



YSAS
FESTIVAL
OF IDEAS

SUMMARY REPORT
ONLINE • 11TH – 16TH NOVEMBER 2020



YSAS Festival of Ideas Summary Report 11th – 16th November 2020

Between the 11th-16 November 2020, YSAS hosted an online live streamed YSAS Festival of Ideas to share innovative, inspiring and thought-provoking ideas with YSAS workforce and other members of the Victorian and Interstate Youth, and Youth Drug and Alcohol workforce.

Over the course of the four days of the YSAS Festival of Ideas, interactive Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions were hosted between YSAS workforce members and YSAS Festival of Ideas guest speakers including authors, academics, advocates and other thought leaders

At YSAS, we believe that “a rising tide floats all boats” and in the power of collective action to create transformation and change. The YSAS Festival of Ideas centred voices and ideas we believe support the ethos of anti-oppressive practice, de-colonising principles and Intersectionality. Throughout the YSAS Festival of Ideas, we explored together not only the meanings of Intersectionality, Anti-Oppressive Practice and de-colonising principles but ways in which this ethos could be genuinely actioned and embedded into the heads, hands and hearts of the work that we do.

Recordings of the YSAS Festival of Ideas are now available on the YSAS Youtube links:

First Nations Voice

Guest Speaker: Cormach Evans

Hosted by: Carissa Watts, Bunjilwarra

Intersectionality: Beyond Diversity and Inclusion

Guest Speakers: Mary Lee and Tasneem Chopra

Hosted by: Lucy Ruchel, YSAS Youth Advocate

Women's Voices and Voices for Gender Equality

Guest Speakers: Tarang Chawla and Nyadol Nyuon

Hosted by: Catherine Aoll, YSAS Finance Team

LGBTIQ+ Voices

Guest Speakers: Jason Ball and Helen Barnacle

Hosted by: Sarah Santana, YSAS Youth Advocate

Voices of People of Colour

Guest Speakers: Tigist Kebede and Saba Alemayoh

Hosted by: Pauline Huynh, YSAS Preston

Young People's Voices

Guest Speakers: Nevo Zisin and Afadang Akuey

Hosted by: Tamlynn Collins, YSAS Youth Advocate

Spoken Word Poetry Performance by Zaynab Farah

Voice and Action

Guest Speakers: Santilla Chingaipe and Tavale Ilalio

Hosted by: Shannon Bell, YSAS West

YSAS Leadership Session

This session will involve members of the YSAS Leadership team exploring their views and reflections on the topics discussed over the course of the YSAS Festival of Ideas.

About YSAS

The Youth Support + Advocacy Service (YSAS) is Australia's largest, youth-specific community service organisation. Operating since 1998 as Victoria's flagship Youth AOD service, YSAS now employs over 350 skilled staff across 19 sites in metropolitan and regional Victoria. While the prime focus of YSAS remains on effective Youth AOD Treatment and sector leadership, the organisation also has extensive experience in providing young people and families with services that support improved mental health and improve meaningful community participation.

Acknowledgement of Country

YSAS would like to acknowledge that although the YSAS Festival of Ideas occurred using an online platform, we connected from the unceded lands of First Nation Peoples.

We would like to pay our respects to the First Nations peoples and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways, from which we joined during the YSAS Festival of Ideas. We would like to acknowledge, thank and celebrate the First Nation Peoples of these lands, and express our gratitude towards Elders past, present and emerging for the wisdom and guidance they share.

Centring Voices of Power and Transformation

Delivered over four days, the YSAS Festival of Ideas invited guest speakers to share their voices, wisdom, truths and experiences. YSAS Workforce members were invited to pre-submit questions to the guest speakers, as well as submit questions during the live-streamed sessions.

