



YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS

AYCW Annual Report 2024




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Acknowledgement of Country

YCW and YCS
acknowledges
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander peoples
as Australia's First
People and Traditional
Custodians. We begin
each meeting with the
following
acknowledgement:



As we enter this sacred space, YCW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we all stand.
Their footsteps were here long before our shoeprints.
Their handprints were here, centuries before our buildings rose.
Their hearts loved and broken in this country generations before our violence, settlements and sorrows.
Their cultural authority and traditions were established long before our communities of relationships and leadership came to be.
We call upon their Spirit ancestors and our own ancestors who have gone to God, to be with us as we share, learn and celebrate together.
May we walk gently on this land.

Photo taken at Adelaide YCW's Youth Festival, January 2025.

About the YCW



We are an international movement run BY, FOR, and WITH young workers, striving to SERVE, EDUCATE and REPRESENT young workers by empowering them to be the change they want to be in their places of work, study and in their communities, living out their VALUES and BELIEFS through action in daily life.

The YCW works to create a society which actively supports, respects and values the God given dignity of each and every person.

The YCS is a student-led social justice group that aims to create change in schools and the community through creating action together. Actions are created using the See, Judge and Act method that is followed during weekly action discussions. With these actions students learn a variety of skills which helps them to change the world around them and learn more about themselves. – Written by Luciana, YCS Leader in Sydney

We want a movement where all young people can belong, where their voices matter. We want a movement where young people can take actions on the issues that matter the most to them. We value personal invitations, community, respect and self-worth and having strong connections.

Everyone is welcome and especially underrepresented and vulnerable students and young workers. We want to build inclusion, so that all students and workers can feel represented, loved and validated in a community where everyone can feel safe in expressing their opinions, have challenging conversations and make decisions by consensus.

Our Mission

To take action for the relief of poverty, misfortune and all forms of suffering and injustices that young students and young workers may experience, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through action, we seek to empower all young people to:

- discover the deepest meaning of their lives
- live according to their personal and collective dignity
- take up responsibilities for finding solutions to their own situations and problems

How do we do it



SEE:

Observing the world around us and our action in it, being conscious of the issues that should be brought to attention.



JUDGE:

To create a deeper understanding of the issues from multiple perspectives and beliefs and apply these values to your own life and action.



ACT:

Finalising the plan and putting it into action with others in our community



Achut Thuc, National President



Report from our National President

As we celebrate YCW's 100 years anniversary, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your support and solidarity over the past 12 months. In 2024 our team has reflected on the development of the movement and started working very closely with YCS to ensure the smooth transition of leaders to YCW. In particular, we have been working very closely with Parramatta YCS, hoping to replicate this in all cities.

YCW has also made a few changes since 2024 and saw leaders/workers grow and achieve more actions. One of the major changes was the establishment of AYCW Board, this consists of former and current members, the purpose is to ensure more support for the governance of AYCW.

The actions young people focused on this year includes the YCW House affordable housing project (Sydney), Community Kitchen (Sydney), Solidarity Music (Adelaide), Youth Food Project (Melbourne) and Student Work Life (Perth). These actions are aimed at addressing young people's realities related to cost of living pressures, building awareness about workers' rights, mental health, migrants and refugees and as well developing leaders through student empowerment and digital campaigns.

As YCW President I have had such an honour to witness young leaders grow and become confident in taking actions. I feel immensely proud of us all and have the confidence that this movement will continue to grow.

I thank you for your ongoing support and hope you enjoy reading the report.

Report from our National Secretary

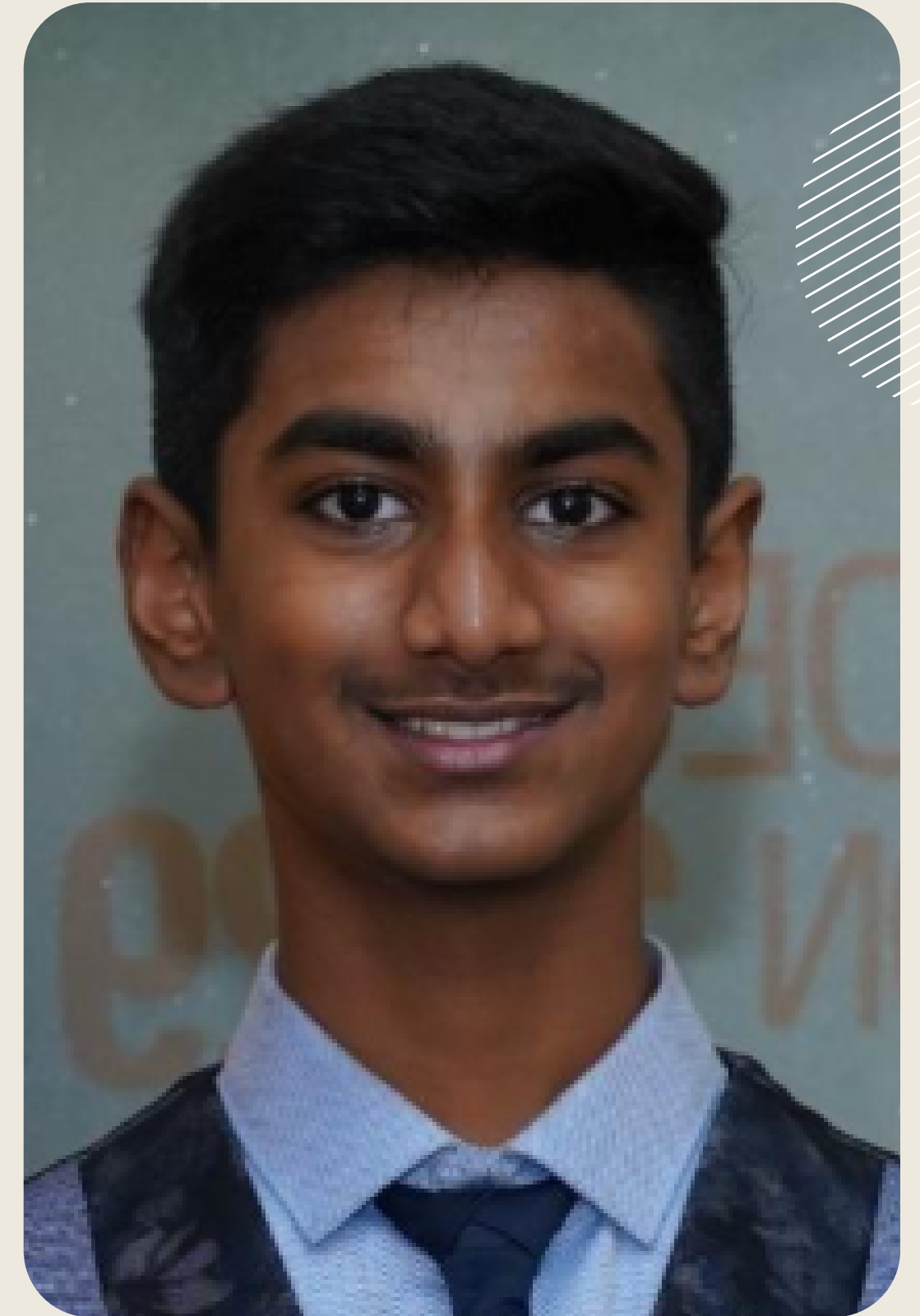
It has been a profound honour and privilege to serve as the National Secretary of the YCW over the past year, especially during such a momentous occasion as the 100th anniversary of our international movement. This centenary not only celebrates a rich legacy of action and solidarity but also reaffirms our enduring commitment to justice, dignity, and a voice for all young workers.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to participate in a number of significant initiatives and activities that reflect the heart of our movement. One of the most impactful developments has been the inclusion of YCS leaders within our national team and, for the first time, their representation at the national executive level — a great step forward in creating the leaders of the future.

