



# THE YOUTH JUNCTION INC.

## ANNUAL REPORT

2006—2007



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**1. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

## Members of the Board

Andrew Grech	Chair	Slater & Gordon
Dennis Galimberti	Public Officer	Kempson Lawyers
Marilyn Duncan	Secretary	Independent
Ian Allen OAM	Member	Visy Cares
Stuart Bensley	Treasurer	Independent
Dr Robyn Broadbent	Member	Victoria University
Vacancy	Member	
Vacancy	Member	

## Registered Office

Visy Cares Hub, 80B Harvester Rd, PO Box 5083, Sunshine 3020.

## Accountants

Leanne Spiteri – Dominion Private Clients

## Bankers

Bendigo Bank, Barkly Street, Footscray 3011

**Solicitors** Kempson Lawyers

**ABN:** 53 035 141 146

## 2. STATUS AND ADMINISTRATION

The Youth Junction Inc. is a registered Incorporated Association with Deductible Gift Recipient status and is governed by its Statement of Purposes and Statement of Rules.

## 3. OUR OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLE ACTIVITIES

The objectives for which the entity was established are as follows:

- A place where young people are empowered, to develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually, so that they can contribute as active citizens in the community and wider world.
- Improving the conditions of life of young people in the interests of social welfare with leisure and recreational facility.
- The advancement of combining health and careers advice with a variety of opportunities for study support, further education, training and youth enterprise.
- Combating the distress and effects of distress caused by the poverty and social exclusion of young people, in particular but not exclusively, through the provision of advice, information and support on matters relating to their health, personal and social education, well being and welfare, thus enabling them to enter into employment or establish new businesses.
- For such other charitable purpose as the trustees in their discretion think fit and appropriate.

#### **4. DIRECTORS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Directors who served during the period of November 2006 to October 2007, together with any changes, are listed on page 2 of the Annual Report.

The way in which Directors are selected reflects the diversity of organisations that are stakeholders participating within The Youth Junction Inc and add to its success.

The Board is accountable for the overall management of The Youth Junction Inc. operating a building constructed as a result of a \$1.8 million project, funded by public and private grants and donations.

The Directors have no beneficial interest in the entity and are not remunerated for the services they provide as Directors of The Youth Junction Inc.

Incorporated Association law and legislation appropriate to benevolent institutions require the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of The Youth Junction Inc. and of its financial position at the end of that period. In preparing the financial statement, the Directors follow best practice by:

- Selecting appropriate accounting policies and then applying them consistently
- Making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Stating whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in financial statements
- Preparing the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the entity will continue in operation

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial situation of the entity and which allows them to ensure that the financial statements conform with the Association Incorporation Act 1981. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the entity and therefore taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **5. SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS OF THE YOUTH JUNCTION INC.**

We have been very fortunate this year to receive support, not only financial, but also material and in-kind support through pro bono services, advice and guidance from a wide range of sponsors, supporters and friends of The Youth Junction Inc. For this, we are very appreciative and hope that people's good will and interest in the project continues, as it is this kindness and willingness to support and donate, that helps us to improve and develop our programs and services for young people.

Please view the full list of supporters throughout 2006-2007 in Appendix 1.

#### **6. A REVIEW OF OUR FIRST YEAR**

The Youth Junction Inc. has focussed on building a successful and stimulating service to the young people in the local community of Sunshine and beyond, through the multi-agency provision available.

The Youth Junction Inc. Board this year has focussed primarily on the long awaited building works that were completed in October 2006.

This year has capitalised on the development of the multi-agency collaboration, which forms the Visy Cares Hub partnership, that is the physical building governed by The Youth Junction Inc. Board. Through regular agency meetings, a new sense of ownership has been created where we have focussed on breaking down organisational barriers and agendas to develop and provide a more seamless service to young people.

The major tasks for The Youth Junction Inc. Board, commencing October 2006 were:

- Think and plan more strategically and implement robust financial systems, secure recurrent funding for our programs and improve our fundraising and revenue generating ability.
- Enhance our Partnerships within the Visy Cares Hub, through inter-agency collaboration, joint training and solid partnership agreements.
- Advertise, publicise and brand the Visy Cares Hub as an expanding productive space for young people.

### **6.1 Creating a culture that provides an effective and engaging learning and wellbeing environment for young people**

Over the past year The Youth Junction Inc. Board have focussed on creating a needs- tailored sustainable facility, rectifying some of the outstanding building snags, alongside enhancing the building through innovative design, thus making it more relevant and attractive for young people's needs.