The YSAS Festival of Ideas considered issues such as structural discrimination, visibility and invisibility, genuine advocacy, transformation and legacy. Throughout the festival, participants and audience members were invited to critically reflect on issues such as power, representation, personal journeys and privilege. A range of sessions were presented including:

- Intersectionality: Beyond Diversity and Inclusion
- Youth Voices
- First Nation Voices
- Voices of People of Colour
- Women's Voices and Voices for Gender Equality
- LGBTQ+ Voices
- Voice and Action
- A final session where YSAS Leadership will critically reflect on the festival learnings

This year has been characterised by a series of major global and local issues including an escalating environmental crisis, devastating Australian bushfires, a global pandemic and collective social justice and human rights movements such as the Black Lives Matter action. The year of 2020 has involved rapid pivots in the ways that know ourselves and do our work.

Our hope is that the YSAS Festival of Ideas provided opportunities for members of YSAS and the wider Victorian and Interstate Youth, and Youth Drug and Alcohol workforce to pause, listen, reflect and share meaning-making and transformation as we collectively emerge from the events of this year.

YSAS Festival of Ideas

Session overviews

Festival Opening

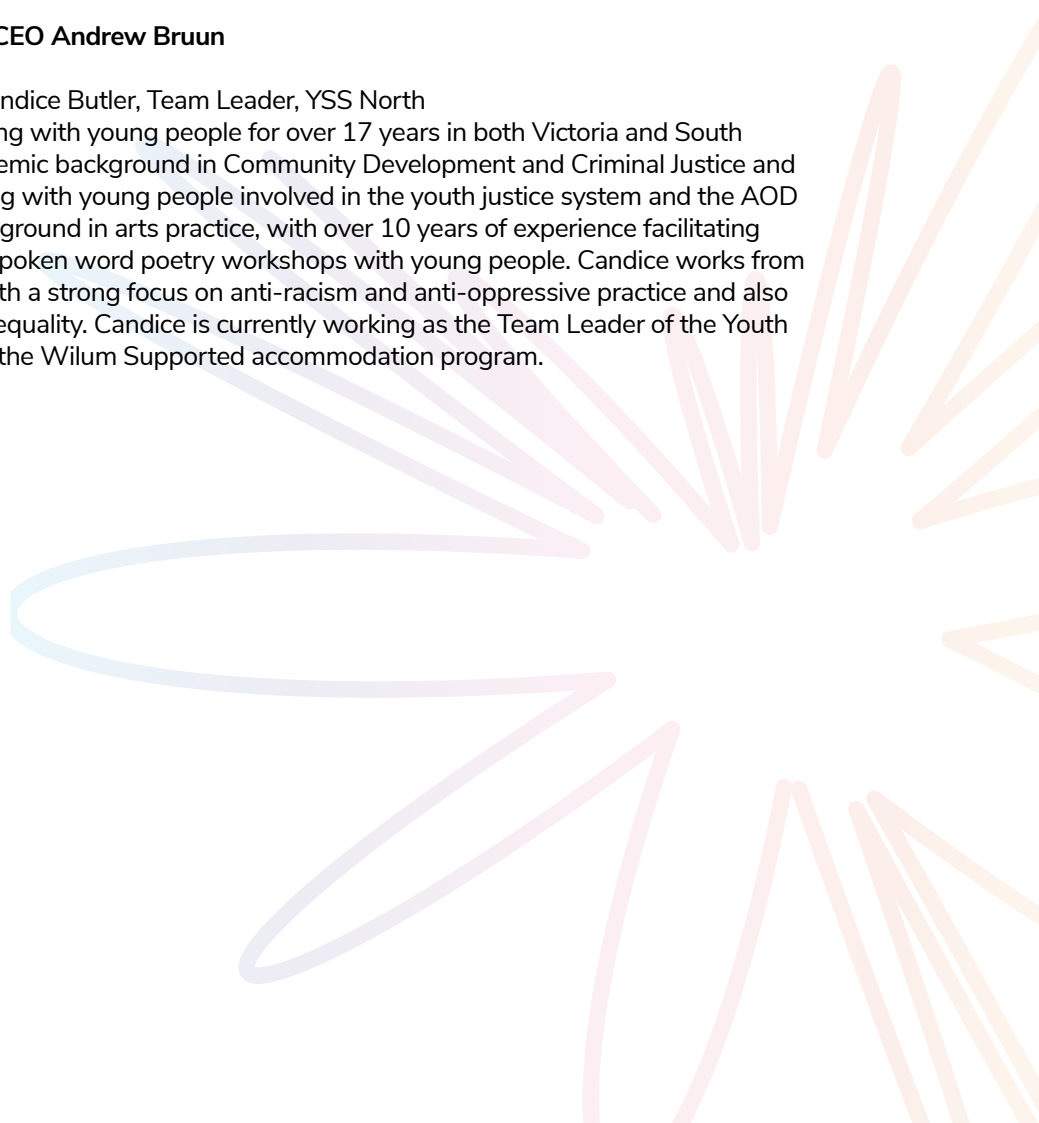
Wednesday 11th November 2020
10:00-10:30am

