

## Media Release

For immediate distribution

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### **FYA appoints leading youth pioneer, Jan Owen AM, as CEO**

The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) is delighted to announce the appointment of Jan Owen AM to the role of Chief Executive Officer. This appointment is wonderful news for the future of young people in Australia.

Jan is recognised as one of the leading pioneers of Australia's youth sector, having headed up Australia's first youth representative bodies, as Chairperson of the National Youth Council of Australia and President of the Youth Affairs Council of Australia.

Jan founded the CREATE Foundation where she was the inaugural CEO and led the organisation for nine years. Since 2002, Jan has been the Executive Director of Social Ventures Australia, an organisation that has pioneered new investment, social innovation and entrepreneurship models to increase the impact of the social sector.

With over two decades of experience in these sectors, Jan has led numerous partnerships and collaborations including the National Coalition for Children and the National Children's Summit; and, most recently, the Social Enterprise World Forum. In 2000 she received membership to the Order of Australia for service to children and young people.

Chairman of FYA, Mark Paton, said, "We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Jan Owen as our new CEO. With a truly exceptional career already under her belt, and as a recognised leader and innovator in the youth and social sectors, Jan will be instrumental in leading FYA into the next phase of our development."

"Jan's appointment represents a purposeful decision by our organisation to embark upon some exciting new directions while consolidating and building upon an already impressive track record of supporting young people in this country," he said.

Jan said, "I am excited by my appointment as CEO of FYA and the opportunity to support and empower young people across Australia to realise their potential. FYA, and its Education Foundation Division, have made a tremendous contribution to the youth and education sectors over the past three decades. "

"I am excited by the opportunity to work with young people and our talented team to build on our achievements, and to chart new directions that will have an even greater and lasting impact on the lives of young Australians," she said.

Jan will commence in her role as CEO at FYA in September 2010.



*Jan Owen AM, incoming CEO at FYA*

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**Media Enquiries**

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