

## Member profile: The Foundation for Young Australians

The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) aims to empower young people to be successful learners and creative, active and valued citizens. Through innovative and rich learning opportunities, FYA provides an environment where young people can inspire and challenge others, and ultimately improve their wellbeing.



The FYA is a non-profit organisation formed in 1999 through a partnership between the Queen's Trust and the Australian Youth Foundation, with the objective of providing increased opportunity for, and leadership development among, young people. In July 2008, FYA formed an alliance with the Education Foundation - consolidating established expertise and knowledge of the youth and education sectors.

"With the alliance between Education Foundation and FYA, we have built a stronger and more dynamic organisation - one ready to address many of the serious challenges facing young Australians," said Dr Lucas Walsh, FYA Director of Research. "When we were starting to develop our united strategic plan in 2008, we looked to ARACY as a foundation. ARACY's guiding principles and Report Card gave us a good lens through which we could focus our definition of wellbeing."



ARACY and FYA most recently joined forces to develop the youth component for the ARACY Conference, ***Transforming Australia for our Children's Future: Making Prevention Work***. The partnership allowed an innovative exercise, known as Digital Storytelling, to become the main avenue for youth participation in the Conference.

"We're really excited to be involved with the ARACY Conference, and with the youth component," said Lucas. "The Conference's transformation theme and focus on prevention really hits the big picture of wellbeing. "The Digital Stories will add an element of authenticity to the Conference."

The Digital Stories are the first phase in youth participation at the Conference. Young people will be in attendance during the Conference, to ensure the child and youth perspective is at the forefront of attendees' minds. Delegates will have the opportunity to take part in a visual summary of the Conference, focused around issues highlighted as important by young people who take part in ARACY's [Youth Survey](#), which will remain open until the end of August.

ARACY and FYA thank the Australian Centre for the Moving Image for their contribution to the storytelling process.

***For more information on The Foundation for Young Australians, go to [www.fya.org.au](http://www.fya.org.au).***