

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

YOUNG & RESILIENT RESEARCH CENTRE

Collaboration. Evidence. Impact.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Young and Resilient Research Centre acknowledges the Burramattagal people of the Dharug Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we carry out our work. In our work with young people and their communities, we are committed to listening to and learning from the insights of past, present, and emerging elders. We recognise the importance of young people as emerging elders. They play a vital role in preserving and revitalising First Nations culture, language, and practices; enriching our communities and guiding us toward a more inclusive, respectful, and resilient future.

OUR COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

Y&R is deeply committed to reconciliation. We understand that true reconciliation involves working with, not just for, Indigenous communities. By fostering meaningful collaboration through co-creation and amplifying Indigenous insights and experiences, we strive to build a more inclusive and equitable future for all. To this end, our staff have completed CORE Cultural Learning, an innovative course developed in partnership with AIATSIS. As a team, we are actively working to improve our understanding of the complex and vast history and cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and cultural competency within our Centre. Although we‘re only at the start of this journey, we‘re excited about where it will take us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Young and Resilient Research Centre would like to acknowledge and thank our community of staff, members, external advisory board, internship students, youth co-researchers, partner organisations, and of course, the children, young people and their families who contribute to our research. We are also grateful for the ongoing support of the Institute for Culture and Society, and Western Sydney University.



CONTENTS

OUR VISION **5**

ABOUT Y&R **6**

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR **7**

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS **8**

MESSAGE FROM A YOUNG PERSON **9**

2024 HIGHLIGHTS **10**

OUR RESEARCH **13**

- Projects 15
- Grant Success 20
- Strategic Research Development Projects 21
- Publications 23

OUR IMPACT **27**

- Our Partnerships in 2024 29
- Impact Case Study: Building Capacities 30
- Youth Co-Researcher Snapshot 31
- Impact Case Study: Advancing Knowledge 35
- Impact Case Study: Guiding Policy and Practice 38
- Impact Case Study: Shaping Public Discourse 40
- Research Participant Snapshot 42

OUR COMMUNITY **43**

- Our Board 45
- Our Team 46
- Our Youth Co-Researchers 48
- Our Team Development 51
- Our Members 53
- Our Students 56
- Our Visiting Fellows 59
- Our Partners 61

OUR OUTREACH **63**

- Events 65
- Our Seminar Series 67
- Our Media Engagement 68

APPENDICES **69**

- Research projects 70
- Publications 72
- Advisory Roles 76
- Members 77
- Collaborating Partners 79


Our vision is a world where all young people and their communities can flourish and reach their full potential in a digital society.

ABOUT THE YOUNG AND RESILIENT RESEARCH CENTRE

Our mission is to strengthen the resilience of young people and their communities, enabling them to live well and participate fully in social and economic life.

Today's globalised world holds significant prospects, but it can be tough for young people. They face many immediate and long term challenges - from high costs of living and debt to long term economic disadvantage, climate change and mental health difficulties. At the same time, technology is playing an increasing role in young people's lives.

The Young and Resilient Research Centre, housed within the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University, was established in 2019 to explore how to enhance young people's resilience in the face of these challenges - and to understand the role that digital technology can play.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



EXCELLENCE

Consolidate our position as world-leaders in the field of young people, technology and resilience.



CAPACITY

Build capacity among our members for outstanding research and leadership.



IMPACT

Positively impact the lives of young people.



PARTNERSHIP

Foster meaningful partnerships that deliver benefits to all parties.



REPUTATION

Exemplify WSU's reputation for high impact research locally, nationally and internationally.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



The Young and Resilient Research Centre continues to flourish within the Institute of Culture and Society at Western Sydney University while extending its influence globally. Now in our sixth year since founding in 2019, Y&R has evolved into a truly international force for positive change.

At Y&R, we remain committed to respecting and amplifying the views of children and young people in creating the world they will inherit. In 2024, this commitment has taken on new urgency as children and young people navigate increasingly complex challenges—from technological disruption to climate anxiety and the ripple effects of global conflicts.

Our reputation for rigour, ethics, impact and innovation has continued to strengthen, solidifying Y&R as the global leader in youth-centred research. Co-directors, Amanda Third and Phillipa Collin, have expertly steered our work through turbulent times, attracting partners and investment aligned with our vision of a world where all children and young people can leverage technology for resilience and wellbeing.

This year, our unique approach to partnership gained significant recognition in the Research Excellence through Partnership Award. By bringing together partners and children and young people, we've developed frameworks that reflect diverse lived experiences rather than adult assumptions, and champions a world where young people can exercise their rights.

Using digital tools and innovative methodologies, our youth-centred research has painted a rich picture of children's and young people's contemporary lived experiences in a diverse and rapidly changing world. When social media restrictions became a national talking point, our evidence-based advocacy ensured policy discussions included children's and young people's perspectives.

I extend my deepest thanks to our extraordinary staff, Advisory Board members, partners, supporters, and most importantly, the children and young people who participate in and shape our research. In a year marked by intensifying climate impacts and persistent global instability, this multi-sectoral partnership has never been more vital.

Looking ahead, we approach our next chapter with both optimism and determination. Together, we continue building knowledge and capabilities that address inequity and help young people and their communities not just survive but truly flourish in these challenging times.

Lesley Podesta
Chair, Y&R Advisory Board

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS



Children and young people worldwide continue facing significant challenges amid exciting opportunities. 2024 brought rapid digital evolution, mounting international conflicts, and extreme weather events—demanding renewed efforts to generate robust evidence about young people's experiences and drive coordinated, evidence-based change.

Y&R's mission is to undertake research and innovation enabling children, young people, and their supporting communities to navigate complexity and thrive regardless of circumstances. This report details our key 2024 highlights, progress toward goals, and reflections from team members, youth co-researchers, and treasured partners.

Alongside our community, we generated critical, innovative, youth-centred research, channelling insights into high-impact publications and policy and practice interventions serving children locally and internationally. True to our commitments, our research centred young people's needs, rights, and aspirations, highlighting their diverse experiences while documenting challenges and opportunities for positive change identified by the younger generation.

Our research was deeply collaborative. We undertook critical studies on diverse issues impacting children's lives in partnership with local, national, international, and transnational organisations. The Centre worked with youth co-researchers and energised interdisciplinary collaboration at WSU, guided by an outstanding Expert Advisory Board of world-leading thinkers, advocates, and industry innovators.

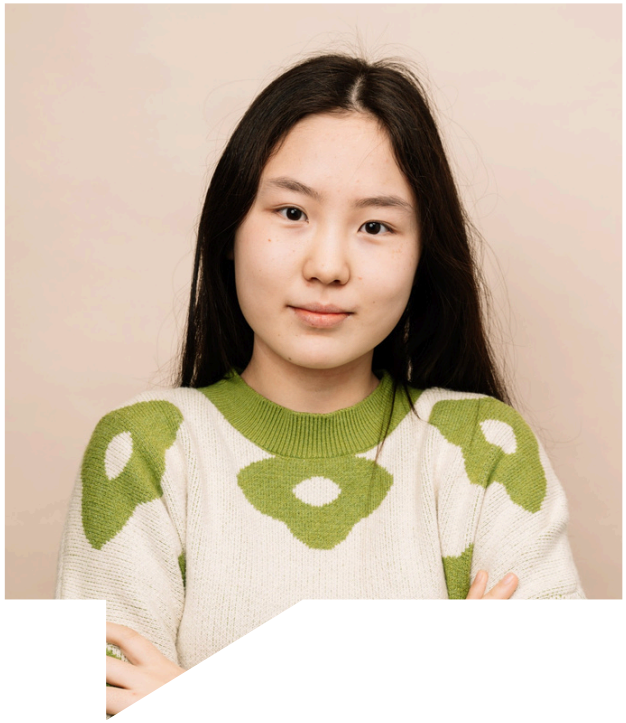
We're deeply grateful for the vibrant community around the Centre, and inspired by their passion and commitment. Through our collective will and coordinated action, we believe systems can transform to deliver better outcomes for children and young people.