A central focus for the YCW —and for me personally—has been expanding our political advocacy and lobbying efforts. We have begun forging relationships with key public figures and institutions. Following our national conference, Dr. Anne Aly (Federal Minister for Youth) recognised our work, and we've opened productive dialogue with Senator Lidia Thorpe, Darren Dick of the Australian Human Rights Commission, and others on future actions. In Sydney, our engagement with the Sydney Alliance—an influential coalition of community organisations advocating for justice—has allowed the YCW to find new allies and broaden our reach in public advocacy.

It has also been a proud and inspiring moment to see Sean Gehrig, former YCW President, take on a leadership role within the international secretariat. His appointment is a testament to the strength and vision of our national movement.

Our solidarity is as strong as ever, and our commitment to the cause has not wavered as the movement reaches its 100th year. We remain a movement by and for young people, an alliance of advocates, a true young workers movement.



In unity and solidarity
Sudeep Velagapudi, National Secretary



**Ashish Chaulagain, National
Community Organizer**



Report from our National Community Organiser

In 2024 young workers across Australia didn't just talk about justice—they led it. The YCW created spaces for young people to speak out, take action, and grow into leaders who are shaping a more just world.

Our movement saw youth-led action in every corner of the country—from listening deeply to First Nations youth on the Voice Referendum, to leading a national social justice webinar that brought lived experiences to the forefront. Young leaders identified key issues—mental health, work exploitation, gender-based violence, and insecure work—and developed monthly digital campaigns to educate, raise awareness, and mobilize their peers. These campaigns weren't just online—they were personal, passionate, and powerful.

In July, we gathered 21 young workers from NSW, VIC, SA, and WA for a national conference. They didn't stop at sharing stories—they took their stories to Parliament. Under the guidance of our National Secretary, they led advocacy efforts by writing directly to MPs, calling for change. Their courage and clarity got noticed.

In response to the challenges from rising living costs, many young people told us they are working multiple jobs just to survive, leaving little time to do what gives their life meaning. This is more than economic stress. It's a crisis of dignity, purpose, and hope. Our movement is responding by giving young people spaces to reclaim purpose through action, community, and personal development.

With our team of social media volunteers, collaborations with groups like ACRATH, Vinnies, Young Mercy Links, and support from local councils, we are building a movement that is real, relevant, and youth-led. And we're just getting started.

To every young person who wonders if their voice matters, it does. And to our partners and funders, thank you for believing in youth-led change. With your continued support, we will build a future where every young worker can lead, act, and live with dignity.



Our Actions

Cost of Living Crisis



The rising cost of living puts immense pressure on young workers. Personal testimonies from young workers highlight the strain caused by increased rents, rising utility bills, and the high cost of fresh food.

This reality was highlighted in the YCW's Cost of Living Inquiry Report, which was presented at the National Action Conference held in July 2024, and in the Youth Survey completed during International Youth Day 2024.

As the cost of living and mental health pressures increased, young people told us they felt isolated and disconnected. Many lack safe, inclusive spaces where they could be themselves, build friendships, and express who they are without judgment.

SOLidarity Music Nights – Adelaide



SOL Music Nights provided a creative platform for youth to share music, stories, and culture, an excuse to come together as a community and build connections. The action drew young people from diverse backgrounds and fostered friendships across faiths and identities.

The program includes an open mic as well, which helps create a more open and safe environment for young workers to share their creative talents and build connections in the community, making them feel welcome. It provided a perfect platform to build friendship and tackle social isolation. The action is led by 5 committed leaders and 15 members from the Adelaide YCW.

Youth Food Project – Melbourne

The Youth Food Project brought young workers together to cook an affordable meal while engaging in conversations about issues impacting them and supporting each other to take action in their personal lives.

Participants also discussed various issues, including workers' rights and women's empowerment. One of the big impacts of the action was when a group of participants discovered they worked at the same workspace. This helped them build friendship and trust, and during their meeting for Review of Life and Worker Action (ROLWA) realised that they were all victims of wage theft. As an action, they brought the issues to their employer and were able to recover their lost wages. The YCW members stood up for each other in solidarity as a community to change their personal and collective situation. This action was led by 3 committed leaders and 5 members.



Community Kitchen – Parramatta

Community Kitchen is run in partnership with Western Sydney University and offers regular shared meals, nurturing a welcoming culture and mutual support, particularly important for international students and migrant young people. It also provided an opportunity for the different communities and student societies at the campus to share their culture to increase mutual understanding and build connections.

Since the beginning of the action, we have seen an increase in the number of students coming for a meal, with an average of 70 meals served each week. As a consequence, 58 students have become involved in other actions and initiatives run by the YCW.

The 13 volunteers involved in organising the service have reported that it has helped them build their self-confidence, form new connections, and engage with the movement for the first time. The action is led by a dedicated team of 5 YCW leaders who, after completing their work and study commitments, spend their free time delivering this action in solidarity with their fellow workers who are impacted by cost-of-living issues.

Work Rights Education and Awareness

Surveys and focus groups with high school students and young workers revealed that many young people are employed in casual, part-time, or temporary roles. Young people are starting work as young as 13 and 14 and should be considered as young workers. Precarious working conditions, coupled with wage exploitation, is adding to cost of living pressures and poor mental health.