Acknowledgement of Country by Uncle Pat Farrant, a proud Wemba-Wemba/Wati-Wati man and respected Elder who is an integral part of the YSAS family as our cultural lead at Bunjulwarra, the Aboriginal youth healing centre. Located in Hastings, Bunjilwarra is delivered in consortia by the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and YSAS.

Opening of Festival by YSAS CEO Andrew Bruun

YSAS Festival of Ideas MC: Candice Butler, Team Leader, YSS North

Candice Butler has been working with young people for over 17 years in both Victoria and South Australia. Candice has an academic background in Community Development and Criminal Justice and a strong background in working with young people involved in the youth justice system and the AOD sector. Candice also has a background in arts practice, with over 10 years of experience facilitating therapeutic dance, music and spoken word poetry workshops with young people. Candice works from an intersectional framework with a strong focus on anti-racism and anti-oppressive practice and also on family violence and gender equality. Candice is currently working as the Team Leader of the Youth Support Service North and for the Wilum Supported accommodation program.



Session 1: First Nations Voices

Guest Speaker: Cormach Evans

Hosted by: Carissa Watts, Bunjilwarra

Wednesday 11 November 2020

Livestreamed 10:30-11:45

This session was hosted by Yorta Yorta Dja Dja Wurrung singer/songwriter and Bunjilwarra Health Worker Carissa Watts, and explored the wisdom and power of First Nation voices, the need for truth-telling and truth-listening and the journey for justice and healing. Throughout their discussion, Carissa and Cormach shared their views on many important issues including:

- Cultural Safety, including what it meant in ethos and action for an organisation to be culturally safe.
- The connections between thriving and resilience
- Ways in which organisations can meaningfully celebrate NAIDOC week
- Strategies for organisations to deeply embed decolonisation, engage in genuine allyship and support First Nations Voices and experiences
- The importance of land and ocean conservation



Cormach Evans

Cormach Evans is a father of two and Yorta Yorta man that lives on Wadawurrung Country, at is 30 years old Cormach has achieved many incredible achievements in his journey in life.

Cormach is the Founder of Aboriginal Youth Organisation Strong Brother Strong Sister, which supports Aboriginal Children and Young People to achieve their greatest dreams, goals and aspirations whilst ensuring connections to culture, community and positive social, emotional health and wellbeing through mentoring and Youth Groups across Victoria to ever 1000 Aboriginal Children and Young People and emplacement opportunities for to have 10 Aboriginal Young People since founded in 2017.

Cormach has paddled from Papua New Guinea back to Cape York Australia in a traditional canoe he made with friends and traditional owners of Saibai Island in the Torres Strait, and hunted and gathered all his own food over the 3 week journey. From this paddle Cormach raised money to start the Strong Brother Strong Sister Journey.

