

From a seat at the table to future proofing communities.

Codesigning disaster risk resilience with young people.

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&

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Acknowledgement of Country

- ▶ *Our work takes place through the lands of the Aboriginal nations within Victoria and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. Bunjil's lore states that those who walk on this land must care for the Country and waterways as well as care for the children and young people. This always was and always will be Aboriginal land.*



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Intro to YACVic:

YACVic's vision is that young Victorians have their rights upheld and are valued as active participants in their communities

As Victoria's youth peak body, we work across the state in the best interests of young people and the youth sector to:

- lead **policy** responses to issues affecting young people
- **represent** the youth sector to government
- **resource** high quality youth work practice
- **research and advocate** on youth issues



"I hear a lot of adults saying 'what young people need is' but there is not a lot of opportunities for them to be involved or say what they want"

Young Person, Orbost



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Youth Participation and Disasters in context

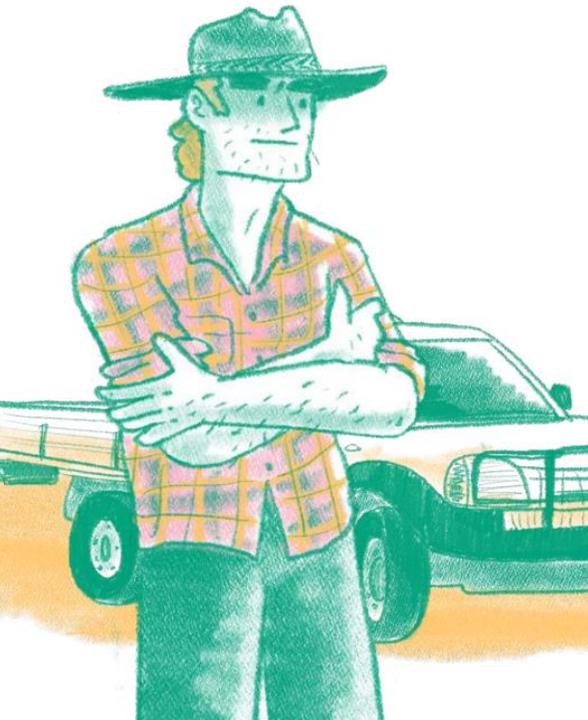
Natural hazards, disasters and climate change

‘Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula.’ The Sendai Framework (2015)

‘Young people are deeply concerned about climate change and disasters. Over 90% of young people surveyed reported experiencing at least one natural hazard event in the last three years.’ Our World Our Say Report (2020)

Disaster resilient young people:

- recognise natural hazards in their local environment
- understand the harmful impacts that natural hazards have on people and places
- demonstrate strategies for staying safe, seeking help and helping others in an emergency
- design solutions to local challenges related to hazards and emergencies
- share their learning, opinions and ideas with local decision-makers
- participate in actions for recovery following a disaster or other traumatic event.



Engaging Young People in Bushfire Recovery: Resources and Reports

VIC
VIC
VIC

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Education
and Training



History

Speaking Up: Young people's experience of Bushfire and Recovery

A report produced in partnership with the Victorian Government's Department of Education and Training and Bushfire Recovery Victoria. We consulted and supported young people and community members to document their experience of disaster recovery and response to the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.

26 youth-led recommendations are details in the report they include topics such as People, Employment and Skills, Community, Education and Future Investment



