



Media Announcement

Tuesday 13 October

500 young Victorians called to action at Etihad Stadium

More than 500 young Victorians will gather at Etihad Stadium this Wednesday 14 October to participate in the 2009 Youth Action Conference, hosted by The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA). The annual event brings together students and educators from across Victoria to celebrate and initiate positive social change projects and community engagement in schools.

“The Youth Action Conference (YAC) is all about creating networking opportunities for all delegates and brokering relationships between the education, community and corporate sectors to create real connections for change,” says Josh Levy, Senior Manager at FYA and conference organiser.

Day one of the two-day event will give students the chance to showcase existing social change initiatives and participate in a series of workshops facilitated by a diverse range of organisations. Workshops will be held by Breakthrough Summit, the Centre for Sustainability Leadership, and Left Right Think Tank, and guest speakers include Alischa Ross, CEO of Y.E.A.H (Youth Empowerment Against HIV/AIDS), and Nik Tan, coordinator of the Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning (SAIL) Program. YAC 2009 will also host exhibits from Etiko, The Big Issue, Habitat Heroes, and Relay 4 Life.

Nargis Dost, student at Noble Park Secondary College and MC for the conference, has been among 30 FYA Youth Ambassadors assisting in the event planning. “To be involved in YAC has been an inspiring experience for me and the other Youth Ambassadors,” says Nargis. “We can all positively change our communities, and it’s great to have this opportunity to share our stories and strategies with hundreds of others.”

Day two of YAC will be held on Thursday 15 October, immersing more than 100 educators and youth professionals in a diverse range of professional development sessions and creative conversations. The day will include a presentation Dr. Ani Wierenga, Future Generation Research Fellow at the Australian Youth Research Centre, and will feature a selection of workshops from the Centre for Sustainability Leadership, Collaborative Approaches to Violence Prevention, and FYA. Exhibitors on the day will include the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, and the Australian Youth Research Centre.

The 2009 Youth Action Conference is held in partnership with SYN Media and ABC’s Heywire.

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The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) is an independent organisation that supports and empowers young Australians to become successful learners and creative, active and valued citizens.

Josh Levy, Senior Manager at FYA, and Nargis Dost, student at Noble Park Secondary College are available for interview

Media Enquiries

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