We're proud of our contributions to the field in 2024, but remain aware of challenges shaping youth experience. The ever-changing social, economic, political, and technological environment presents new questions demanding innovative solutions. Responding effectively to complexity requires investigating and translating rigorous evidence into policy and practice, in partnership with children and young people.

There is no other research platform like Y&R. We stand ready to build on 2024 achievements and grow our vital work with our community. We look forward to working together with you in this vital mission.

Professors Philippa Collin & Amanda Third
Co-Directors, Y&R

A MESSAGE FROM A YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER



Fiona Jiang is a youth co-researcher who joined the Young and Resilient team in 2024.

One of my first encounters with Young & Resilient was through their Research Masterclass on Youth Co-Research. Until then, I was unfamiliar with this concept but it sparked my curiosity – and I'm so glad I attended! The moment I walked in, the energy I felt in the room was incredible. This event was more than just another learning opportunity, but an invitation to dive into something bigger. It was a platform for young people to shape the future, where our voices are not only heard in research but our active involvement is central to the process.

Since joining, I've had the privilege of working on and engaging with research ranging from digital wellbeing to accountability in healthcare to exploring youth engagement itself. One project that stands out for me focuses on Hope and Resilience, where we worked to amplify youth perspectives on imagining the ideal world of tomorrow while understanding their individual and collective experiences today. Being involved throughout the process – from interviewing young people and gathering insights to analysing data and contributing to the report—I'm really proud of how our work not only reflects youth voices but pushes others to listen.

What I love most about being part of Y&R is the shared drive to ask questions, challenge assumptions and bring our authentic selves to the conversations that matter. There's no 'one way' of working or thinking here. Instead, a shared curiosity to learn, grow and make a real impact. At Y&R, research becomes a creative, inviting process where our ideas and curiosities have potential to spark action and lead to meaningful change. From the intricacies of research methods to communicating impact, I've seen firsthand how research can be a tool for empowerment and I'm so grateful for the space to explore and learn alongside such an amazing team.

It's inspiring to see how Y&R is leading the charge in creating these spaces and as I look to the future, I hope to see more young people stepping into youth co-research. I can't wait to see how we continue to make waves together. To the young people reading this: This is your invitation – come, explore, create and lead. And for the researchers: To understand the world, you need to hear from the world. Young people have the answers—are you ready to listen?

Fiona Jiang
Y&R Youth Co-Researcher

2024 HIGHLIGHTS





$1,892,764

EXTERNAL RESEARCH INCOME

11

NEW PROJECTS

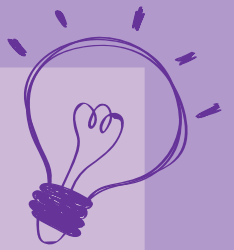
10 externally-funded
1 internally-funded

13 EXISTING PROJECTS COMPLETED

25

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

17 successful
4 unsuccessful
4 awaiting outcome



84%

success rate



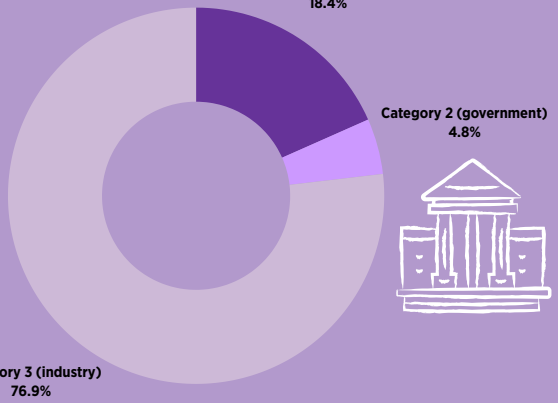


Figure 1: Y&R's 2024 external research income by type.



41

PRESENTATIONS

14 invited speakers
11 invited panelists
9 contributed presentations
7 panel chairs



37

PUBLICATIONS

2 books
10 book chapters
14 journal articles
9 reports
2 non-traditional output

+ 1 POLICY SUBMISSION

COLLABORATORS

12 countries *

38 partners

19 new
19 existing

38 facilitators trained (in our creative methods)

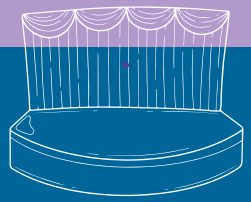
* Australia | Bangladesh | Cambodia | India | Indonesia | Lebanon | Malawi | Nepal | Philippines | Papua New Guinea | Solomon Islands | Sri Lanka



RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

709 children and young people

44 adult stakeholders



15 EVENTS

1 exhibition
3 report launches
1 masterclass
7 seminars
1 book launch
1 pre-conference
1 symposium



INCREASED ENGAGEMENT

275 media mentions
15,257 website visits
18m media reach
642 new fans and followers



4 AWARDS

Research Excellence through Partnership
Excellence in Sustainability Impact
Excellence in Research Management
Mayer Prize for best journal article

1. OUR RESEARCH





OUR RESEARCH

In 2024, Y&R extended both the scope and impact of our research programs. Building on our established foundation, we investigated diverse issues that impact children's and young people's lives - from climate justice to nutrition, and education to online safety - while continuing to forge connections with partners locally and globally.

Last year, our participatory approach engaged 709 children and young people from 12 countries as participants. We also worked with 13 young people as active co-researchers on our projects, to build a youth-centred evidence base to inform policies, programs and platforms.

The following section spotlights a selection of new projects that launched in 2024, and some highlights from ongoing projects. The research highlighted demonstrates our contributions to expanding knowledge that not only advances academic understanding, but catalyses meaningful action toward more equitable, sustainable and youth-centred digital societies.

Each project is denoted by a symbol representing the research stream and SDG that the project is most closely aligned with. Our streams and SDGs are cross-cutting and each project contributes to multiple streams and goals simultaneously.



Figure 2: Y&R's research streams

NEW PROJECTS

CULTURE-CENTRED FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL DIGITAL DESIGN



This pilot project uses participatory and youth co-research methodologies to investigate young people's understandings of culture and how this intersects with their digital media. We will use this information to develop a framework that will guide the design of digital services and products to move towards a better, inclusive internet for young people in diverse cultural contexts.

In 2024, we partnered with MICA and the SEJIWA Foundation to gather insights from 56 young people in Australia, India and Indonesia. The success of the pilot phase positioned Y&R to secure a significant grant from the Internet Society Foundation to take the work forward in 2025. This grant will allow us to scale the project to ten countries, and further develop, test and refine the framework in diverse cultures.

CHILD-LED ADVOCACY AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION: CHILD-LED RESEARCH



In partnership with World Vision, this project works with 15 youth leaders in five countries across the South Asia Pacific region (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka) to equip them with research knowledge and skills to advocate for practical action to address hunger and malnutrition in their countries.