Host: Carissa Watts: Carissa Watts is a Yorta Yorta Dja Dja Wurrung singer/songwriter. She is very passionate about creating culturally safe spaces and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Carissa works at Bunjilwarra as the cultural coordinator and also at the Koorie Heritage Trust as a Cultural Awareness Educator.

Session 2 : Intersectionality: Beyond Diversity and Inclusion

Guest Speakers: Mary Lee and Tasneem Chopra
Hosted by: Lucy Ruchel, YSAS Youth Advocate

Wednesday 11th November 2020
Livestreamed 12:15 – 1:30

Hosted by YSAS Youth Advocate Lucy Ruchel, this session's guest speakers Mary Lee and Tasneem Chopra explored the meaning of and ways that Intersectionality can transform and expand on diversity and inclusion. Throughout this session, Tasneem, Mary and Lucy considered:

- The definition of intersectionality and how it expands upon diversity and inclusion
- Why there is a need to move beyond concepts of diversity
- "Invisible" intersections including neurodivergence and issues of ableism
- Strategies for turning ideas about intersectionality into actions
- Starting points for embedding intersectionality into workplaces.



Mary Lee

Mary Lee is the Senior Project Officer on the Intersectionality Capacity Building Project within the Inclusion and Equity team at Family Safety Victoria. Mary has a background in program development and workforce capacity building in the context of responding to family violence.



Tasneem Chopra OAM

A Cross-cultural Consultant, Tasneem addresses issues of diversity, equity and inclusion across organisational leadership, including intersectionality within government, corporate and community sectors. For her efforts in cultural competence and community engagement she was acknowledged with an OAM (Order of Australia Medal) in 2020. This follows her being named an Anti-Racism Champion by the Australian Human Rights Commission in 2019.

Tasneem is a Director for The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), The Crescent Institute, the South Asian Australian's Researching Ideas (SAARI) and an advisor to InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence and the La Trobe University School of Humanities. A TEDxMelbourne presenter, Tasneem has featured on BBC World, Al Jazeera and ABC's Q&A, The Drum and Radio Melbourne where she is a regular panellist and sought after commentator. She is a published author and has also written for The Guardian, SBS Voices & The Age as well as several academic publications. As an international festival and conference presenter, Tasneem's most recent appearances include: the IABC World Conference (Bahrain), the Bradford Literature Festival, (UK) and The Concordia Forum, (Canada).

Host: Lucy Ruchel: Hi! I'm Lucy Ruchel, pronouns are she/her/hers. I am really passionate about intersectional feminism and creating gender equality. I am a youth advocate at YSAS.

Session 3: Women's Voices and Voices for Gender Equality

Guest Speakers: Tarang Chawla and Nyadol Nyuon
Hosted by: Catherine Aoll, YSAS Finance Team

Thursday 12th November 2020
Livestreamed: 9:30am -10:45am

Hosted by YSAS Finance Officer Catherine Aoll, this session discussed diversity in women's voices, gender equality and the need for collective action to prevent family violence. Together, Catherine, Tarang and Nyadol explored:

- Representation of women in Australia
- The role of men in Family Violence prevention
- Barriers victim/survivors experience in seeking support for family violence
- Strategies for and tensions in the celebration of women's achievements and successes
- Personal transformation, resilience and vulnerability
- Personal and social accountability for violence prevention
- The role of social media in change making



Tarang Chawla

Tarang Chawla is a writer, lawyer, anti-violence campaigner, mental health advocate and suicide survivor. Tarang founded Not One More Niki after his sister Nikita was murdered in 2015 by her ex-partner. He is a Young Australian of the Year Finalist, IABCA Community Achiever of the Year and Our Watch Ambassador. He was recently named as one of the 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians.



Nyadol Nyuon

Nyadol Nyuon was born in a refugee camp in Itang, Ethiopia, and raised in Kakuma Refugee camp, Kenya. In 2005, at the age of eighteen, she moved to Australia as a refugee. Since then, Nyadol has completed a Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Melbourne. She now works as a commercial litigator with Arnold Bloch Leibler.

