

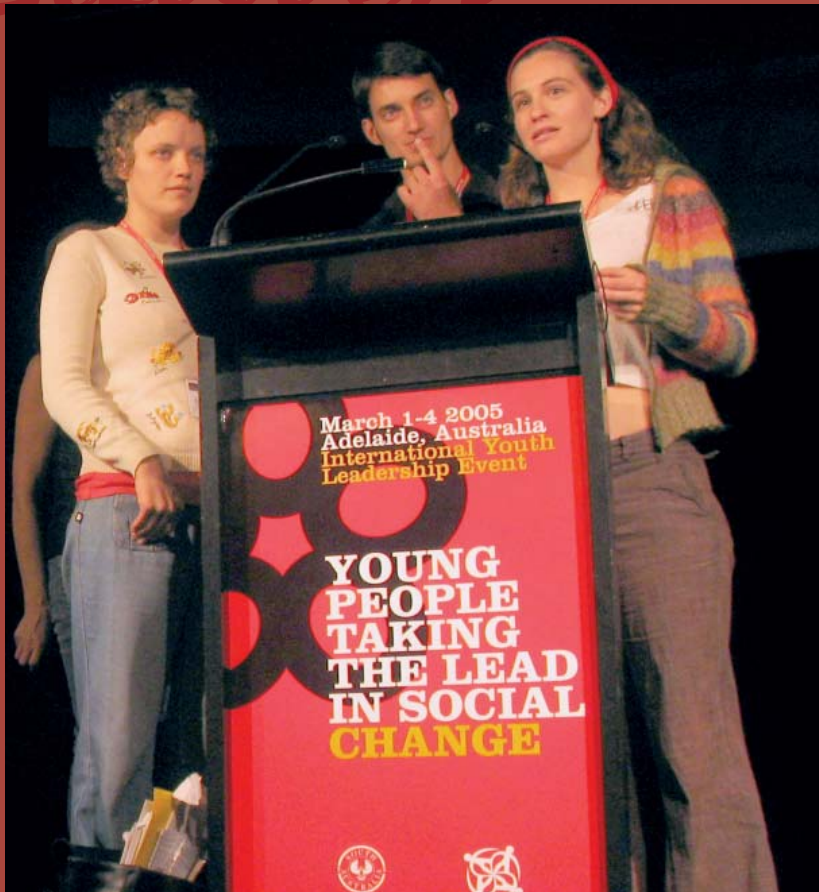


Social Inclusion Initiative

# Social Inclusion Initiative

April 2005

## Special Edition



“ IYLE had an amazing atmosphere and content. The whole program was fantastic, provocative, creative and motivating. This conference was a really informative, rewarding and inspirational experience ”

Delegate

## Young Leaders of the World Gather in Adelaide

Homelessness, health, environment, employment, empowerment. Young people identified these as major issues of concern to them; they are the issues foremost on the Social Inclusion agenda. Social Inclusion is about ensuring that all people, including young people, can fully participate in the economic, social and political life of society. It was with this in mind, that the Social Inclusion Board embarked on creating a unique youth leadership event in association with the United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Young people from around the world gathered in Adelaide from March 1-4 for the International Youth Leadership Event – Young People Taking the Lead in Social Change.

The event was presented by the Social Inclusion Board in association with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Support for the Event also came from the Hon. Stephanie Key, Minister for Youth, and Hon. Jane Lomax-Smith Minister for Education and Children's Services who generously provided sponsorship to enable a number of disadvantaged and marginalised young people to attend.

The event presented a unique opportunity for over 280 young participants to come together in a dynamic and engaging environment to exchange ideas, share experiences, and debate issues regarding social, economic and environmental issues. The focus of the event was for all delegates to take home practical action plans to effect change on a local, national or global level.



Government of South Australia



# Special Edinburgh

The event drew together a broad representation of young people from diverse backgrounds, locations and perspectives including a strong representation by indigenous young people and young people from regional South Australia. A priority was to ensure a mix of young people attended including: young achievers, those identified as potential leaders in their community, people from regional areas and young people from marginalised groups that are often excluded from this kind of event.

