

youngsocialpioneers

Anania Tagaro
24 years old
Darwin, NT

Concerned by the absence of a distinct voice on youth issues in Darwin, Anania heads up the Darwin Youth Organisations Network (DYON), an initiative that unites organisations across the city with the common goal of affecting change in the issues that matter most to Darwin's youth.

Anania recognised that youth organisations were competing with one another for exposure and moved to forge an allied landscape where resources, skills and ideas could be shared.

An initiative of the youth-led organisation Multicultural Youth Northern Territory (MyNT), DYON's focus areas include issues related to refugees and asylum seekers, bullying in schools and human rights.

DYON has established a framework for resource-sharing between youth organisations and has been successful in mobilising young people to become active in voicing their ideas on pressing issues. The initiative has reached more than 250 Darwin locals through youth-led events, activities and skills workshops run by experts. Through DYON, youth organisations have had the opportunity to gain access to relevant programs and grants within the region.

"Ultimately, DYON exists so there is a stronger and united youth voice in Darwin regarding key issues facing the young people in our community," Anania says.

Under Anania's leadership, DYON has broadened its scope and now aims to contribute abroad by helping raise funds for disaster relief for Japanese cities affected by the recent earthquakes and consequent tsunamis. Anania was inspired to contribute to the recovery after spending two months in Japan on a cultural exchange program and returning just eight days before the disaster hit. More than \$9,000 has been raised by Anania and her team since the activation of the relief fund in March 2011.

Anania has been selected for the Foundation for Young Australians' Young Social Pioneers (YSP) program, a year-long training and development program that supports, educates and equips young social change makers with the skills they need to successfully manage their project or organisation, and hopes that it will help her develop ideas and strategies that will allow DYON to expand its scope to more actively engage local youth.

"I know that by being part of this unique and dynamic program I will have the opportunity to learn from other Pioneers and their projects.

"I'm looking forward to working with the other Pioneers and also the program's mentors to broaden my scope and be inspired to think beyond my everyday boundaries," Anania says.