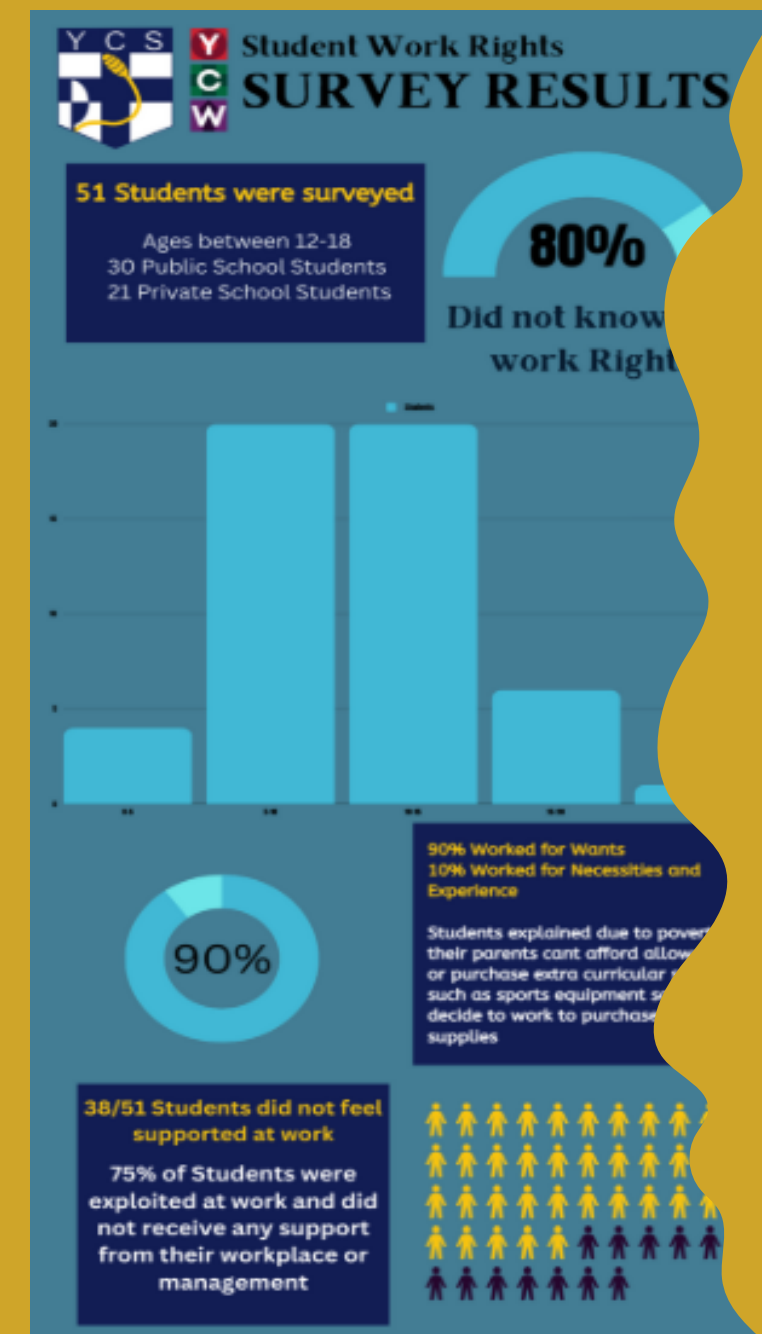
YCW found out that young people are unaware of their rights in the workplace. Many reported exploitation, underpayment, and fear of speaking out. Educating young workers about their rights is essential to prevent further exploitation and empower young workers to stand up against such forms of injustice.

Student Work Life – Melbourne and Perth

Student Work Life Program was launched in 2024—an education program in schools and the community - to raise awareness about workplace rights. We first organised a survey to understand the needs among young students. This in itself was an exciting and challenging experience for our Youth Engagement Officers who randomly surveyed students in different locations like train stations, bus stops and shopping centres to collect their responses.

To implement the program, Melbourne YCW developed a partnership with the Young Worker Centre and Migrant Worker Centre to deliver this training to a group of vulnerable young people. Through the survey, we also found out that CALD communities are more vulnerable to exploitation.

Melbourne and Perth also hosted a national webinar for May Day (1 May) to share the stories of young workers to a wider audience and inform young workers about what can be done.



Workshops for International Students

Education sessions targeted at international students were organised along with a digital media campaigns to create safe and welcoming spaces where they can become more aware of their rights at work.

One YCW leader who is herself an international student and a leader in the Community Kitchen action created a survey with her classmates in an attempt to respond to the discriminatory and unjust acts against immigrants and international students in Australia. Surveys were handed out during a community festival, which created a lot of conversations and discussions on the topic and the formation of a YCW action group. The YCW plans to develop further actions to help address some of the issues faced by international students and immigrants in Australia.

Mental Health: Building Resilience and Belonging

Across all consultations, young people named mental health struggles—particularly social isolation, burnout and stress—as core challenges affecting their lives and participation. It was alarming to note that during the survey conducted with high school students, around 90% of the respondents mentioned that they were also impacted by cost-of-living pressures, along with the pressure of studying in school. International students' level of anxiety was described as high while interviewed because of cost-of-living pressures, struggling to pay the rent, finding a job related to their academic qualification, and discrimination.

In-Harmony – Adelaide

In Harmony is coordinated by a team of 3 committed YCW leaders who run regular resilience-building workshops using tai-chi, mindfulness, breathing, and hiking, creating a safe space for young workers to come together, participate and learn about resilience building. The action was able to reach out to 90+ participants in 2024.



Mental Health Webinar

The Mental Health Webinar was an outcome from the National Conference, where YCW leaders discussed the realities and actions of young workers in their communities. YCW's National President and 2 other leaders planned and organized the session with the aim of breaking the stigma around mental health, educate people about emotional intelligence and inform how they can get further support.

Many participants reported an increase in their level of understanding about mental and emotional health. Participants shared how they will be using new techniques in their daily lives.

Based on the feedback, the YCW will be facilitating mental health first-aid training for all YCW workers and leaders so they can become more aware of the issues and respond better to such situations.

A vertical poster for a YCW Hybrid Webinar titled 'MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS'. The poster features the YCW logo at the top right. The text includes 'HYBRID WEBINAR', 'Save The Date', '19:00 PM 2000 Hrs - AEST', and '30 Oct 2024'. It lists three speakers: Achut Thuc (Understanding Mental Health), Prerna Basnet (Emotional Intelligence), and Ashish Chaulagain (Breathing Techniques). Each speaker has a small circular portrait next to their name. At the bottom, there is a 'REGISTER NOW' button and a URL: 'https://tinyurl.com/AYCWMentalHealth'. The background of the poster shows a group of people's hands clasped together in a supportive gesture, with a speech bubble saying 'LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH'.

Migrants and Refugees: Creating Belonging and Transition Support

Young migrants and refugees told us about their challenges—housing insecurity, lack of local support, cultural adjustment, and exploitation at work. These were realities shared during our actions, like the Community Kitchen in Parramatta, the Youth Food Project in Melbourne and SOL Music in Adelaide.

The action with migrants and refugees impacts all young people. As one YCW leader reflected, “it is our duty to protect their dignity as human beings and to support and empower them so they can stand up against any form of injustice happening to them”.