In 2024, Y&R ran four research training workshops with youth leaders and their mentors, on topics such as research methods, workshop design and delivery, data analysis, and reporting on findings. This training equipped them with the skills and confidence to design and run their own research projects exploring children's and adolescent's views, priorities and lived experiences on nutrition issues in their countries.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION CHILD RIGHTS TASKFORCE



This project extends and adapts work undertaken in 2021 by Y&R to co-design the eSafety Commissioner's Youth Council to guide youth-centred policy making and programming on online safety. It uses a youth-centred, collaborative approach to design a process to implement youth taskforces in up to five countries which have been supported by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to develop national child online protection strategies.

In 2024, Y&R trained 23 local facilitators from partner organisations to run workshops with 120 young people in three countries: Indonesia, Lebanon, and Malawi. In 2025, we will run workshops in an additional two countries as identified by the ITU. The project will produce country-specific recommendations for enabling young people's participation through youth taskforces for online safety in each country.



Participants in a creative, participatory workshop in India for the ‘Culture-Centred Framework for Ethical Digital Design’ project.

‘THE POWER OF RECOGNISING MORE’ IN EDUCATION



The widening gap between advantaged and disadvantaged learners is greater than ever with impacts for immediate wellbeing and future prospects. How learning is recognised is contributing to the problem: it is increasingly irrelevant to post-school pathways and has a negative impact on mental-health and wellbeing. This project is a youth-led, action-research study of student experiences of learning recognition. It is the second ‘cycle’ of a systems-change initiative, led by Learning Creates Australia, to create a more equitable education system.

Through training and collaboration with four youth co-researchers, in 2024 we designed, conducted, analysed and reported findings from qualitative workshops and interviews exploring the perspective of 60 young people (aged 15 to 29) in Victoria, NSW and online. The findings will inform reforms to the current system, specifically how broader recognition can be implemented in student-centred ways and support transformations in the education and post-school learning system.

FROM PARTICIPATION TO ACCOUNTABILITY IN HEALTH CARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



While there is increased enthusiasm for youth participation in health research, policy and service development, engaging in a meaningful way with young people is not standard practice. Evidence suggests that a focus on accountability to young people will help to dramatically increase the understanding and practical change required to transform the system. Through our work with the Wellbeing Health & Youth (WH&Y) Commission and our partners, Accountable Futures Collective, this project investigates what accountability in health means and develops youth-centred evidence and mechanisms to support change.

This project uses a co-research and participatory design process. In 2024, building on our Youth Engaged Policy process and indicators tool we undertook cycles of co-research and co-creation with 3 youth co-researchers, and 29 young participants to investigate, design and test mechanisms for youth-centred accountability in health. The resources from this project will be released in 2025.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND DEMOCRACY: WHAT MATTERS?



The annual What Matters competition run by the Whitlam Institute within Western Sydney University provides unique insight into what matters to young people; their interests and concerns regarding social, economic, cultural and political issues, and their visions of what society could do to address these problems. The program has accumulated more than 50,000 entries, comprising a rich archive of young people’s views across Australia from 2004 onwards.

In 2024, Y&R conducted quantitative and qualitative textual analysis of archived entries to the What Matters competition between 2019 and 2023. In doing so, it builds on initial research on entries between 2009 and 2018 to build a rich longitudinal dataset, deepening our understanding of the thoughts, concerns and priorities of young Australians over the past 20 years.



> Working with Y&R has been an incredibly empowering experience. The process was collaborative, challenging, and incredibly grounding. We weren't just talking about equity and recognition, we were living it in the way we worked together. It reminded me that research doesn't have to be something done *to* communities, it can be something done *with* and *by* them.
>
> - LINH, 20, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

In 2024, several multi-year projects continued research activities and achieved milestones. We showcase highlights from some of these projects below.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT-CENTRED NUTRITION INDICATORS (CAN_I)



Led by Y&R member, Dr Catharine Fleming, the CAN_I project has used creative, participatory workshop methodologies to develop a suite of child-centred indicators for nutrition. With support from Y&R's strategic research development funds in 2023 and 2024, the CAN_I project moved into phase 2 with a global pilot of the indicators. In 2024, the team also developed measures for the indicators which were adapted and utilised across 5 Southeast Asia Pacific countries as part of the Child-Led Advocacy and Meaningful Participation project with World Vision. Off the back of this work, the team successfully secured funding from Nutrition International to develop specific indicators for adolescent girls in Pakistan. The team will partner with a local agency to tailor the indicators and develop and test a toolkit for implementation. The project will begin in 2025.

NEW POSSIBILITIES: YOUNG PEOPLE AND DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL



The New Possibilities project examines the way student leadership, organisation and participation in climate action occurs across online and offline spaces. With partners from RMIT, ANU, USyd, and in collaboration with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, the team are exploring how youth climate action is shaping Australia's political and democratic culture, during a time of global, social and political change. During 2024, the project team conducted digital and local ethnography at six rallies in three states, conducted 89 surveys, eight interviews, and co-analysed data in a workshop with young people.

The research team produced five publications and delivered ten presentations at international academic conferences and invited talks. Four youth co-researchers and interns collaborated on our project.

EXAMINING YOUTH DIGITAL WELLBEING IN AUSTRALIA AND THE PHILIPPINES



Led by A/Prof Ben Hanckel, this project explores young people's experiences of digital health interventions across Australia and the Philippines, and how they can best enhance young people's wellbeing. In 2024, the project completed Phase One, this included an analysis of digital mental health documents, and interviews with 42 digital health stakeholders, across Australia and the Philippines. We presented the findings at two conferences (UK and Australia), within researcher networks and with key stakeholders in Australia and Philippines. The project has a youth advisory board (7 young people) and a professional advisory board (7 professionals and experts), who are informing the direction of the project. We began recruiting for Phase Two which will involve interviews with young people at two time points to examine their digital (mental) health practices and change over time.

GRANT SUCCESS

In 2024 Y&R was successful in securing a number of significant grants. This success has built upon our previous work and is testament to the international reputation of the Centre and its people. These projects will be a focus of our work in 2025.

DECOLONISING DIGITAL DESIGN: TOWARD SAFE AND INCLUSIVE DIGITAL EXPERIENCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Funder: Internet Society Foundation

This grant was one of only 12 projects funded internationally from over 400 proposals. The project builds on the Culture-Centred Design pilot led by Y&R in 2024, and will develop a framework to foreground children's perspectives in ethical digital design.

CHILD-CENTRED EVIDENCE TO DRIVE MEANINGFUL SOCIAL CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

Funder: Australian Research Council, Linkage Scheme

With funding from the ARC Linkage Scheme, this project brings together Y&R's longstanding industry partnerships with child-rights organisations in Australia, to engage children in generating evidence about child-rights issues in Australia and PNG.

BATYR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM LONGITUDINAL EVALUATION

Funder: Balnaves Foundation, via batyr

Building on a track record of collaboration with batyr, including our evaluation of the OurHerd platform in 2024, this grant was awarded to conduct a 5-year, national evaluation of the long-term impacts of batyr's preventative mental health programs in schools and universities.

YOUTH VOICES ON AI: SHAPING A SAFER DIGITAL FUTURE

Funder: Safe Online

This highly prestigious grant from Safe Online, one of three funded internationally, expands our partnership with Save the Children, to explore children's attitudes towards generative AI, and how AI platforms can prevent harm to children.

In 2024, we funded 6 strategic research development projects for new and existing School and Institute-based members. These funds are used to support research development or engagement activities aimed at fostering new partnerships and grants.