Nyadol is a vocal advocate for human rights, multiculturalism, the settlement of people with refugee experiences and those seeking asylum. Nyadol is also a regular media commentator in these areas, having appeared on ABC's The Drum, as a panellist on Q&A and contributing to The Age, Sydney Morning Herald and the Saturday Paper, to name just a few.

In 2018 her efforts to combat racism were widely recognised, with achievements including the Australian Human Rights Commission's Racism. It Stops With Me Award. The prestigious award was in recognition of her advocacy and activism on behalf of the Australian-African and Melbourne's South Sudanese communities. She also received the Afro-Australian Student Organisation's Unsung Hero Award.

Host: Catherine Aoll: Catherine is on her sixth year at YSAS and works in the Finance department as Finance Business Partner. Outside YSAS she is a speaker, mentor and working to complete her book on resilience.

Session 4: LGBTQ+ Voices

Guest Speakers: Jason Ball and Helen Barnacle
Hosted by: Bianca Johnston, Family Violence Specialist *

Thursday 12th November 2020
Livestreamed: 11:00am – 12:15pm

This session proudly and loudly explored LGBTQ voices and the strengths and struggles of their expression. Throughout the session, Jason, Helen and Bianca explored a range of issues including:

- The links between homophobia, inequality, discrimination and unhelpful gender binaries
- The evolution of the LGBTQ+ acronym
- Diverse representation in sport, including the importance of Women's AFL
- The use of creative arts in expressing one's voice
- Harm minimisation and prison reform
- Strategies for ensuring strong and visible LGBTQ+ voices

**Please note that this session was initially scheduled to be hosted by Sarah Santana, YSAS Youth Advocate. However due to unforeseen circumstances Sarah was unable to host. We would like to thank Sarah for her preparation.*



Jason Ball

Jason Ball is a pioneering LGBTQ and mental health advocate, who in 2012 came out as gay and spearheaded a campaign to tackle homophobia in the AFL. Jason is an ambassador for Beyond Blue, the Victorian Pride Centre and is the Co-founder of Pride Cup Australia. In 2017, Jason was named Young Australian of the Year for Victoria, and in 2016 and 2019 he stood as a Federal candidate for the Australian Greens.



Helen Barnacle

Helen Barnacle is a Psychologist, counsellor and advocate for prison reform. Her novel "Don't let her see me cry" describes her early experiences of heroin use, motherhood and being sentenced to the longest drug-related prison term in Victoria. She is a musician whose work has involved a variety of arts-based work across a range of justice settings, including with the group Liminal Lines Inc.

Host: Bianca Johnston, Family Violence Specialist: Bianca is a Social Work and Criminologist with 14 years direct practice. Originally from the Sunshine Coast, Bianca has undertaken a variety of different roles at YSAS and currently coordinates and delivers the YSAS Family Violence Project. A specialist in working with young women, Bianca is completing a Masters of Philosophy (via research) through Monash University exploring young women's experiences of intimate partner violence. She is passionate about creative therapies, visual art and environmental and social justice.

Session 5: Voices of People of Colour

Guest Speakers: Tigist Kebede and Saba Alemayoh

Hosted by: Pauline Huynh, Glen Iris Residential Withdrawal

Friday 13th November 2020

Livestreamed: 9:30-10:45

Hosted by Glen Iris Residential Withdraw Assistant Manager, Pauline Huynh, this session explored the power of People of Colour's voices, the importance of spaces for People of Colour, the use of social media in creating action and the Black Lives Matter movement. Throughout the session, Saba, Tigist and Pauline considered:

- The ways in which trauma, resilience and community are framed
- Ways in which non-for-profits could become complicit in oppression including risks of creating reliance and reinforcing deficiency narratives
- Strategies in which individuals and non-for-profits can positively engage with and support communities
- Structural bias and systemic racism – including how this impacts identity of individuals and communities
- Issues of white privilege, saviour complex and guilt
- The problems with tokenism and selective representation
- The differences between genuine and problematic allyship
- Social media activism and strategies for change both on and off social media.