### **6.2 Thinking and planning more strategically, implementing robust financial systems, secure recurrent funding for our programs and improve our fundraising ability**

There has been greater clarity this year concerning The Youth Junction Inc. strategic direction, in terms of its finances, human resource and the overall business of the Youth Junction Inc.

The Visy Cares Hub contains excellent resources and decisions have centred round the need to generate a higher level of income from the hiring of some of those resources.

The Board have assessed the necessity of The Youth Junction Inc. programs and it is very much felt that the generation of numbers and sustainable outputs should and will be a priority over the next coming year.

Utilities and maintenance bear an enormous cost on the Visy Cares Hub and this year we have been looking at cost saving strategies to respond to this. We have assessed our supplier's contracts and as well as targeting 'value for money' suppliers, we have looked at overall energy saving methods in existing use of resources.

The need also to provide the opportunity for all Visy Cares Hub staff to meet regularly to discuss the quality of work, share young people-centred practices and develop a sense of being part of a larger team, in order to enhance and strengthen existing

partnerships, is at the forefront of operations. This will continue to be a priority in the coming year.

### **6.3 Enhance our partnerships within the Visy Cares Hub through inter-agency collaboration, sound communication systems and solid partnership agreements**

There has been a real drive to strengthen existing policies and procedures in the way we work together in a multi-agency environment, as well as addressing best practice models for our interactions with young people.

Crucial to these developments, is the development and agreed use of shared protocols for gathering, storing and sharing information and concerning questions of disclosure and confidentiality.

The Visy Cares Hub utilises an eReferral system which encourages all agencies to be connected and it also prevents young people from being 'lost' in the system. The idea behind the eReferral system, known as the S2S (Service to Service) system, is to prevent young people from repeating their life story to every agency they come into contact with, whilst encouraging them to trust our system and its anonymity and confidentiality. The system also allows for easy referral between internal and external agencies, therefore increasing the chances that a young person will receive better response from agencies. Over the next twelve months it will be crucial to test out the viability and robustness of the system now that we have all agencies firmly on board.

### **6.4 Advertise, publicise and brand The Youth Junction Inc. as an expanding productive space for young people**

Over the last year the Board have been making concerted attempts to publicise The Youth Junction Inc. in a positive light and place us firmly on the youth sector map, as well as gaining credibility within the wider community. There is a real commitment to continue marketing the activities and provision of the Visy Cares Hub in a positive light in order to place ourselves as a credible youth service provision within the West.

## **7. MANAGEMENT OF CORE STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION**

The staff employed at The Youth Junction Inc. who contribute to meeting the aims of the entity comprise:

- Staff directly employed by the Youth Junction Inc.
- Staff employed by partner organisations
- Youth Work students in a voluntary capacity assisting with programs

## **8. VISY CARES HUB SERVICE PROVISION**

### **8.1 A COLLOCATED YOUTH SERVICE**

There are currently nine services provided at the Visy Cares Hub. This year has focussed on developing our collaborative approach to young people, in order to provide the best service possible. The internal agencies we who work with us to achieve that goal are:

### **8.2 ARDOCH YOUTH FOUNDATION**

Ardoch supports schools through the Linking Communities and Schools (LinCS) project. The LinCS project in Melbourne's West currently involves five schools. The

coordinator recruits, screens and trains community volunteers to help young people in the core areas of literature and numeracy, runs supervised activities during lunch and support breakfast and homework clubs.

#### 8.3 BRIMBANK YOUTH SERVICES – YMCA

Brimbank Youth Services deliver programs to support young people between the ages of 12-25 years living in the area of Brimbank. Services provided include free individual counselling, 'Checklist 8 @ the Hub' Social & Support 15 year olds, Youth Committees, Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program and Drop-in support.

#### 8.4 CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH ISSUES

The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues provide support to young people through two main programs, The Newly Arrived Youth support Service and the Reconnect Youth Refugee Program. The service is free to all young people and also provides more general support in the areas of family, housing, education and employment.

#### 8.5 CENTRELINK COMMUNITY TEAM

The Centrelink Community Team is located at the Visy Cares Hub every Monday and assists young people who have complex needs and who are 'difficult to reach'. The young people accessing the service need to be 'at risk' of becoming homeless, dealing with a drug and or alcohol problem or experiencing problems connected with mental health and or are currently involved in the justice system.