WHAT CONSTITUTES BRILLIANT CARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Lead: Ann Dadich & Ben Hanckel

Building on the lead researchers' work on conceptualising brilliant care in the field of health sociology, this pilot project aims to establish what constitutes brilliant care for young people.

Funding was used to develop and pilot-test a survey questionnaire, create a database of relevant organisations who work with and/or support young people, and obtain ethics approvals. In 2025, the research team will deploy the survey, conduct interviews, analyse data, and present the findings via a co-authored manuscript. These outputs will contribute to a program of research that aspires to culminate with a model of brilliant care for young people, as well as resources to promote and sustain brilliant care, including recommendations that can be readily translated into policies relevant to young people.

THE ROLE OF DIGITAL PLATFORMS IN SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' WELLBEING

Lead: Julia Kantek and Donna James

Going to university in another country is a significant life transition that impacts a person's wellbeing. Additionally, the rising cost of living, rental crisis, and changing visa requirements are some of the many challenges international students must overcome to study in Australia. This project asks how international students develop resilience and healthy wellbeing during these challenging times, and what role do digital technologies play in helping them achieve this?

Funding was used to conduct a scoping review of digital technologies, international student resilience and wellbeing, and to begin recruitment for a survey and focus groups to gather primary data. The project aims to show how digital platforms can be effectively leveraged by policymakers and other stakeholders to better support international students to manage their wellbeing and develop resilience throughout their studies.

YOUNG CITIZENS, URBAN SPACE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES

Lead: Khandakar Farid

Young people's involvement with the city is crucial to creating an inclusive city. However, they are often not sufficiently involved in city and place-making processes, and there is a lack of youth infrastructure and spaces where young people can socialise and take part in leisure activities. This project explores young people's relationships with urban spaces and reviews Penrith local government's strategic plans to analyse the availability of urban spaces appropriate and accessible for young people in the local area.

Funding was used to conduct a background literature review and gather and analyse local government strategic plans to assess focus on youth engagemnet and youth-friendly spaces. In 2025, the research team will draw on these findings to draft a report and recommendations for the future provision of youth engagement, renewed social spaces, and recreation places in the city.

GENDER, SEXUALITY, WORK, AND MONEY: EXAMINING YOUNG ADULTS' FINANCIAL DECISION-MAKING IN RELATIONSHIPS AND WORK-FAMILY EXPECTATIONS

Lead: Emily Wolfinger, Ben Hanckel, Kate Huppatz

Broad historical shifts have impacted how people 'do' gender and relationships, particularly in relation to negotiating work and finances. Such shifts have resulted in new possibilities and challenges for young people commencing their adult lives in contexts marked by increasing labour market risks, housing unaffordability, and high living costs. This project examines young people's financial decision-making in intimate relationships, work-family plans and expectations for the future as they intersect with gender and sexuality within the lifecourse.

Drawing on interviews conducted by the research team with diverse young adults (20-30 years) living, working, and/or studying in Greater Western Sydney, funding was used to conduct a literature review, draft journal publications, and present findings at the Australian Sociological Association conference.

EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN STUDENTS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

Lead: Josh Kalemba

This pilot project aims to explore the experiences of African youth (ages 18-25) studying at universities in New South Wales, Western Australia, and Victoria. Employing a qualitative approach, the study seeks to uncover how these students select their courses, adapt to Westernised educational settings, manage their psychosocial well-being, and how these experiences impact their ability to transition into adulthood.

Funding was used to collect and analyse data from interviews with students from African backgrounds. The research team also established a relationship with the African Australian Advocacy Centre as part of this work. Moving in 2025, the research team will publish their findings and provide policy recommendations on how institutions can foster inclusivity and offer better support for young international students from African backgrounds.



See Child and Adolescent Nutrition Indicators (CAN_I) project for sixth project funded.

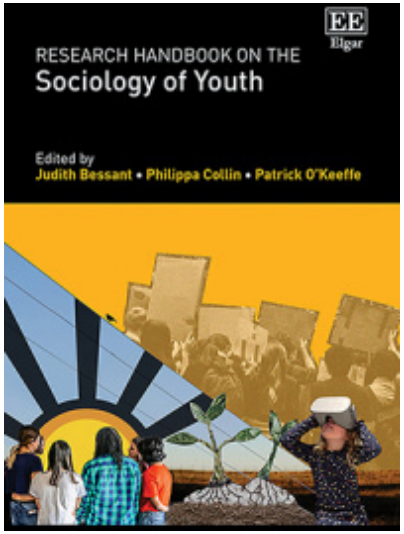
PUBLICATIONS

We continued to produce high-quality publications in 2024, contributing to our strategic priority area of building excellence. Our publications spanned a range of themes and audiences.

We produced 2 books, 7 book chapters, 12 journal articles, 8 reports, and 1 non-traditional research output. In this section, we showcase a selection of publications released in 2024. See Appendix 2 for a full list of 2024 publications and the Y&R website for links to full text of all reports.

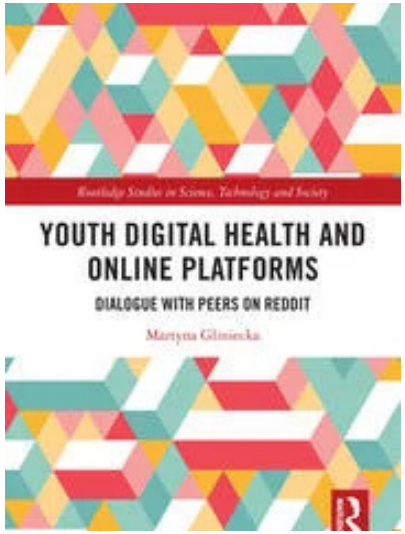
MAYER PRIZE FOR BEST ARTICLE

Prof Pip Collin and colleagues from RMIT (Prof Rob Watts and Prof Judith Bessant) were awarded the Australian Journal of Political Science's 2024 Mayer Prize for their article on politics through the lens of young female climate leaders published in the previous year.



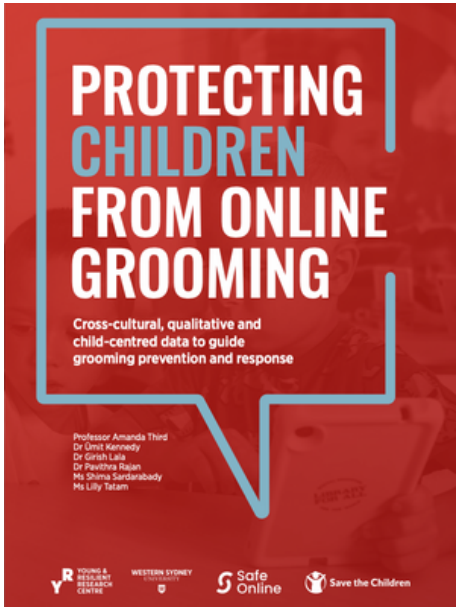
RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF YOUTH

In this Research Handbook, researchers from the Global North and South examine the social, political, cultural and ecological processes that inform what it means to be young. It explores the diversity of youth experiences and ways young people live their lives, responding to and actively working to overcome inequality, adversity and planetary crises.



