



United Nations Youth Association of Australia

Believe in youth leadership?

Believe in peace?

Believe in change?

The United Nations Youth Association of Australia (UNYA) is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation run entirely by youth, for youth. UNYA operates on both a national and divisional level, with an UNYA division in every Australian state and territory.

Operational for over forty years, UNYA aims to increase youth awareness of the United Nations and international affairs, and in the process develop students' skills in vital areas such as public speaking, debating, negotiating, leadership and problem solving. As well fostering growing international links, UNYA directly reaches thousands of school students across Australia each year, through its events which include speakers nights, conferences, model UN Security Council competitions and education programmes.



A mock session of the UN Environment Programme



A discussion group at UNYC 2002

All UNYA members can contribute to policy groups whose task it is to formulate and update national policy. The current policies include: [Australia and the Region](#); [Economic and Social Development](#); the [Environment](#); [Human Rights](#); [Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Diversity](#); [Peace and Disarmament](#); and, [UN Reform](#). These policies are the basis of UNYA press releases, government submissions and representation more broadly.

Nationally, UNYA determines its priorities and plans at biannual meetings that include a representation of the entire membership. UNYA works with other NGO's in the community to advocate for common goals and works as part of the United Nations Association of Australia.

UNYA is responsible for selecting the Australian Youth Representative to the UN General Assembly each year. The key task of the Youth Representative is to act as a consultant on youth opinion for the Australian Government and mission, especially in regards to those issues, which most closely effect the youth of Australia.

Internationally, UNYA is fostering and developing links with UNYA's in countries throughout the world. UNYA will be participating in discussions on the development of a World Federation of UNYA's this year in Barcelona. UNYA also has close links with the UN Youth Unit and is working with other youth organisations from across the globe to improve and increase the presence and representation of youth within the UN system.

Check out the website at www.unya.asn.au for more details and to get involved!

