

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR '85

IYY – WHAT IS IT?

A strategy to achieve empowerment of young people by:

- opening up information for young people and adapting this information into skills and knowledge for young people to act on;
- helping young people use their networks (existing or potential) and building these networks into social/political organisations;
- lobbying for an increase in young people's financial resources (especially for those most disadvantaged) and transferring these financial resources into productive assets.

THE THREE THEMES

Participation is about young people:

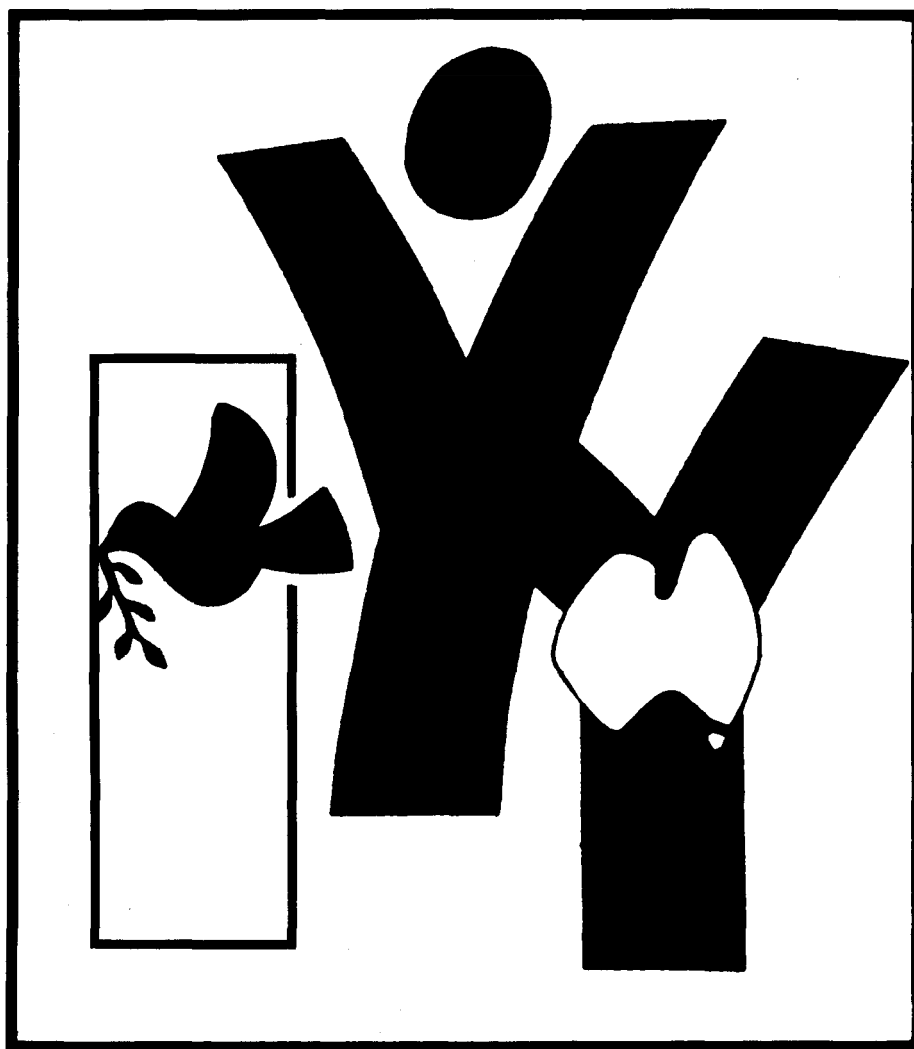
- having the right to make decisions about their own lives and the things that are important to them;
- having the skills to make these decisions and carry them through;
- having a meaningful say in family, school, work, government, and in other aspects of their lives.

Development is about:

- creating conditions which ensure that young people, wherever or whoever they are, achieve their full potential;
- examining and improving the share young people from 'developing' countries have in the world's resources;
- overcoming and highlighting obstacles to the personal and overall development of young people.

Peace:

- is both an international issue, and one that affects you and your local environment;
- cannot be achieved if basic problems in society like inequality, unemployment, homelessness, and racial discrimination are not confronted.
- will not exist if people and their society remain intolerant and inflexible.



AN IYY PROGRAM

YACA is striving to make significant advances in the following nine areas for young people and the youth:

EMPOWERMENT

Information/skills, financial resources/productive assets, networks/socio/political organisations.

RESOURCES

Increasing the resources of the youth field for instance by setting up an Australian Youth Foundation.

ADVOCACY

Increasing community understanding of the situation of young people.

INTERNATIONAL

Making real the international component of IYY.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Building a local to national structure enabling young people to participate at all levels.

YOUTH POLICY

- Implementing immediate youth policy goals, such as provision of jobs;
- Developing a national youth policy and a time line for its implementation.

POPULATION GROUPS

Assisting each of the following six disadvantaged groups of young people organise for IYY – Aboriginals, gays, rural/isolated, ethnic, women, disabled.

TRAINING

Increasing training opportunities especially for young people and workers with young people.

SOCIAL POLICY

Enabling young people to influence general social directions.

Anything less than this will invite piecemeal and tokenistic responses.