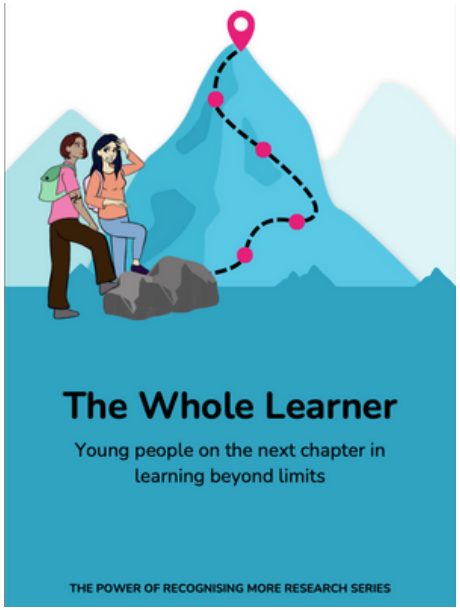
YOUTH DIGITAL HEALTH AND ONLINE PLATFORMS

This book, authored by Y&R recent PhD graduate Martyna Gliniecka focuses on young people's use of the digital platform Reddit for health. Drawing upon dialogism theory, the book explores how young people produce a youth-led discourse of digital health, different from the adult-led framing represented in youth digital health research, policy, and service delivery.



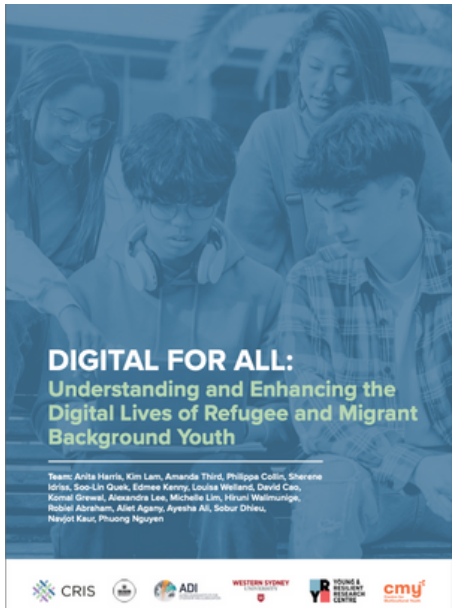
PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ONLINE GROOMING

This report presents findings from 604 children across seven countries to understand how they experience and respond to interactions with unknown people online. The report highlights children's calls for better education, technical innovations, and support from adults to navigate online interactions safely.



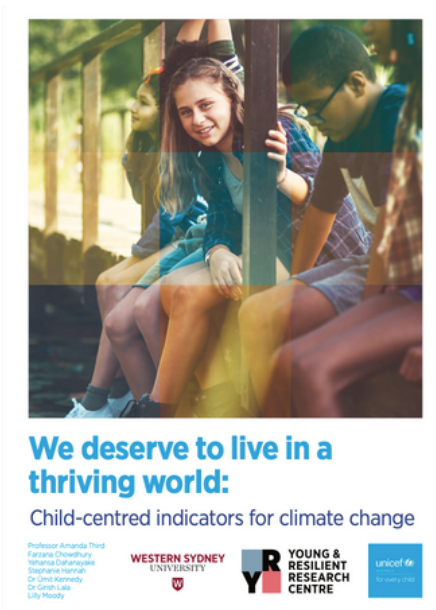
THE WHOLE LEARNER

This report reflects findings from workshops and interviews with young people across Australia who are calling for an education system that moves beyond narrow academic results to better recognise their whole selves. This is the next report in the Power of Recognising More Research Series and was co-led by young emerging researchers.



DIGITAL FOR ALL

This project investigated and identified the factors that enhance digital participation amongst refugee and migrant background youth in Victoria, Australia. We had a diverse team of researchers and community partners collaborate with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, and this report proposes strategies to enhance participation in the digital world.



WE DESERVE TO LIVE IN A THRIVING WORLD

This report contains a practical tool to support the public, private and civil society sectors to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate the short to long-term impacts of climate policies and interventions, in partnership with children and young people. It documents the views of 49 children and young people from across Northern NSW, Western Sydney, and the Upper Hunter.



> The [child-centred indicators for climate change] project and our partnership [with Y&R] are an excellent demonstration of how meaningful, youth-centred research can translate into impactful climate advocacy and policy that has the potential to create sustainable worlds for children and young people today, and into the future. By placing children and young people at the centre, this framework can aid efforts to ensure that children and young people are not only protected from the worst effects of climate change but can thrive in a rapidly changing world.

- UNICEF AUSTRALIA

OSCAP.ORG: ONLINE SAFETY CAMPAIGN ASSESSMENT TOOL

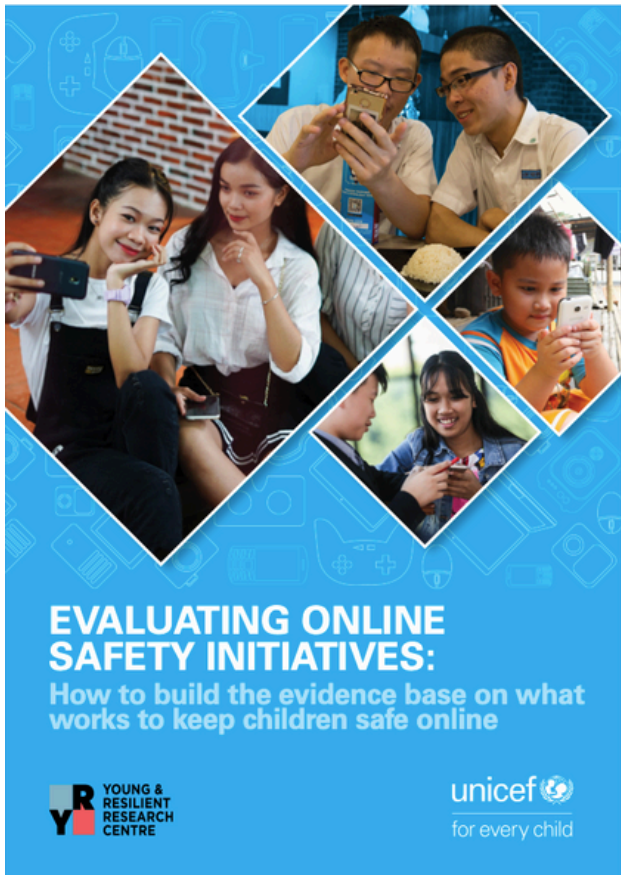
With funding from UNICEF's East Asia Pacific Regional Office (UNICEF EAPRO), Y&R worked with web developer, Sebastian Grant, to develop an online tool - oscap.org - to support organisations to plan evidence-based evaluations of online initiatives designed to address child exploitation online.

This project built on previous work undertaken by Y&R with UNICEF EAPRO in 2022 to develop an evaluation framework to assess online safety education campaigns for children, with a focus on online bullying and online grooming. (Read the report from phase one here.)

The OSCAP platform includes an underlying, evidence-based indicator framework, associated supporting information guides, and an online tool to operationalise the framework in applied settings. The tool guides users through a series of prompts to identify a theory of change for their campaign, what and how they can measure to understand if their campaign is working, and the type of evaluation that will work best in their contexts. It produces a detailed report to support organisations to plan their evaluation, including a selection of relevant indicators and measures, suggestions for activities, and advice on how to make sure the evaluation is successful.

Y&R worked closely with UNICEF EAPRO to develop the tool, and collaborated with UNICEF country offices in Cambodia and Thailand to trial and test the evaluation framework. The process was guided by a Regional Think Tank on Child Online Protection, comprised of academia, UN agencies, NGOs and the ICT sector.

