

adrc 24

Australian Disaster
Resilience Conference

   #ADRC24



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience 



Empowering Young People in Rural Victoria for Disaster Resilience

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YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL VICTORIA

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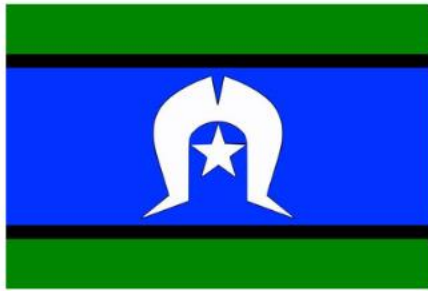
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

3 – 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

ICC Sydney



Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge and pay respect to the land and the traditional families of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Image: YACVic





Presentation Overview

Future Proof: young people, disaster recovery and (re)building communities

- Commonwealth-funded Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant (\$9.93 million)
- VU is the embedded research partner
- YACVic is the lead partner in this collective impact project
- 12 local councils, NGOs, ACCOs & LLENs across NE and SE regional Victoria.

We will share insights from the project that speak to young people's engagement in:




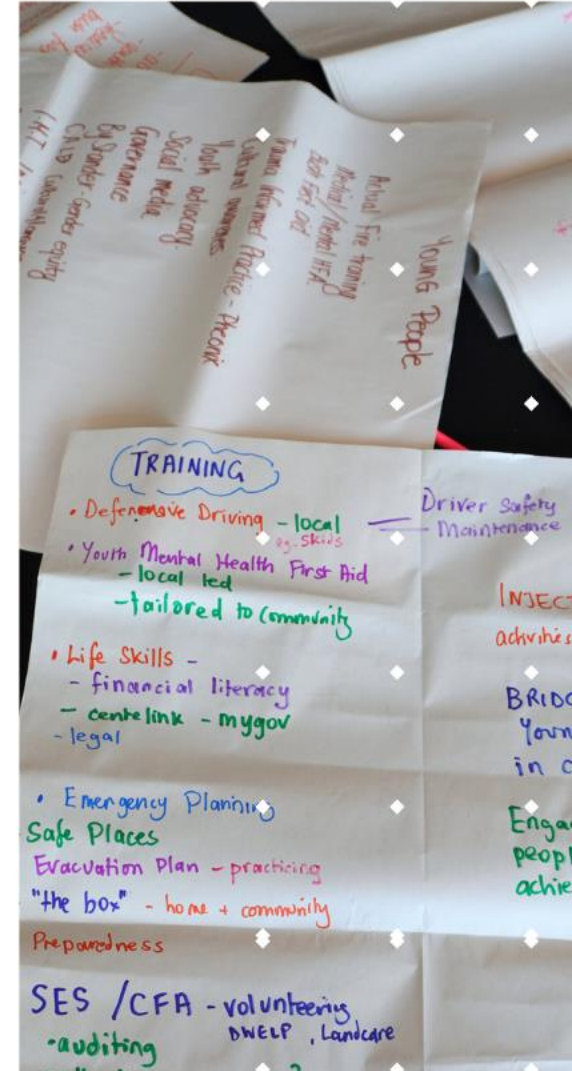
-  Disaster recovery
-  Community resilience
-  Upskilling of young people in regional and rural communities, aftermath of and preparedness for, disasters

Image: YACVic





Future Proof: young people, disaster recovery and (re)building communities

Focused on:



Building skills and qualifications



Embedding young people in local councils, locally focused youth organisations, ACCOs and Local Learning and Employment Networks



Creating organisational change to ensure young people are highly regarded and respected members of organisations

Image: YACVic



Employment in local councils & community organisations

Young peer workers employed in local organisations (including local councils, NGOs, ACCOs and LLENs) are engaging:

- young people and running events;
- within their organisations with Emergency Management Team and Resilience Officer; and
- with community Emergency Management organisations and teams.