YCW House – Sydney

AFFORDABLE UNIT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

The YCW is offering an affordable 1 bedroom unit to a young person in need.

If you're a young person aged 16-30 click on the information packet for more details on how you can apply for the unit.

Contact:
kathym.sanayeh@ycw.org.au



The front section of the YCW House was converted into affordable one bedroom unit, accommodating a young migrant worker. Upon evaluating the impact of the action and need in the community, the YCW decided to convert the whole house into affordable transitional accommodation, for up to 4 young people from migrant or refugee backgrounds. The action is being lead by a core team of 3 YCW leaders.

A Day with Seasonal Workers

8 leaders from Adelaide YCW reached out to young seasonal workers at the Mallala Hostel who were working at Perfection Tomatoes at Two Wells. This was a joint project with MercyLinks and ACRATH.

The team explored the harsh realities for young seasonal workers from Vanuatu and Timor-Leste.

It was challenging to listen to the stories of how some qualified workers, like engineers and teachers, were coming to work in Australia as seasonal workers. We also heard stories of exploitation and the lack of awareness about their rights in Australia.



Tertiary Education for All Advocacy



Adelaide YCW in collaboration with Young Mercy Links organised an advocacy workshop on young refugees access to university education, who currently need to pay the international student fee if they want to engage in tertiary education.

To bring this to the attention of the Federal MPs, the action was organised and featured the stories of young women workers who came to Australia as refugees who shared their story of struggle and hope, and success.

Our National President, Achut Thuc, herself arriving in Australia as a young refugee, joined the program virtually as a speaker to share her story and to be in solidarity with the young workers.

A total of 5 leaders from Adelaide were involved in the action.

Students are often excluded from conversations about social justice and leadership. With a view of creating more leaders with a social justice mindset, Young Christian Students (YCS) builds connections across schools and opportunities to lead.

Students have led social justice campaigns, built friendships across states, and initiated actions within their schools. They have also been able to represent student issues in the broader community as members of groups advocating on the issues impacting young students.

Student Empowerment: Growing the YCS Movement

Sydney

The YCS in Sydney consists of groups in St Columba's Catholic College and St Luke's Catholic College in the Parramatta Diocese.

St Columba's led a "waste-free Christmas" initiative and a multiculturalism project, while St Luke's focused on environmental improvements and launched a student podcast group.

YCS has successfully developed young leaders who are not only taking action within their schools but also engaging in their wider communities through student representation.



A key milestone was the student-led half day retreat in November 2024, which strengthened student leadership and resulted in the formation of a YCS Coordination Team and an annual calendar, affirming the 2025 mission of visibility, unification, expansion, and development.

Canberra



The Canberra YCS group is located in the St John the Apostle Parish, where young members of the parish gather once a month after Mass. The Canberra YCS group has only been around for a short period of time and currently consists of 8 members, the majority of whom attend the same high school.

In 2024, we spent the whole year fundraising around five thousand dollars for a Caring Centre in Mongolia by talking to people from the parish about what we had learned. We also set up a video to accompany the script so the parishioners could visualise the experiences of many people in Mongolia and understand the weight of their donations.

“The actions we have done in the Canberra YCS over the past year has been an amazing experience and we are excited to continue taking more actions in the community”.

Adelaide

Adelaide YCS is being run at Cardijn College, Noarlunga. They currently have 200 students involved and an leadership team consisting of 20 leaders who meet on a regular basis and practice Review of Life to plan and review their actions. YCS at Cardijn College hosted a SOL Music Night, led by the students themselves, in collaboration with the YCW.



One of the YCS' major actions has been cleaning Port Noarlunga Beach which was an action they developed during term one. On their way to the beach, they cleaned up the streets of Port Noarlunga, participated in a reflection on the beach and engaged in some socials.



National Student Network

Led by the National YCS Representative, YCS leaders from each city started meeting together in 2024 to discuss their realities and develop a national action plan. The goal is to bring together members and leaders of the different YCS groups and develop a National Team so they can develop more impactful action and extend the YCS into more cities.

YCS leaders are also making sure their voices are being heard by joining the NSW Youth Parliament and taking part in the YCW's strategic planning process.

Reaching Young People Where They Are

The YCW adopted an action at the National Conference held in July 2024 to establish a social media team and organise 10 social media campaigns throughout the year. This was based on leaders recognising that to truly engage young people today, we must meet them in digital spaces. Social media is where young people learn, connect, and take action.

15 young social media volunteers from different states were recruited who led the monthly social justice campaigns on issues such as Equal Pay Day, Mental Health awareness, 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, and advocating for the Human Rights Bill. These volunteers also supported webinars, graphics, and youth storytelling, increasing our online engagement significantly.

A total of 75 posts were made in 2024, which included educational posts, advocacy posts, webinar promotions, current actions promotion posts, and observance of significant days. It was through the group of social media volunteers that we were able to develop a social media plan and calendar to run campaigns on various social justice issues.

As a result, we were able to reach a total of 60,320 individual Instagram accounts. This ranged from 11 accounts in one post through to 763 for another post. A reach of 7,024 accounts was the highest number reached, which was the result from the Human Rights Bills campaign. This campaign was able to attract the presence of some Members of Parliament at the Federal level to comment and share their views and also share information about our campaign.

We were also able to reach 15,438 Facebook accounts. The difference in the accounts reached informs us that young workers are more active on Instagram compared to Facebook, hence, which will be our priority for the coming years as well.

**Digital
Campaigns**



YOLANDA GILL

Year 12 YCS leader, Canberra



MABELINE FORDE

Senior Advisor at Catholic
Education, South Australia

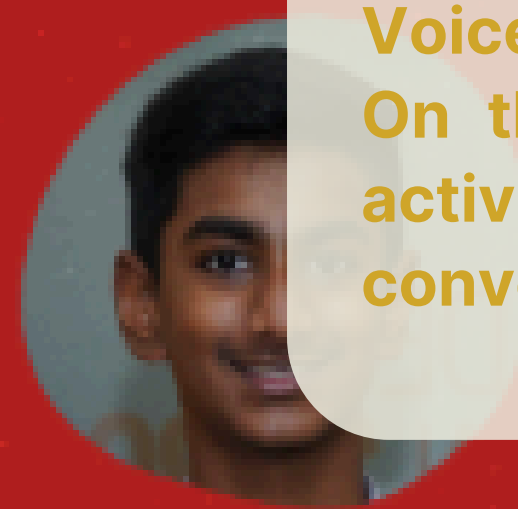


JOSHUA LOURENSE

Exec Director, Catholic Social
Services Victoria

Digital Campaign Webinars – Referendum

In October 2023, Australians voted in a referendum to decide whether to change the Constitution to create an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Unfortunately, the proposal was rejected. On the 16th of January, YCW gathered young leaders and activist from around Australia for a webinar to engage in conversation about the referendum.