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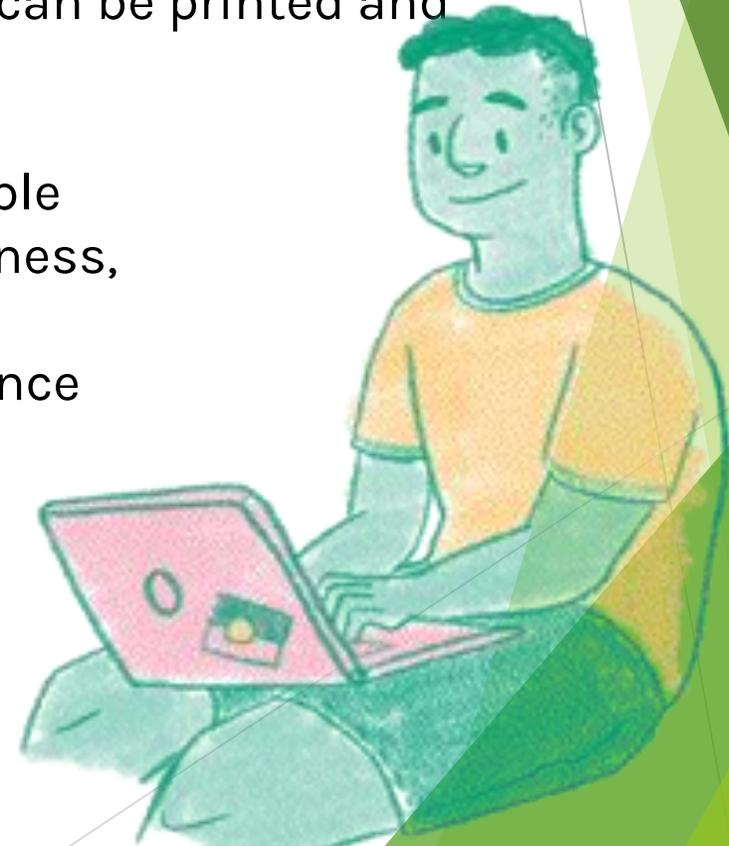


A Seat at the Table/factsheets

A Seat at the Table: Young People and Disaster Recovery is a guide to meaningful Youth Engagement, Participation, and Inclusion.

The resource covers all aspects of youth engagement in disaster recovery and includes three double-sided A4 fact-sheets which can be printed and shared.

- Engaging, Including and Consulting with Young People
- Opportunities for Young People in Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Including Young People in Committees and Governance



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Strengths Engaging Young People in the lifecycle of disaster

- ▶ YP may have different and unique experiences of disaster compared to adults
- ▶ Moving away from a deficit lens: Young People might face certain vulnerabilities during a disaster, but they should not be viewed as passive victims - they are experts in their own lived experience
- ▶ Involvement from planning to evaluation



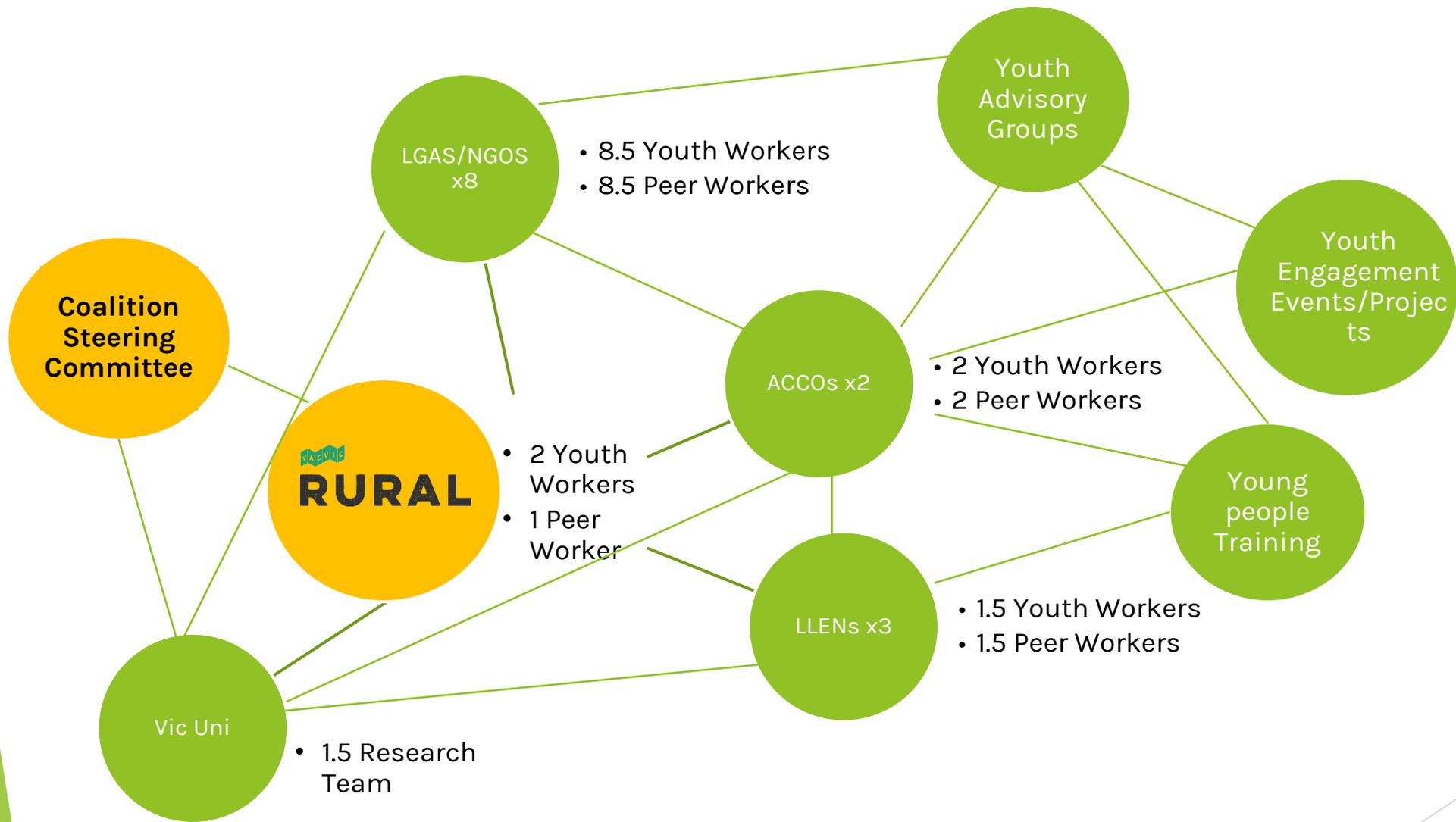
'Future Proof': Young People, Disaster Recovery and (Re)building Communities