The tool was launched as part of the ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection in Bali in September to a diverse audience of government, scholarly, NGO and industry stakeholders. UNICEF EAPRO are eager to further activate OSCAP by sharing and encouraging wide cross-sector use. Planning is underway for Y&R-hosted online sensitisation sessions in 2025 for UNICEF Offices and other interested agencies to inform, promote, and support OSCAP use by diverse international organisations.



2. OUR IMPACT





OUR IMPACT

Youth participation is at the heart of what we do. Through engaged, youth-centred research and knowledge translation, we build capacities, guide policy and practice, advance knowledge, and shape public discourse. Our work has ripple effects - creating thriving individuals, empowered communities, and responsive institutions - leading to a more equitable, informed and resilient digital society where young people thrive.

In this section, we share some case studies that illustrate how our research created ripples in 2024: From upskilling and empowering cohorts of young people with experience and knowledge to build their careers and advocate for issues that impact them; to developing tools to support organisations to supercharge the services and support they provide young people. From building a world first evidence-base on children's and young people's digital practices across the global south (in partnership with our valued partners); to recentring public discourse on ensuring the best interests of children and young people are prioritised. 2024 was a big year!



EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Y&R were proud to accept the award for Excellence in Sustainability Impact at the 2024 WSU Vice Chancellor Excellence Awards. The award recognises our suite of youth-centred research that is advancing greater, urgent action on climate change, alongside children and young people. Our team are generating engaged and actionable research with young people that is being channelled directly into sites of debate and decision-making. Through events, tools and resources, we're advancing the role of children and young people in community, government, and industry decision-making to create more sustainable, just futures for the next generation.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS IN 2024 (according to our partners)

Our partnerships are central to what we do and their feedback is important to us. In 2024, 28 partners completed our annual survey. This is what they said.

96% agreed our partnership...

GENERATED NEW KNOWLEDGE OR EVIDENCE

INFLUENCED POLICY OR PRACTICE

69% agreed our partnership...

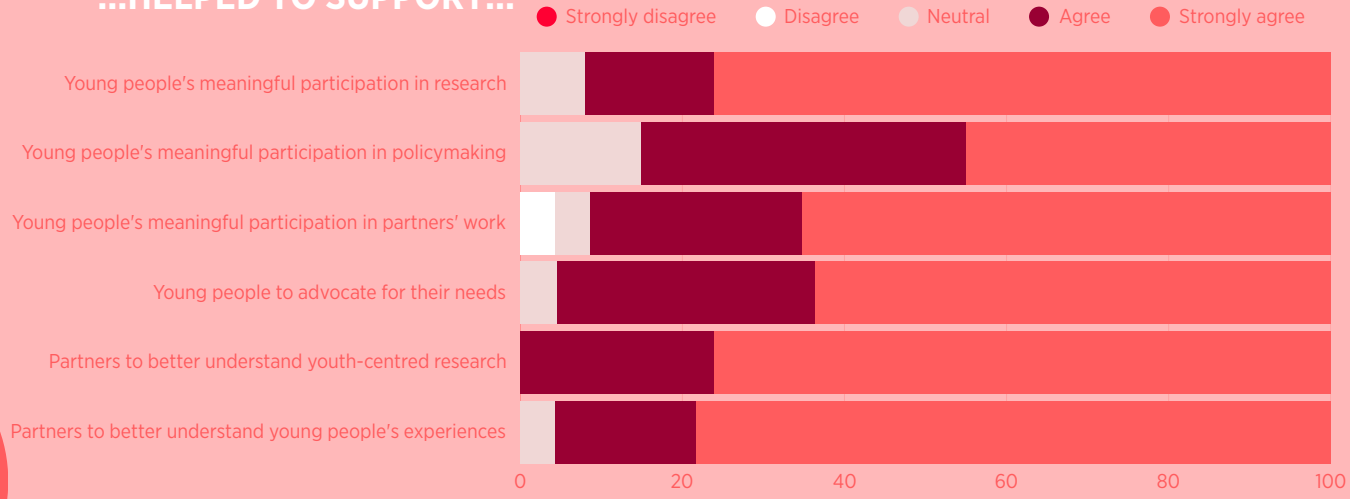
76% agreed our partnership...

BUILT CAPACITIES (IN YOUNG PEOPLE & ORGS)

CREATED BETTER OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

69% agreed our partnership...

...HELPED TO SUPPORT...



...AND CONTRIBUTED TO 14 OF 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



BUILDING CAPACITIES

UPSKILLING THE NEXT GENERATION



Y&R's commitment to training and upskilling the next generation of researchers and professionals is what makes us unique. Combining our team's expertise in youth engagement and qualitative research, we hosted three Masters' of Social Work students on placement, trained 13 aspiring youth co-researchers at Y&R, and an additional 21 young people through other organisation's programs in 2024, to build their capacities and skills.

Our youth co-researchers actively work across a range of projects, exploring issues such as climate justice, digital practices and online safety, education and learning. We give them the training they need to design research, facilitate workshops, analyse data, generate findings, and create outputs.

On the 'Child-led Advocacy and Meaningful Participation' project with World Vision in 2024, our team trained 15 youth leaders in 5 countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka) to design their own research projects, exploring children's and young people's views on malnutrition and hunger in their countries. On another youth-led project - 'The Power of Recognising More' with Learning Creates - which explored young people's lived experiences of learning, we supported youth associates through all stages of the research process. From developing research questions to facilitating conversation circles, analysing data and writing reports. We also continued our longstanding work with the Centre for Multicultural Youth to implement the next iteration of EXPLORE - a research capacity-building program for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Since 2019, we've helped train over 30 youth researchers through this program.

Together with our researchers, the young people we worked with in 2024 contributed to a youth engagement toolkit for the Federal Office for Youth, a research report on broader learning recognition, and an academic publication on children's experiences of climate change (to name a few!

These co-created outputs have helped to guide policy and practice, enhance knowledge, and shape public discourse on a wide range of issues affecting the lives of children and young people. However, most importantly, through this work, we have equipped our co-researchers and students with skills and knowledge in youth-centred research, which builds their critical thinking, increases their confidence, and gives them a head start in their professional careers. With these skills, our youth co-researchers can effectively advocate for the issues that affect them - empowering them to become the changemakers of tomorrow.

At the same time, their unique perspectives help to ensure our research remains youth-centred and guided by what truly matters to young people. In the long term, our work together means we are better able to create positive outcomes for young people, by supporting them to thrive, and ensuring that the communities and institutions who support them are responsive to their needs.

YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER SNAPSHOT

We surveyed our youth co-researchers to find out more about their experiences working with Y&R, and what impact they feel their involvement has, and will have into the future. This is what they had to say.

11 YOUTH CO-RESEARCHERS
(responded to the survey)

16-25 YEARS OLD

6 RESPONDENTS JOINED Y&R FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2024
(4 joined in 2023, and 1 first worked with us in 2019!)

OUR YOUTH CO-RESEARCHERS WERE INVOLVED IN EVERY STAGE OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS.