SUDEEP VELAGAPUDI

Year 10 YCS leader, Sydney

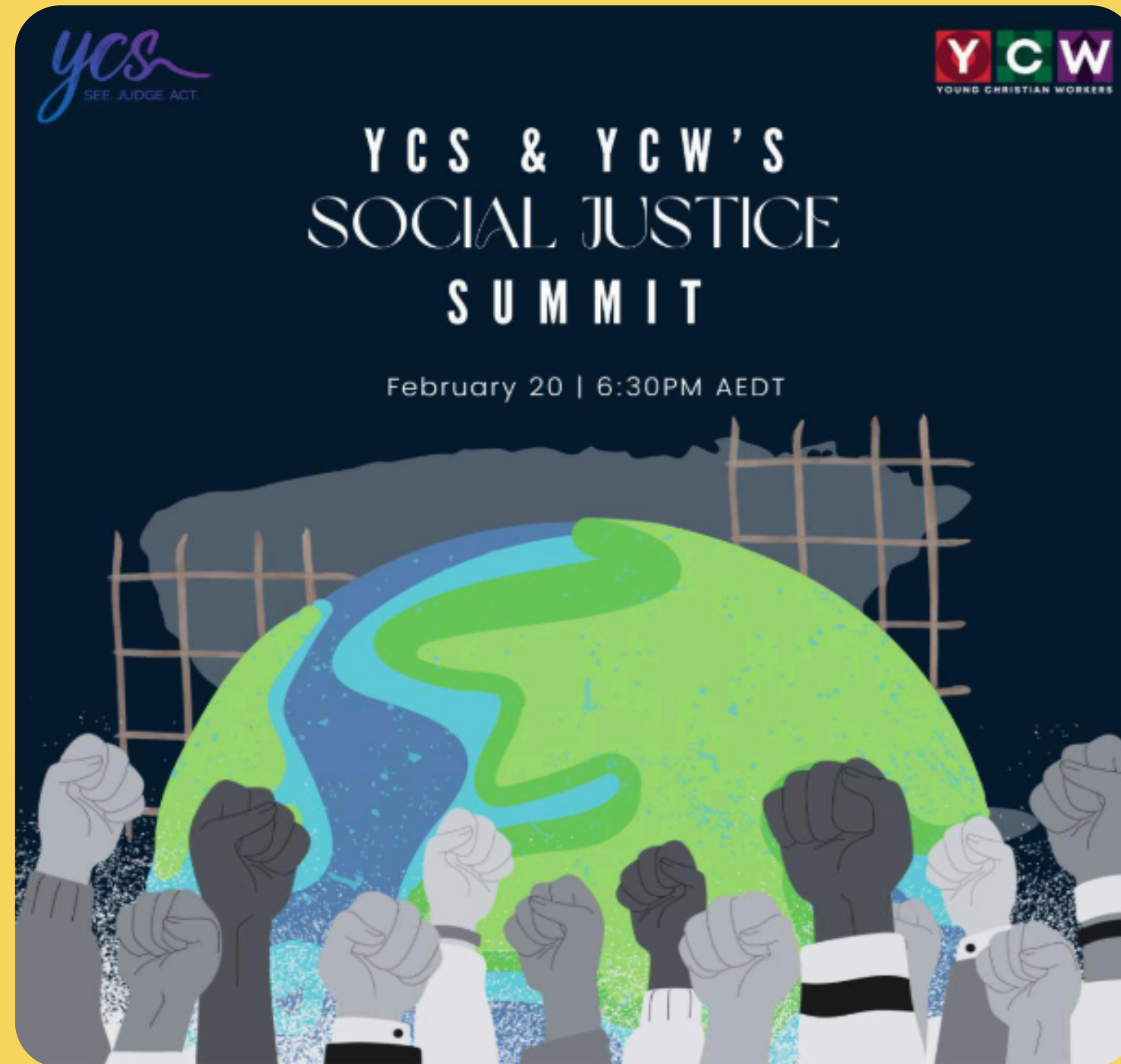


SABRINA STEVENS

Caritas Australia, Brisbane

Hosted by:
**Irene Baik &
Monique Chikonga**

Social Justice Day Webinar



May Day Webinar

On 1 May, the YCW organised a national webinar to raise awareness and advocate for workers' rights. It included a trade union representative to share about the importance of being organised and joining a union. This webinar had a great impact on participants as they got a chance to hear the stories of exploitation first-hand and the actions young workers are taking.



While 20 young people attended the webinar, it reached over 1,200 viewers online across various platforms, generating increased interest in future workplace rights sessions.

Participants reported that they gained valuable knowledge about payslips, the minimum wage, and how to seek help when needed. Some participants also reported taking action in their workplaces to speak out against injustices affecting themselves and their co-workers.

New Website Launch

We worked with young workers to redesign our website. This was an action from our strategic planning meeting held at the beginning of January 2024. In that planning meeting, young leaders from different states emphasised the importance of having a more user-friendly and attractive website. As an action, we worked with young workers to develop a new website, which is more vibrant and resourceful than before.

Leadership Development

Empowering the Next Generation - To carry out the mission of the YCW to develop leaders and build a sustainable youth movement, we must develop young leaders who are confident, skilled, and mission-driven. With this intention, YCW organises and sends representatives to various training and development opportunities, which act as opportunities for leaders to grow in their commitment to faith in action.



Leadership Development



National Conference

In July 2024, the YCW gathered 21 young leaders in Sydney from NSW, VIC, SA, and WA to analyse the issues affecting them and develop plans of action.

The issues that were discussed gave direction to the YCW as a whole. The leaders were able to present their personal and collective realities, and some of them even took charge to facilitate some sessions, which were part of the experiential learning and development.

The exchange of realities was then documented, and it was submitted to bring to attention the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education Minister for Youth.



Workers Training Session

In October 2024, the YCW gathered its 8 workers from all states in Sydney to learn about the mission the YCW and how to carry it out. The focus has been on recruitment, engagement, outreach, and community development.



Mentoring

10 new mentors were recruited in 2024 to support YCW groups and leaders in each city to run reflection sessions after action to deepen their understanding of their reality and take further action based on their values. In partnership with TAFE new mentors were provided with accredited mentoring in the community training.

The background image shows a group of approximately 20 people, mostly young adults, standing in front of a banner. The banner has the text 'YCW ASIA - PACIFIC' at the top, followed by 'SEMINAR ON SOCIAL PROTECTION' and '25 SEPTEMBER 2024'. The people are dressed in a mix of casual and semi-formal attire. The setting appears to be an outdoor or semi-outdoor event space with a wooden ceiling and some greenery visible in the background.