This collective impact project, led by YACVic:

- ▶ Brings together eight LGA Councils, two Aboriginal CCOs, Victoria University and three LLENs.
- ▶ Drives locally-led recovery outcomes for fire-affected young people and communities.
- ▶ Is place-based, networked, flexible, and uses youth work principles to support, train and connect young people, and involve them in youth-led recovery projects and community decision-making.
- ▶ Supports qualifications attainment and industry linkages for youth jobs in emergency management and community services.
- ▶ Evidence into practice

Future Proof Objectives

- ▶ 14 Young Peer Workers trained in local communities
- ▶ 14 Youth Workers upskilled in community
- ▶ 150 YP supported to attain locally useful qualifications in youth work, community development, mental health, emergency services including traineeships
- ▶ 110 YP paid to drive locally lead programs through facilitated advisory groups
- ▶ 1500 YP engaged in programs delivered in local community projects
- ▶ Including Future Proof Peer Workers who are given 1 day a week study leave to complete a qualification alongside their role
- ▶ Preparing for the next disaster but also how the community can recover holistically after



Supports throughout the project:

Elevating and Centering the Lived Experience of Young People

LGA/NGO/ACCO

Youth Worker and Peer Worker work with young people to build a Youth Advisory Group (YAG)

YAG

Young people are supported in developing and co-designing locally led outcomes related to bushfire and disaster recovery

Put young people at the center of bushfire recovery efforts, ensuring they are supported in their own recovery, AND that their unique perspectives and ability to contribute are recognised, valued and utilised for community recovery.

Show young people that they are valued as active contributors in their communities, strengthening connection and community ties, and leading to local service and leadership by young people.

***Youth participation actively involves
young people in decision-making
processes on issues that affect them***

Examples include young people:

- being consulted about their ideas and opinions.
- researching issues that affect their lives.
- planning or leading community activities or events.
- taking part in youth committees or action groups.
- taking part in adult-defined decision-making bodies.



“Stop asking us to think outside the box, when we don’t know what the box is.” – **Quinn Obran, Corryong**



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Community focus



Place-based - locally lead initiatives



Community of Practice



Regular catch-ups for Youth Workers and Peer Workers - creating a space to learn from each other and what they're doing in their communities

Community of Practice

A supportive space coordinated and organized by YACVic for each of the partners. Specifically for their Youth Workers and Peer Workers to gather and share knowledge, as well as opportunities for training and upskilling.

Six CoP over the life of the project, all held in communities, over three days

Peer learning space and connection

Community of Practice Photos



Victoria University

- ▶ Building a body of evidence to elevate young people and their participation in disaster; preparedness, during and in recovery.
- ▶ Providing guidance and support for training and qualification attainment
- ▶ Prof. Tim Corney, Dr Fiona MacDonald and Brett Woods



Questions??

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Links to the resources can be found

yacvic.org.au/rural/disaster-hub/

And of course, you can find us on Twitter,
Facebook, Instagram and TikTok via [@yacvic](https://www.instagram.com/yacvic)