Tigist Kebede

Tigist Kebede is an inclusive counsellor. She employs trauma informed, decolonizing and intersectional frameworks into her practice and advocacy. She is the founder of "The Tena Therapist" a social media mental health platform and works for Pola Psychology a culturally inclusive practice.



Saba Alemayoh

Saba's entrepreneurial journey began at 22 years whilst studying a double degree. She started with an employee health and wellbeing consulting and making a business shift to share her culture through food by launching Saba's Ethiopian restaurant with her mother as the head chef, at the age of 25. Saba's Ethiopian Restaurant was awarded top 5 Good Food Cheap Eats 2017. It also was positively reviewed in New York Times in 2018. She then launched Afro Hub; a social enterprise, showcasing live music, artwork, food, fashion, design, photography and film created by Melbourne-based artists hailing from various countries on the African continent. The mission is simply to enable the financial, social and artistic flourishing of the African community in Melbourne. Afro Hub has partnered up with Melbourne Writers Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, showcased at NGV, hosted a festivals at Immigration Museum and many other events showcasing non performative bla(c)k art.

Host: Pauline Huynh: First and only born in Australia from a family of Vietnamese migrants. A youth and AOD worker for 16 years with the last 4 years in YSAS. Passionate about working with diverse communities and People with Colour from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Session 6: Young People's Voices

Guest Speakers: Nevo Zisin and Afadang Akuey
Hosted by: Tamlynn Collins, YSAS Youth Advocate
Spoken Word Poetry Performance by Zaynab Farah

Friday 13th November 2020
Livestreamed: 11:00-12:15pm

Hosted by YSAS Youth Advocate Tamlynn Collins, this session explored Young People's Voices and the power that they hold for change and action. This session also included a spoken word poetry performance by the incredible Zaynab Farah! During the session, Nevo, Afadang and Tamlynn explored:

- Body diversity and size discrimination including the word "fat"
- Social media's role in activism and risks in creating echo chambers
- Strategies for social media hygiene
- LGBTQ+ activism, allyship and visibility
- The importance of diverse expression and listening to of young people's voice



Afadang (Affy) Akuey

Afdang is a 23 year old South Sudanese woman. Currently working as a registered nurse in a mental health facility. Also the director of Twich Women's Sewing Collective, a social enterprise which aims to train women from non-English speaking backgrounds and provides them with job opportunities. I am passionate about social justice, mental health awareness and intersectional feminism. I have also run workshops and sessions about educating people on the different types of racism and how it can effect people sometimes over generations.



Nevo Zisin

Nevo is a queer, non-binary, Jewish writer, performer, activist and public speaker based in Naarm / Birraranga / Melbourne. They run workshops in schools and professional development trainings in workplaces around transgender identity & language. Author of award-winning Finding Nevo, a memoir on gender transition and a contributor to Kindred: A Queer Australian Young Adult Anthology. They are a mentor for The Pinnacle Foundation, one of Out for Australia's 30 Under 30 for 2019, an ambassador for Wear It Purple Day and the Victorian Pride Centre as well as a member of the Gender Euphoria cast - Australia's largest all trans & gender diverse show on a main stage.



Performance by: Zaynab Farah

Zaynab is a Somali spokenword artist based in Naarm (Melbourne). Her pieces explore intricate personal experiences and topics that she's very passionate about. Zaynab has performed on various platforms around Melbourne and is the 2019 Victorian Australian Poetry Slam Champion.

Host: Tamlynn Collins: Hi I'm Tamlynn Collins, Youth Advocate – Community at YSAS working on a project around stigma and discrimination, my interests include young people having their voice heard along with equal rights for all.