Our Global Influence – International Conference and Exchange

Two leaders from the YCW represented Australia at the YCW Asia-Pacific Regional Key Leaders Meeting held in Indonesia in September 2024. The exchange focused on the social economy and climate justice, where participants were able to see first-hand projects that the local YCW were developing to address the issues of poverty among young workers and climate change.

The Australian delegates were able to learn new strategies to better understand the reality of young workers in Asia Pacific region. In their words, they have become more aware of the systemic issues around the world of work and are more committed to further action to address the key issues.

Our Reach in 2024





Our Impact: Stories of Young Students and Young Workers





Yolanda – YCS Leader



My name is Yolanda, and I have been a part of YCW and YCS since 2023. I am currently mentoring a YCS group in Canberra at my local parish, and it has been so amazing to see the growth and commitment of the members here.

YCW has had a profound impact on my life as it has motivated me to make a difference in my community and in wider society. I'm so lucky to be a part of this movement that advocates, raises awareness, and actively works to better the lives of others.

It has been so amazing to see young people coming together from all over the country (and the world) to work towards the same goal of helping others and breaking down barriers that divide us.

Both of my parents were part of YCW and their commitment to the movement has been so inspiring for me. I believe that the YCW has also impacted the way my parents have raised me, as they have always instilled values of love, empathy, and compassion, which the YCW promotes through every action they take. I'm so proud to be a part of YCW, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for the movement!

Taylah – National YCS Representative

My name is Taylah and I am the YCS National Representative. I have been a part of YCS for 5 years. I am a 17-year-old high school student at St Columba's Catholic College, and I am in my final year of school. Outside of school, I am a passionate young advocate with the hopes of making a difference in the world.

YCS/YCW has truly changed my life, giving me the opportunity to amplify the voices of young people, including my own, and make positive contributions to my community. The movement feels like a family, always empowering one another to catalyse change, with impacts felt around the world.

The opportunities I have been given from interviewing politicians, to championing actions and leading other like-minded young people, have been unlike any other, and I am eternally grateful for my experiences within YCS and the YCW National Team, and can't wait to see what comes next.



Prerna – Mental Health Action Leader



My name is Prerna. I moved to Australia in 2019 with hopes of building a future grounded in purpose and connection. In 2023, I completed my studies in Psychology and Counselling—fields that deeply resonated with my passion for understanding people and supporting them through their journeys.

At the beginning of 2024, I stumbled upon YCW, and what started as a discovery soon turned into something much more meaningful. Having the privilege to work with YCW has been incredibly rewarding.

It has opened my eyes to the systemic and everyday challenges faced by young people, especially international students and migrants, many of whom are navigating a new country, culture, and often, isolation.

YCW has given me that platform. It has allowed me to channel my experience, education, and empathy into real action. With their guidance and encouragement, I've had the chance to engage with young workers, advocate for fair treatment, and create safe spaces for conversations and change.

It's not just about helping—it's about standing in solidarity. Being part of YCW has reminded me that change happens when we show up, together.



Janelle – Former YCW Worker



During my time as a project officer with YCW I was provided the opportunity to develop beyond the technical skills of the position. I was welcomed into a community that highlighted the impact of young people as advocates for promoting justice, by empowering the youth to take collective action and in a way that embraced all walks of life.

My work with helping initiatives servicing the migrant and refugee community in particular has been a passion sustained by my time with YCW, further informed by the core model of SEE-JUDGE-ACT. This model has greatly influenced my approach to problem solving and ensures my faith remains central to any challenge, process or solution. I look back on my time with YCW with gratitude and with an enduring connection to like-minded individuals across the country and overseas.

Sudeep – National Secretary

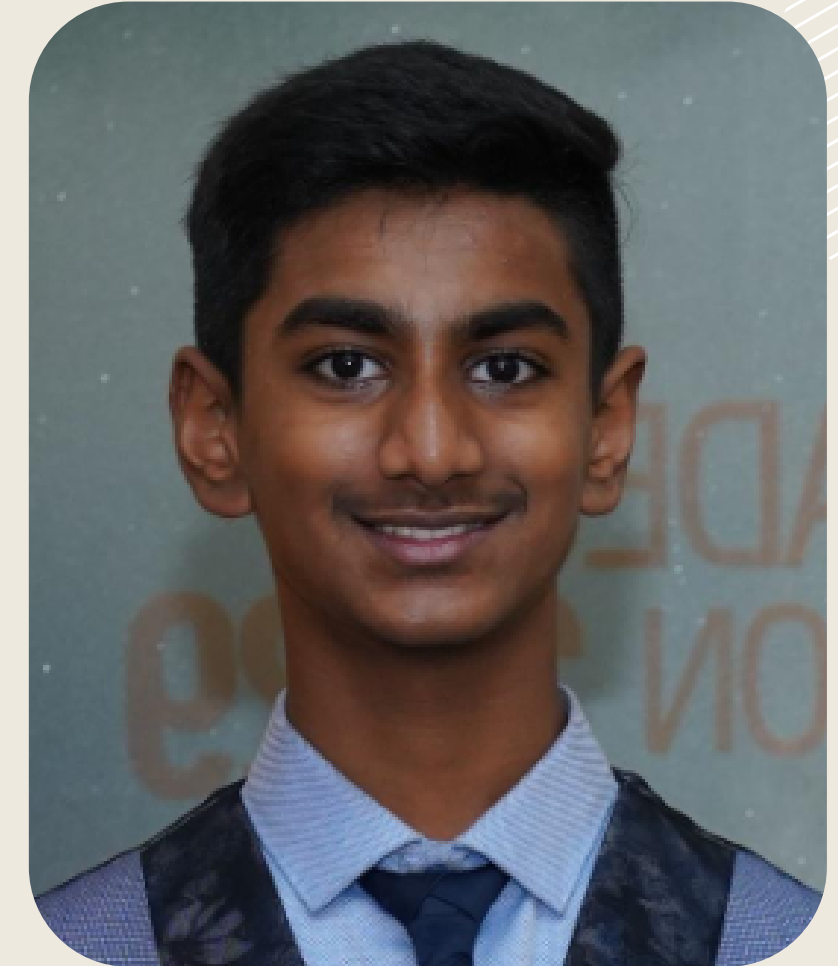
My name is Sudeep and over the past year I've had the privilege of serving as the National Secretary of the YCW. I'm currently a Year 11 high school student, and I can't overstate the impact YCW has had on my life.

I've always been driven to make a difference in my community and in wider Australian society and YCW has given me the platform to do just that. It has empowered me to grow and lead not in spite of my age, but because of it.

Through YCW, I've developed key skills in governance, communication, leadership, and advocacy. I've also had the chance to engage with a diverse group of inspiring individuals, including community leaders, politicians, lawyers, and advocates, each of whom has shaped my journey in some way.

This experience has supported my broader personal development, helping me complete my Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, become a finalist in the Blacktown Youth Ambassador Program, and serve as the Youth MP for Londonderry.