#### 8.6 ROBERT STARY AND ASSOCIATE LAWYERS

Robert Stary and associates assist young people of any age with issues regarding criminal activity and the young person is required to go through the process of legal aid. Alongside this, the firm will offer advice, advocacy and assistance and provide Youthlaw to offer civil law support to young people.

#### 8.7 SUNSHINE YOUTH HOUSING

Sunshine Youth Housing provides information to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They also provide assistance to young people aged 15-25 years long term housing ie. private rental, public and social housing, including rooming houses. This is a free service to all young people.

#### 8.8 VICTORIA UNIVERSITY TRANSITIONS

Victoria University will be offering young people between the ages of 15 – 25 years assistance in accomplishing their full potential in returning to education, employment and training. It will assist young people to explore their career options and to make the right choices to enable them to spend their time productively.

#### 8.9 VISY CARES HUB PROGRAMS

The Visy Cares Hub provides a range of programs that engage young people in creative and productive activities that inspire them and nurture their aspirations. The programs also set platforms for young people to explore their interests and to access the wider range of services within the building that can support and encourage them to take advantage of opportunities that improve their life chances.

#### 8.10 WESTERN MELBOURNE HEADSPACE

Headspace is a youth friendly generalist health service, with a focus on mental health and substance use issues to anyone aged 12 – 25 years. There are General Practitioners, youth workers and counsellors with whom a young person can make an appointment to discuss their health related concerns and find solutions to their problems.

## **9. EVENTS, CELEBRATIONS AND SHOWCASES**

The building works were completed in October 2006 and the site dedication followed shortly afterwards on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, when the first tenant agencies fitted out and took up their spaces. The Young Persons Open Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007 drew a great audience of young people and their families. These events were well attended by young people who now access the other services provided at the Visy Cares Hub. We formally launched the Visy Cares Hub on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2007 which was well attended by local MPs and representatives from our major sponsors and donors. From this point on our efforts have been focussed on moving tenant agencies into the building and developing and improving the services we provide to young people.




## **10. BOOKINGS, FUNCTIONS AND WORKSHOPS AT THE VISY CARES HUB**

The Visy Cares Hub has five meeting spaces that have been utilised at great lengths since its official opening in May. The rooms have been occupied mostly by the following services:

- Foundation House
- Migrant Resource Centre
- Brimbank City Council
- Internal Agencies
- YMCA,
- Youth Network meetings

The hiring of the rooms is based on an hourly or sessional fee basis, and each room is charged at a very competitive rate.

The central atrium of the building has also proven to be a very useful space that can be transformed to suit any function. Recently we have hired this out to:

-  The Sunshine & District Historical Society
-  Internal Launches of services
-  Djerriwarrh Youth Transitions launch

and have also used it for local schools as part of their history tours.

## **11. DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2008**

- To continue to improve the lives of young people through the provision of quality services from the Visy Cares Hub
- To tailor services that meet the needs of the ever changing demographic of the youth population of the West
- To place youth participation firmly on the ongoing Visy Cares Hub agenda
- To continuing to join up services within the Visy Cares Hub, looking at best practice methods and collaborative solutions to young peoples needs
- To focus on community Integration and capacity building with young people
- To continue to generate revenue through fundraising, that affords us the opportunity to work autonomously and creatively for the good of young people in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne.

*The Youth Junction Inc wish to extend thanks and appreciation to all staff that have worked at the Visy Cares Hub during the financial year 2006 - 2007.*



**The Youth Junction Inc. would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Sponsors, Supporters, and Friends, who have made our visions possible:**

**Bakers Delight  
Brimbank City Council  
Bunnings Warehouse  
Citipower Powercor Australia  
Costello's Hotel Management  
Department of Victorian Communities  
Distance Education  
Dominion Private Clients  
DOT Removable Storage Company  
FatFish  
Greg Williams Print Management  
McDonalds Family Restaurants  
McKay Family  
Microsoft  
New Age Furniture  
Newsboys Foundation  
Regional Partnerships  
Salvation Army  
Slater & Gordon Foundation  
Smorgon Family Foundation  
Sunshine Foundation  
Sunshine Historical and District Society  
The Pratt Foundation  
Victoria University  
Visy Cares  
Western Bulldogs Football Club, and**

**Thanks to all of the individual donors who wish to remain anonymous**