Session 7: Voice and Action

Guest Speakers: Santilla Chingaibe and Tavale Ilalio

Hosted by: Shannon Bell, YSAS Youth Empowerment Project

Livestreamed: 930-10:45

Hosted by YSAS Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Outreach AOD Worker Shannon Bell- Voice and Action explored the meaning of voice, ways to take action and the different moments and methods of change making. Throughout this session, Santilla, Tavale and Shannon considered

- The privileging of certain historical narratives and invisibility afforded to others
- Cultural dignity, Cultural intelligence and the concept of Va
- The emotional labour of anti-racism work and need to expand to more nuanced conversations about intersectionality and embodiment of change
- Whether culture is inherent or separate to work
- Filmmaking and other platforms for expression of stories, narratives and voices



Santilla Chingaibe

Santilla Chingaibe is a journalist and filmmaker whose work explores migration, cultural identities and politics. Chingaibe is a regular contributor to The Saturday Paper, and serves as a member of the Federal Government's Advisory Group on Australia-Africa Relations (AGAAR).

The recipient of a number of awards, she was recognised at the United Nations as one of the most influential people of African descent in the world in 2019. Her first book of non-fiction detailing the untold stories of convicts of African descent transported to the Australian penal colonies, is forthcoming with Picador in 2021.



Tavale Ilalio

Tavale is the Founder and Creative Director of Mahana Culture. Born in Samoa, raised in New Zealand, culturally awakened in the USA and now settled in Melbourne (aka stuck here with little Australians that call him Dad!), he brings a unique perspective on culture and its strengths if respected and risks if not dignified and acknowledged.

With over twenty years management experience in the Public Sector spanning across four countries, Tavales passion to create safe and culturally responsive individuals, teams, organisations and communities drove him to bring to life the vehicle for this work which is Mahana Culture, a business which delivers on the capacity building required to truly lean into cultural responsiveness in practice. Full of energy and passion, Tavale is super pumped to be joining the Festival of Ideas movement, adding some value to the conversation and listening and learning from other leaders and innovators in the space.

Host: Shannon Bell: Kia ora, ko Shannon Bell toku ingoa. (hello, my name is Shannon). I am an Australian born man of Maori/Scottish heritage on my father's side and English/Irish heritage on my mother's side. The journey of Cultural intelligence has played a significant role in my life learning to become comfortable in my own skin and with my own story and I now hope to encourage others to take up that journey also! My passion is to serve others to become proud of who they are and to help others restore their sense of cultural dignity and self-worth. I believe diversity to be a strength.

Session 8: YSAS Leadership Session

Panel Members:

Andrew Bruun, YSAS CEO

Dominic Ennis, General Manager, Quality and Service Development

Andrea Fernandes, Business Process Manager

Hosted by: Bianca Johnston, Family Violence Specialist

Monday 16 November 2020

Livestreamed: 11:00-12:15pm

The final YSAS Festival of Ideas session involved a panel of YSAS Leadership members who were invited to critically reflect on the key themes of the YSAS Festival of Ideas. In this session we explored:

- The importance of making space and time for learning and growth
- Themes of power and transformation
- The processes of working through the discomfort associated with difficult conversations
- Strategies for hope, transformation, action and change as they applied socially and within YSAS

Panel Members:

Andrew Bruun, YSAS CEO

Andrew Bruun is the Chief Executive Officer at YSAS, the Director of The Centre for Youth AOD Practice Development and an honorary fellow at the University of Melbourne, Department of Psychiatry. He has worked in the field of adolescent health as practitioner, educator and researcher since the mid-1980s. His special interest is in young people and families experiencing alcohol and drug-related problems and is committed to enabling service providers and policy makers to better understand and respond to their needs.

Dominic Ennis, General Manager, Quality and Service Development

Dom is the General Manager of Quality and Service Development and YSAS. Over the past 20 years at YSAS he has had a large range of roles including Practitioner, Manager and General Manager overseeing both services and Research and Service Development. Dom's entire youth work experience spans over 25 years and includes roles in youth housing, family support and out of home care. Dom is especially interested in the development of innovative and accessible service responses that challenge traditional treatment paradigms and that are informed by the experiences and needs of the young people and communities that need them.

