social innovators.

FYA received nearly 100 applications from 18 – 29 year olds across the country looking to take part in the program in 2010. The successful participants are all remarkable young Australians dedicated to initiating urgent social change in areas such as cultural and sexual diversity, social inclusion, health and international poverty.

Newly appointed CEO of The Foundation for Young Australians, Jan Owen AM said, "We are thrilled to bring together such an extraordinary group of young change makers for YSP 2010. One of the program's core strengths is that it emphasises collaborative peer-to-peer learning, and enables each Pioneer to develop their skills and projects alongside other like-minded and socially-conscious individuals."

20 year old Jack Hegarty, a dedicated advocate of OUTthere Rural Victorian Youth Council for Sexual Diversity, and one of the 2009 Young Social Pioneers said, "The Young Social Pioneers program gave me the vehicle that I needed to get my message out there. I've been given the opportunity to develop the skills that I need to pass them on to my people. It's supported and empowered them, and it's really been the best thing for me in my journey."

### The 2010 Young Social Pioneers are:

- **Cara Talbot:** *Christie's Beach, SA.* Founder of Two Degrees of Separation, a program designed to provide young women aged between 16 and 30 with mentoring and development opportunities
- **Chris Boyd:** *Caringbah, NSW.* Founder of Australian Youth Against Cancer, an online support network for young people with cancer and an outlet to share experiences and provide assistance
- **Chris Raine:** *Caloundra, QLD.* Founder of Hello Sunday Morning, an online community highlighting the growing culture of binge drinking in Australia in order to assist people to live fun and happy lives without alcohol

- **Elliot Costello:** *Elsternwick, Vic.* Founder of YGAP (Y-Generation Against Poverty), a movement designed to support grass-root organisations with an aim to eliminate poverty and its devastating effects on communities worldwide
- **Freeman Trebilcock:** *Daylesford, Vic.* Founder of InterAction: Multifaith Youth Network Inc., a movement bringing together youth from all cultural and religious backgrounds to enact social change
- **Genevieve Clay:** *Petersham, NSW.* Founder of Bus Stop Films, and organisation creating awareness for social inclusion at a grass roots level, through film
- **Jakob Quilligan:** *Kennington, Victoria.* Co-founder of OUTthere, a youth council raising awareness about the issues facing same sex attracted and gender diverse young people
- **Jo Alvarez:** *Rooty Hill, NSW.* Founder of C.O.P. Magazine, a bi-annual publication showcasing the best of female art and culture from around the world
- **Jonathan Brown:** *Adelaide, SA.* Founder of CBloggers project (Community Broadcasting Association of Australia Youth Engagement Committee), designed to engage emerging young media makers across the country
- **Katherine Wills:** *Carlton, Vic.* Founder of Art to Burma and Back , a program designed to use art as a medium for foreign aid
- **Kumari Middleton:** *Morwell, Vic.* Founder of Mayibuye, a community health and education program designed to keep Australian and South African young people off the streets and engaged with life
- **Lee Crockford:** *Paddington, QLD.* Founder of Creative Wire Workshops, a program designed to bring innovative, unique and world class composition workshops to young people
- **Melissa Cutting:** *Ingle Farm, SA.* Founder of Keeping Rural Communities Alive, a working group of volunteers dedicated to making a difference to the lives of many, through small steps with a big impact
- **Zahra Smith:** *Rosebank, NSW.* Founder of the Creative People's Collective, a program designed to create and promote pathways for young people to express themselves through performing arts

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To request biographies, arrange an interview with one of the Young Social Pioneers, or speak with an FYA representative, please contact Porter Novelli, Melbourne:

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