> [My experience working with Y&R has been] excellent. I found the team to be pleasant to work with and accommodating to my difficult schedule as a full-time student. The team really looked out for each other and the delegation of tasks was fair while also pushing me past what I thought I could do.
>
> - JENON, 24, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

> It has been a really positive and welcoming experience working with Y&R so far! The team is always open to sharing new ideas, receiving feedback and you know that your input is valued.
>
> - TAMIMA, 23, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



We were proud to receive Western Sydney University's Research Excellence through Partnership award at the 2024 WSU Vice Chancellor's Excellence Awards. This award recognises our commitment to creating meaningful, ongoing partnerships with young people to co-create new knowledge for impact. We have successfully scaled ongoing collaborative youth partnerships through our co-research programs and platforms (e.g., EXPLORE, WH&Y Commission), co-created youth-centred research outputs, and supported young people's personal and professional growth.

WE'RE CREATING

POSITIVE OUTCOMES AND LONG-TERM IMPACTS

WITH (AND FOR) OUR YOUTH CO-RESEARCHERS

"IN MY ROLE AS A YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER WITH Y&R, I..."

PARTICIPATED MEANINGFULLY IN YOUTH-CENTRED RESEARCH
81% strongly agreed

DEEPENED MY UNDERSTANDING OF YOUTH-CENTRED RESEARCH
81% strongly agreed

GAINED VALUABLE SKILLS IN YOUTH-CENTRED RESEARCH
81% strongly agreed

GAINED VALUABLE SKILLS TO ADVOCATE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S NEEDS, RIGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS
72% strongly agreed

"MY ROLE AS A YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER WILL..."

45% strongly agreed — **HELP ME REALISE MY ASPIRATIONS AND POTENTIAL**

45% strongly agreed — **HELP OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE REALISE THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND POTENTIAL**

55% strongly agreed — **HELP CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE, INFORMED, AND RESILIENT SOCIETY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

> "[My experience working with Y&R has been] great! I have been given numerous opportunities to learn new skills or utilise skills I already have. I have been supported by a tight knit and collaborative team to help me succeed."
>
> - LOGAN, 19, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

WHAT OUR YOUTH CO-RESEARCHERS SAY

Working with Y&R has been an incredibly rewarding experience. It's helped me grow both personally and professionally and has given me the chance to work on issues I genuinely care about. As a young person, it's really nice that being young is seen as a qualification for this work, rather than a barrier.

- JEAN, 21, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

I thoroughly enjoyed working in an environment that wasn't just collaborative, it was caring, reflective, and values-driven. I especially appreciated how deeply relational the process was; we weren't just producing insights, we were building trust, learning from each other, and forming connections that extended beyond the research. It reminded me that meaningful change happens when people feel seen, heard, and supported.

- LINH, 20, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

[My experience of working with Y&R] has been amazing! Such a supportive atmosphere, encouraging learning spaces and open mindedness. [I enjoy] the encouragement to speak my own voice, raise up key issues, and the feeling of being truly valued.

- YEHANSA, 16, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

[I really enjoyed] the culture - multiple generations working together to ensure knowledge is being created and disseminated with insightful perspectives and breadth.

- CHARLIE, 19, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

WHAT OUR PARTNERS SAY

The EXPLORE group (with CMY), is a fabulous example of collaborative, community engaged practice that puts young people at the centre of the work and has their perspectives as a critical part of research. The training of young people in the EXPLORE group has provided them with research knowledge and processes which has helped them when working on projects.

- CENTRE FOR RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

While a few of the children have participated in child led research, many gained new skills in communication; formulating research questions, planning for focus group discussions and data collection and analysis. There are definite related gains such as the empowered voice of the young researchers, their increased confidence and desire to undertake and complete their individual and group tasks. This level of empowerment, growing knowledge and interest auger well for when the children make recommendations and deliver them to policymakers and continue to engage with them in continued advocacy.

- WORLD VISION

Y&R provided excellent leadership for the WH&Y Commission of ~40 young people interested in health advocacy and research. The young people benefitted from opportunities to build capacity in areas such as conducting & disseminating research, presenting in webinars for diverse audiences, helping to train junior doctors, appearing in the media and speaking with policy makers.

- UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Y&R is truly a leader in creating, supporting and scaling youth partnerships that bring about real change to youth health policy, the professional care and services they receive.

- AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH

ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S DIGITAL PRACTICES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH



Building the knowledge and evidence-base around children and young people's digital practices and online experiences is one of our key areas of work. Drawing on our team's expertise in youth participatory research and the cultural knowledge of local partner organisations around the world, we have generated some of the world's first evidence bases on children's digital practice in the global south.

We have achieved this by employing our unique distributed data generation methodology. In this method, we develop youth-centred, creative workshops to explore children's online experiences, train local partners, and adapt the activities to local contexts, to ensure they are relevant and culturally appropriate. Our trusted partner organisations draw on their ethical youth engagement practices to facilitate workshops with young people in their countries and feed data back to us to co-analyse. Together, we're learning more and more about how children and young people engage with digital technologies.

In 2024, our methods were delivered in 11 countries in the global south. Often, our research is some of the only research that has been done - locally and cross-culturally - on child's digital practices. This was the case in the 'Protecting Children from Online Grooming' project. In Cambodia - one of the seven countries where workshops were delivered - there was a limited evidence base on how children engage with strangers online. However, by generating evidence on this topic, our local partner - Save the Children Cambodia - has leveraged the report findings to successfully advocate for the (evidence-based) inclusion of children's online protection in Cambodia's National Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children.

Partners across Brazil (SaferNet Brazil), Indonesia (SEJIWA), Lebanon (Dar Al Amal), Malawi (Save the Children Malawi), and Papua New Guinea have also highlighted how our work together has helped to fill knowledge gaps and generate new - often surprising - insights into how children and adolescents use social media, navigate online risks, and seek help. In turn, this evidence can strengthen future programs, interventions, policy and advocacy.

> "During the workshop, we heard many interesting views [from children] that surprised me, particularly about social media influences and the areas where young people seek help...What excites me is that this [research] has the potential to contribute to policy development, as well as improved online and in-person support for Papua New Guinea."
>
> - SERAH PYAWA (PNG)

With deeper understanding and more robust evidence, governments, community sector organisations, educators and families all over the world can make informed decisions about the best ways to support young people in online environments. By doing so, we can help young people to confidently and safely navigate life's opportunities and challenges, and realise their fullest potentials.



> The commitment of Y&R to enabling and scaling the influence of youth partnerships will help me – and many others like me – to address critical issues impacting the lives of young people. Young people are so often not considered or even given an opportunity to have a voice in these conversations that directly impact them. However Y&R and the WH&Y Commission (WH&Y-C) do - by providing a safe space for young people's opinions to not only be considered, but most importantly respected and valued. Y&R and the WH&Y-C treats us as professionals and experts in our own experiences, the way it always should be done to ensure the best outcomes in young people's health and wellbeing.

- GRACE, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

WHAT OUR PARTNERS SAY

The more we engaged with Y&R team and your amazing research, the more we were able to tap into the positive and optimistic views [about] young people and tech, and shift [away] from the deficit lens. Your research helped us understand this more deeply and...we feel we are more connected to young people's views.

- TELSTRA FOUNDATION

The partnership (with Y&R) generated additional knowledge and evidence on issues emerging on child online protection in Malawi. Furthermore, it has given us an opportunity to learn which will help in the designing of programs. The data has helped us to understand the complexity of online exploitation and helped to explore new areas of intervention such as parental engagement in online safety.