Andrea Fernandes, Business Process Manager

Andrea has been involved in the social service sector in various roles for 13 years. She is committed to strengthening business systems and processes, partnerships for a shared purpose, and sustainable funding streams for social impact. Being of Indian descent and Singapore-born, with 18 years lived in Australia, Andrea has always had an interest in the concept of identity. She has previously written a research paper on diversity and social inclusion. Andrea is completing a Masters of Business Administration (Social Impact) at UNSW, and remains dedicated to contributing to our sector.

Host Bianca Johnston, Please see above LGBTIQ+ session.

Festival Close

YSAS CEO Andrew Bruun

Monday 16 November 2020

Livestreamed 12:15-12:30

The YSAS Festival of Ideas closing address by CEO Andrew Bruun involved the launch of an internal YSAS Inclusion and Equity Network.

Emergence and Transformation

The YSAS Festival of Ideas provided opportunities for members of the YSAS Workforce and wider Victorian and Interstate youth sector to engage in discussions and learnings across a range of inspiring, thought-provoking and action-orientated ideas.

The YSAS Festival of Ideas aimed to support our workforce to critically reflect on the learnings in order to transform and intermesh these learnings into the way we work at YSAS. It is an initial step in a larger organisational action plan to meaningfully embed and strengthen the ethos of anti-oppressive practice, intersectionality and decolonisation across the organisation at all levels from processes, structures, practice, people and advocacy.

The honesty, wisdoms and truths explored throughout the YSAS Festival of Ideas will directly shape and guide our organisation moving forwards into the future. Our initial steps following the festival include the establishment of an internal Inclusion and Equity Network to collectively action key ethos and ideas into practice at YSAS.

In the coming months, we will be supporting all YSAS programs in critical reflection of the YSAS Festival of Ideas sessions. We will also be undertaking consulting across YSAS to invite workforce members to share their vision of a YSAS reality where ethos of intersectionality, anti-oppressive practice and decolonising principles are meaningfully embedded.

Thank you for joining us and sharing the journey of the YSAS Festival of Ideas!



Acknowledgements

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the YSAS Festival of Ideas guest speakers and hosts for sharing their honesty, wisdom and experience. We would also like to thank our guest speakers and hosts for their thoughtfulness, preparation, truth-sharing and advocacy. The discussions and learnings from the YSAS Festival of Ideas will be pivotal in shaping and transforming our work moving forward.

Guest Speakers

Uncle Pat Farrant
Cormach Evans
Mary Lee
Tasneem Chopra
Tarang Chawla
Nyadol Nyuon
Tigist Kebede
Saba Alemayoh
Nevo Zisin
Afadang Akuey
Zaynab Farah
Santilla Chingaipe
Tavale Ilalio

YSAS Leadership Panel Members:

Andrew Bruun
Dominic Ennis
Andrea Fernandes

Festival MC:

Candice Butler

YSAS Hosts

Carissa Watts
Lucy Ruchel
Catherine Aoll
Pauline Huynh
Sarah Santana
Bianca Johnston
Shannon Bell
Tamlynn Collins

Live Question Moderators:

Jane Gardner
Katra Shumbayaonda

Production and Editing:

Mario Gordon

Festival Planning Team

Bianca Johnston
Candice Butler
Karina Belotti
Mario Gordon
Carissa Watts
Shannon Bell
Peter Dawson
Chris Chen
Andrea Fernandes
Catherine Aoll
Jane Gardner
Katra Shumbayaonda
Pauline Huynh
Jason Nanayakkara
Lucy Ruchel
Sarah Santana
Cihan Tohumcuer
Kamalini Kandasamy
Vishal Tandon
Vishwas Hedge
Aij Akintola
Thuy Tran
Arry Valastro
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Mel Lyon

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Saxall Studios





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