“Opportunities like this rarely come along... I have learnt so much in so little time. It's really helped to change my way of thinking towards taking more of a lead in my community”

Delegate

The unique approach of using the arts as a tool to explore and action leadership, social policy and change was developed as a way of enabling young people to explore, develop and create ideas and initiatives. Many participants indicated that using the arts as a tool to create social change was a welcome departure from the usual social policy events they have attended before.

The IYLE organisers were fortunate to be able to work closely with other arts events and organisations in South Australia during the event including Womadelaide, Adelaide Film Festival and Carclew Youth Arts Centre. One of the highlights for many delegates was a Forum Theatre presentation and workshop organised by Carclew. Actors presented a scene and then presented it a second time allowing participants to get involved by suggesting better ways to respond and deal with the situation. The enthusiasm, vibrancy and energy in the room had to be seen to be believed and at the end of the session all involved agreed it had been a great learning tool about personal leadership styles and values.

“The forum theatre session was an outstanding, immersing, practical and entertaining way to illustrate important principles.”

Delegate



Monsignor David Cappelletti  
Chair, Social Inclusion Board

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Dr Maria Helena Henriques Mueller (UNESCO)



Tim Goodwin



Memanatu Sesay

The key note speeches set the scene for four days of vision and ideas. Dr Maria Helena Henriques Mueller reminded delegates that the world is on their doorstep and encouraged them to act locally but think globally. While Tim Goodwin (National Indigenous Youth Movement Australia) delivered a provocative and challenging speech inviting delegates to make their own rules about leadership for 2005 and beyond.

“ If you want young people to be the future you have to let them in the door – If leadership is an unnatural process then only experience will teach us how to do it ”

Tim Goodwin

The program had a mix of Panel Discussions, motivational sessions and workshops. The workshops were the place where people really got the chance to hear and debate ideas and open themselves up to new possibilities. Topics ranged from Using Theatre to Effect Social Change to Media Youth and Communication and everything in between.

A stand out session for many delegates was the Peace and Conflict workshop presented by James Hallowell and Memanatu Sesay from Sierra Leone. Their first hand experience of war and trauma touched all that were involved and their inspiring triumph over tragedy and ability to channel their energies into promoting peace resulted in barely a dry eye in the room and much appreciation by delegates.



Another session which proved incredibly popular and inspiring for those present was a Discussion Panel with the Knot at Home Project Team—hosted by Verity Edwards. The Panel comprised of young people who, by their own admission, had lived life the hard way and had been on the margins of society before becoming involved with the project. The project gives young people a chance to tell their stories using video, sound and new media and many participants have found it has changed their lives. Their inspiring and brave stories had the audience transfixed to each video excerpt and drew a huge round of applause and cheering at the end.

“ Hearing their (James and Memanatu's) personal stories and reflections was confronting, stirring and amazing ”

Delegate

## THE EVENT AND BEYOND....

One of the most inspiring aspects of the event was that in addition to delegates developing individual plans for action, the momentum and energy generated became the catalyst for a number of other collaborative initiatives and projects involving both presenters and delegates.



Some great collaborative projects delegates are planning include:

- Negotiations around the development of a South Australia online tool for young people aged 8-12 years in dealing with their own and/or parents mental health issues.
- The development of a '12-part Young Nunga kids' game show. The show would be based on dreamtime stories and cultural history with young people involved in presenting, developing and filming the series.
- Exploring opportunities for a short documentary series with a local TV network utilising more than 60 hours of footage taken at the event including interviews with delegates, presenters and excerpts from presentations.

As part of the event planning process, film maker (David Salomon) and a team of student film makers were recruited to capture the event on film as well as offering the young film makers a first hand work experience opportunity.

A total of over 60 hours of footage was shot and the team are currently editing material for a 40 minute DVD story of the Event. This will be distributed to all participants during July 2005. We will be "checking in " with participants when we send the DVD to see how they are going with their action plans and if we can offer referral support if things have not progressed.

# Special Edition

“I hope this week proves to be not just fun and rewarding and stimulating. But that it puts you on a path to leadership. That it changes your life. And that it stimulates you to change the lives of others ”

Premier Mike Rann,  
YLE speech  
March 2005



For more information  
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