Linking into current research:

- focus on resilience and recovery going forward – better preparation

Image: YACVic





Future Proof: project outcomes

Project outcomes so far:

- ✓ 163 young people paid to drive locally lead, place-based programs through youth advisory groups
- ✓ 6,549 young people engaged in local community projects
- ✓ 1,183 young people supported to attain locally useful qualifications in youth work, mental health & emergency services

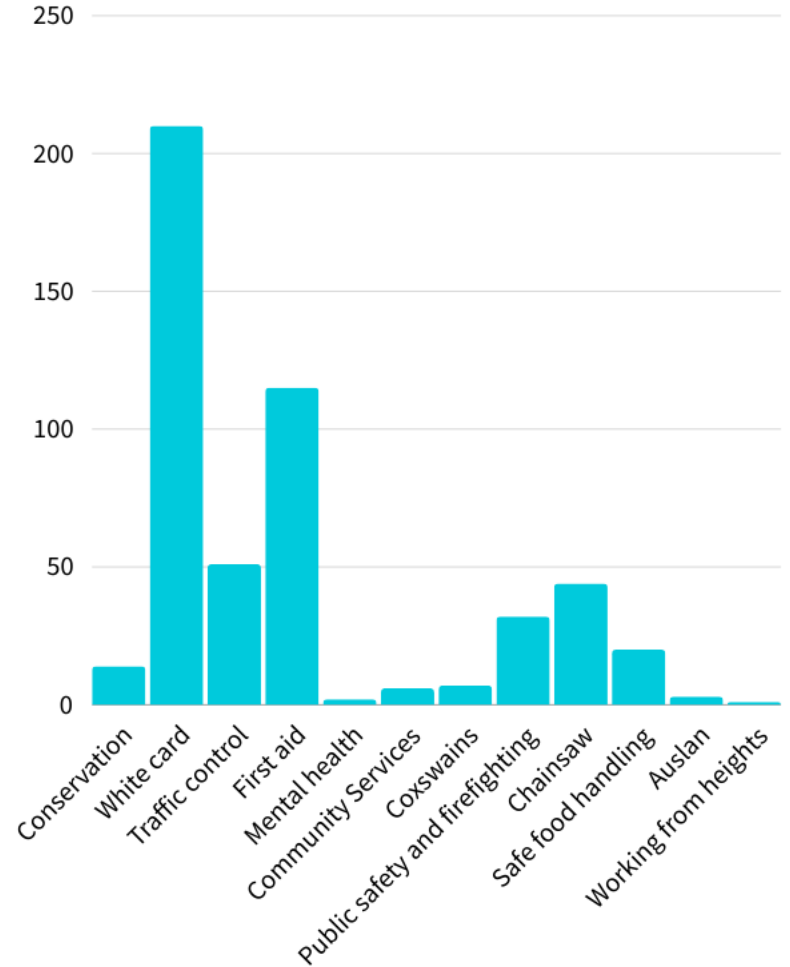


Figure 1: Participant numbers per course in South East Victoria



Increased awareness of contribution young people can make

'Biggest benefit is interaction between young people and EM team. ...it's really important that we have someone who talks to young people and talks to EM team and makes sure that voice is always there on the table.'





Integration

'[Peer worker] really integrated themselves with the other departments – EM team – really confident that we will have young people involved in the disaster.'

'We would love to do this more often – we're learning a lot as an organisation of what it means to support a young person in our team. Don't want this to be the last time.'

Building capacity

'...build capacity of young people to participate in however they want to participate – building the resilience and relationships with council or other organisations (such as CFA).'



Sam* (she/her)

Aged 16, student, NE Victoria (city)

- Member of the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) in her LGA

*pseudonym

'It has equipped me with the confidence needed to navigate and respond effectively to natural disaster scenarios.' (Sam)

'[As a young person] knowing you can do something is so important!' (Sam)



Image: YACVic



Sophie* (she/her)

Aged 17, student, remote far East Victoria (town)

- Through her lived experience of disasters, Sophie wanted to learn to be an interpreter for people with hearing impairments to be able to help in future disasters.

'Future Proof has given Sophie hope. Upskilling with this certificate will build her self-confidence and allow her to be part of the recovery in the event of another disaster.'
(Sophie's parent)

*pseudonym



Image: YACVic



Alex* (they/them)

Aged 19, part-time community services worker, NE Victoria (town)

- Member of the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) in her LGA

*'I've learned practical skills
and grown emotionally. But
most importantly, I've found
a supportive community
where my voice is heard.'*

(Alex)

*pseudonym



Image: YACVic



Centre of Excellence - Young People & Disasters

Victoria University's Youth and Community Research Group and Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) are partnering to establish the Centre of Excellence - Young People and Disasters ('The Centre'), funded by the Commonwealth Government's Disaster Ready Fund.

**The Centre champions the
inclusion and active
involvement of young
people to contribute to all
aspects of disasters.**

Image: YACVic



Learn more about our work



Carla Hall



A/Prof Fiona MacDonald



Prof Tim Corney



Derm Ryan



Brett Woods

Visit us in Resilience Lane STAND 398-4



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