YCW has helped me become a more confident, capable, and engaged version of myself and it's that same opportunity for growth and empowerment that I now strive to offer other young people through the YCW.





Sisilina – Youth Engagement Officer



My name is Sisilina and I am the Youth Engagement Officer in Adelaide YCW. YCW has had a big impact on the person I am today. It's helped me become more generous and selfless, and encouraged me to think more deeply about how my actions—big or small—affect those around me. I've come to realise that at the heart of what we do are our faith, values, and morals.

YCW has taught me how to communicate better, to be open-minded, and to have meaningful conversations with people who may see things differently to me. It's also stressed how important it is to educate myself about issues that affect young people today and encourage them to act too. On top of that, YCW has helped me build practical skills like time management and social media.

On my recent trip to the Regional Key Leadership Meeting (RKLM), the chance to visit YCW communities was truly eye-opening, humbling, and deeply enriching. Forming new friendships and learning from each other—our strengths, our struggles—has been incredibly healing and nourishing for our YCW family. The connections we've built in this beautiful community are rare and precious. Though distance and oceans may lie between us, we remain united in faith and a shared fire to fight with and for justice today, and to light the path for those yet to come.

Gio – Social Media Volunteer

My name is Gio, and I'm a volunteer social media coordinator and I came into this role curious to learn more about the digital world and gain hands-on digital literacy skills.

I was involved with YCW's human rights webinar, specifically the social media campaigns and what I took away from that experience is how incredibly fulfilling it is to be able to contribute to something meaningful and make an impact in society, specifically helping the youth as they enter the workforce.

This role has taught me the importance of using my creative skills with a heart, and I think the YCW motto of creating "a service for every need" will stick with me forever.



Mani – Adelaide YCW Leader



Hi, my name is Mani and I'm a leader from Adelaide YCW. I've been part of YCW since 2018. I moved to Adelaide from Melbourne in late 2017 and felt quite isolated until I joined YCW. The weekly or monthly catch-ups with other workers, and trips to the beach for ice cream or pizza were always a highlight.

It's hard to express how much YCW has shaped me. I've found a deeper sense of belonging and a stronger connection with my faith. The friendships I've built here have been a huge part of that.

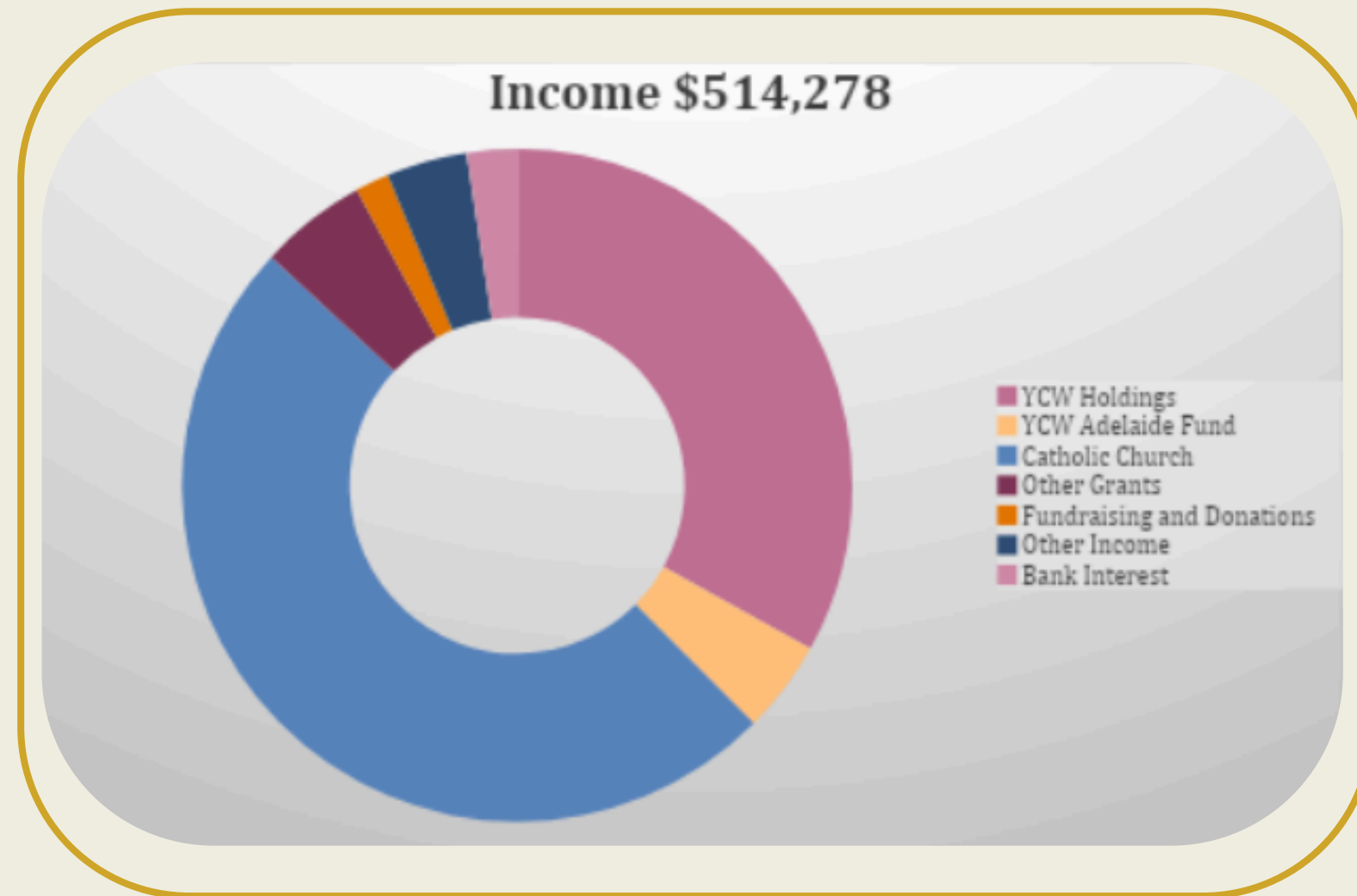
The people in this group have become like family to me. They've shown me what real friendship looks like how to be honest, vulnerable, and supportive. I've learned so much about trust, friendship, serving others, and, most importantly, about myself.

Being part of this community has given me a renewed sense of purpose. It's helped me grow stronger in my faith, and I'm more confident in who I am. I'm grateful for the leaders and everyone here who has made this journey possible.

One of the biggest things I've learned is how important it is to open up and ask for help when you need it. I've also realised that we all go through tough times, and that's OK. This group has shown me that there's strength in vulnerability and that we're all stronger when we support each other.

