

Checklist for Journalists

Interviewing Young People

This checklist has been developed by the [Foundation for Young Australians' \(FYA\) Youth Media Centre](#) based on feedback from young people over the last two years. For more info, read [Working with young people to tell great stories](#).

Before the interview

- Give young people as much notice as possible about an interview
- Research the issue
- Step out all the details of the interview:
 - Live or pre-recorded
 - Who else is being interviewed
 - Flexibility of interview time
 - Mode i.e. Zoom, phone, in-studio
 - Questions you intend to ask (even at a high-level)
- Tell them about the angle your news outlet is seeking to take
- Make sure young people understand that they have control over how they share their own story
- Provide a guarantee they can review the content before publication, and can edit or retract quotes if desired

During the interview

- Treat young people as equals
- Don't ask young people to speak on behalf of all young people or entire communities
- Avoid questions that reinforce stereotypes about young people or communities
- Ask young people if they have anything to add at the end of an interview

After the interview

- Ask for feedback on how the young person experienced the interview (e.g. anonymous survey, through a media manager, or intermediary organisation like FYA)
- Contact the young person when the story goes live
- Tell the young person if you believe the interview or story is likely to receive significant attention or negative commentary when it goes live
- Pay young people for their time and for sharing their lived experience

Email us at youthmedia@fya.org.au if you're looking for a young person to comment on a story you're preparing, and we can do our best to put you in touch.