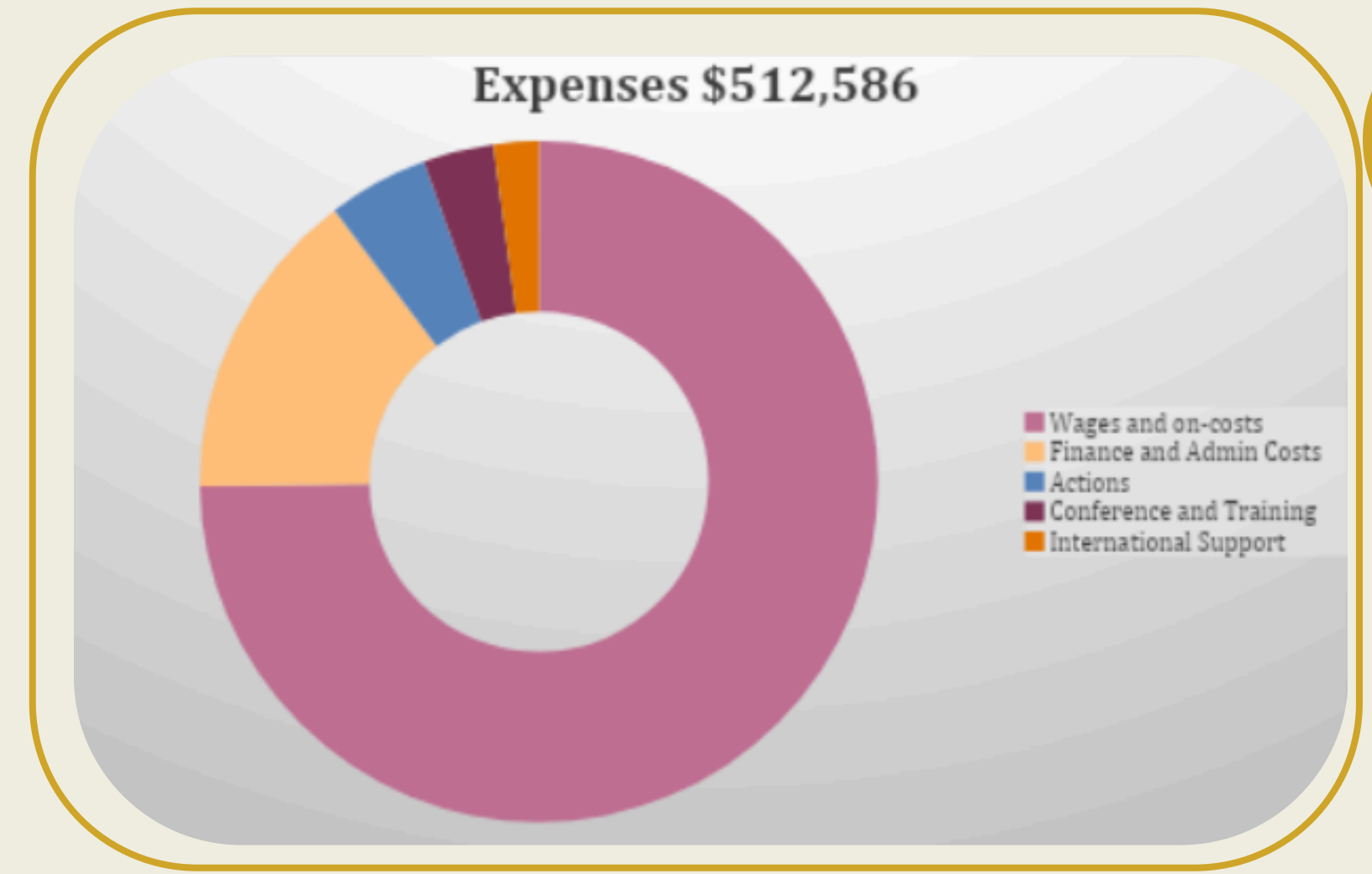
I'm excited to see where life leads me next, and I'm thankful to walk this path with all of you.

Our Finances



YCW's income and expenses comprises of two entities, the Australian Young Christian Workers Inc. and the Parramatta Young Christian Workers Inc.

YCW's main source of income is from the Catholic Church (49%) followed by YCW's Funds (38% combined). A total of 8% of the income was self-generated from fundraising, bank interest and other income. Other grants consist of 5% of income.



The YCW's largest expense area was for Wages (75%) followed by Finance and Administration Costs (15%). Activity-related expenses (actions, conference and international support) made up a total of 10% of expenses.

Our Partners and Supporters

YCW would like to thank all our partners and supporters for their belief in us and in our mission.

Here is the list of organisations that have supported and partnered with us in our actions and campaigns. We would like to share our achievements with you, as we know they would not have been possible without you all.

ACRATH
Brimbank Council
Cardijn College - Norlunga
City of Adelaide Council
City of Onkaparinga Council
COYYA - Adelaide
CYM - Perth
Dwell - Student Accommodation Centre (Adelaide)
Department of Human Services - South Australia
Extended Family
Mercy Foundation
National Australian Day Council

Parramatta Diocese
Paramatta Mission
Perth Diocese
Study Adelaide
Sydney Alliance
St Columbus School
St Lukes - Marsden Park
St John the Apostle Parish - Canberra
St Vincent de Paul - Adelaide
Western Sydney University
Young Mercy Links

Our People – Governance and Staff

National Leaders Team (Management Committee)

Achut Thuc - President
Sudeep Velagapudi - Secretary
Unless Shrestha - Treasurer

Thomas Magri, Committee Member (Parramatta)
Daniel Crowe, Committee Member (Perth)
Joseva Sakuru, Committee Member (Adelaide)
Yolanda Gill, Committee Member (Canberra)
Taylah Cowley, Committee Member (YCS)

Youth Engagement Officers

Ashish Chaulagain - National Community Organiser
Miranda Naprelec - Perth
Frederick Bruyns - Perth (Finished October 2024)
Sisilina Saukuru - Adelaide
Rachel Nguyen - Melbourne
Ann Bui - Melbourne

Caoimhe Gorrel - Parramatta
Irene Baik - Parramatta (Finished February 2024)
Sean Gehrig - Parramatta (Finished June 2024)
Jessica Nakakawa- Parramatta (Finished in Jul24)
Lauaki Masima - Parramatta (Finished July 2024)

YCW Staff and Contractors

Unless Shrestha, Admin and Finance Officer
Ganesh Bhomick - Bookkeeper
Bright HR - HR Consultant and Adviser
Louise Xerri - IT Contractor
CIB Accountants - Auditor



Special Mention and Credits

The YCW would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Miwie (Ngoc Minh Anh Nguyen) for designing this year's annual report. As an active social media volunteer and valued member of YCW Parramatta, Miwie has brought her passion, skill, and a keen eye for detail to the work. Thank you, Miwie, for your invaluable contribution!