- SAVE THE CHILDREN MALAWI

Our partnership with Y&R has generated significant new knowledge, resources, and evidence that have proven valuable for both my organization and the wider research and professional community. The research focused on the issues impacting teenagers in Indonesia provided crucial insights into the challenges faced by this demographic, particularly in the context of social and developmental changes. These findings have allowed us to better understand the evolving needs and behaviors of young people, which has directly informed and enhanced our approaches and programs.

- SEJIWA (INDONESIA)

The impact of Y&R'S work within PROJECT ROCKIT is significant in the evidence you provide us to further promote and scale our work. From improving our workshop content and approach to delivery, through to providing an evidence base to share with partners, funders and schools - it all contributes to our ongoing impact.

- PROJECT ROCKIT

GUIDING POLICY AND PRACTICE

SUPPORTING YOUTH-CENTRED AND ENGAGED PRACTICE



We aim for our research to not only generate new knowledge - we want our work to translate into actionable policy and practice outcomes. To do this, our team works closely alongside our network of partner organisations who serve and support young people. In 2024, we collaborated with 38 organisations from government, NGOs, philanthropy, and tertiary institutions at local, national and international levels.

We apply our engaged, youth-centred approach across the whole research process. Working closely with partner organisations, our processes and outputs help to lay a blueprint for best practice youth engagement - levelling up our partners' existing practice, or introducing new ways of working that puts young people at the centre.

We create detailed toolkits, manuals, guides and activities to engage young people meaningfully on various issues - and train representatives from partner organisations (38 in 2024) in these methods. Most importantly, we practice what we preach, by working closely with youth co-researchers to deliver our research.

In 2024, the Australian Government Office for Youth commissioned us to develop their Youth Engagement Toolkit for public servants. To develop the toolkit, we worked alongside two youth co-researchers and consulted widely with 50 young people through surveys, interviews and workshops, as well as 13 government stakeholders. The toolkits are currently being activated to support government employees to work ethically and meaningfully with young people - strengthening youth-centred practice and policy alike.

Longstanding partners organisations - such as PROJECT ROCKIT (Australia), SEJIWA (Indonesia) and SaferNet (Brazil) - and more recent partners - such as the Telstra Foundation (Australia) and World Vision - say that our youth engagement approaches have informed the ways they work. By equipping them with tools, and demonstrating how youth engagement can be done meaningfully in research practice, we have helped to "validate, improve and innovate" (PROJECT ROCKIT) our partners' youth participation models.

> "Our partnership [with Y&R] has significantly influenced our youth participation practices. The partnership has provided legitimacy to our longstanding approach AND identified areas to improve and deepen our practices. Other organisations within our sector now reach out to us regularly for guidance and collaboration on their own projects."
>
> - PROJECT ROCKIT

Greater capacity to support and engage young people in practice leads to robust policies, programs, products and services that more effectively respond to young people's experiences. In doing so, we can better address complex issues - from online safety, to mental health, or climate change - and create more equitable, informed and resilient for young people everywhere.

WHAT OUR PARTNERS SAY

Within our organisation, this partnership has enhanced our ability to design and implement more effective programs for youth engagement. The insights from the research have also helped us refine our approach to working with young people, ensuring that our programs are more aligned with the challenges they are facing in their daily lives. By incorporating the findings into our discussions and educational materials, we have been able to foster a more relevant and effective learning environment that resonates with the youth.

- SEJIWA (INDONESIA)

We love your youth-centred approach and expertise - its so refreshing and differentiates you from everyone. The team has really informed the [Telstra] Foundation's understanding of the importance of genuinely working with young people in an authentic way. Y&R approaches work with a lens of excellence and you don't give lip service to youth-centred design and evaluation - you live it.

- TELSTRA FOUNDATION

Y&R's focus on empowering young people in the projects they work on is a significant reason batyr values our ongoing partnership. From growing internal capacity for M&E, ethical collection of data and training youth co-researchers, they have had significant influence in how we approach engaging with young people for research and evaluation.

- BATYR

[Y&R's] outputs have been used to guide how we interact with young people in a professional context e.g. ensuring remuneration, diversity, inclusion and flexibility with working hours to accommodate the young people's competing priorities.

- UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

SHAPING PUBLIC DISCOURSE

CENTRING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S BEST INTERESTS



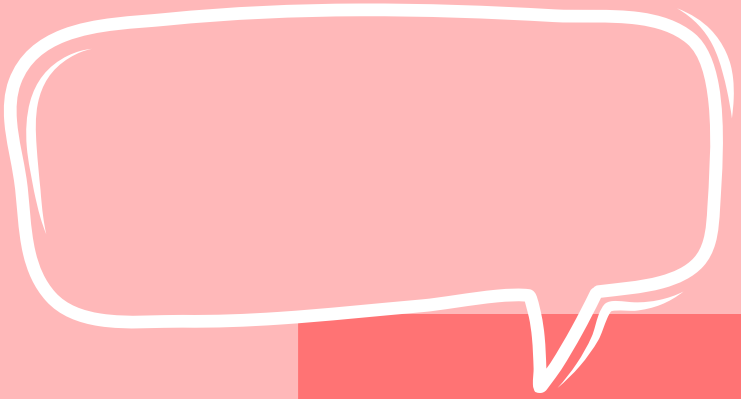
Our research doesn't stop on the desks of academics or policymakers. We take our evidence and research out into the community - through media, outreach and public engagement - to shape the public conversation. Our team of researchers, students and young people are not just experts in subject matter relating to children and young people, they're also skilled communicators - from public speaking to visual design. This means we're able to advocate for the best interests of children and young people - on issues like social media use and climate justice - in public conversations.

We do this through talking to the media, leveraging our communication platforms, and organising public events like art exhibitions and report launches. This ensures our message reaches diverse audiences. In 2024, Y&R hosted eight public events with over 550 attendees from the general public. One of the highlights was the Art of Climate Change Exhibition, organised by the New Possibilities project team and Edge Impact, at the Greenhouse Climate Tech Hub in Sydney. The event showcased 50 climate protest posters created by Western Sydney University students that communicate the urgent need for action on climate change. 127 people came to view the artworks and listen to panel discussions between our researchers, Prof Pip Collin and A/Prof Michelle Catanzaro, and industry leaders. Even after the event, the artworks "continuously spark meaningful and engaged discussions and human interactions" (Edge Impact). Importantly, these artworks bring into focus young people's participation in climate change advocacy, and ask us all to consider the impacts of climate change on children and young people, as well as possible solutions.

Meanwhile, Prof Amanda Third, with reset.tech and the Australian Child Rights Taskforce, galvanised a community of experts to advocate for centring children's best interests in public debates about young people's social media use. Prof Third appeared on 60 minutes, ABC's 7:30 Report and Media Watch (among others) and wrote a piece in The Conversation calling for child-centred research and collaborative approaches - across sectors and with children and young people themselves - to better support children's needs, rights and aspirations in digital environments.

> "We need to invest in child-centred research. It's the best method for gaining nuanced accounts of children's digital practices, and can guide a coherent and strategic long-term approach to policy and practice."
>
> - PROF AMANDA THIRD

Whether it's on social media or climate justice, we're amplifying our expertise and evidence through public outreach, to foster nuanced societal discourse that keeps children's best interests firmly in focus. We're broadcasting our message to a wide audience so that it can help to shape more informed, empowered and fairer communities that can support young people to thrive.



“We have had a very positive experience with Y&R. Their professional approach and commitment to our varied, contextualized, age-appropriate learning and action requirements have been commendable. The World Vision children and adults working with Y&R feel respected, listened to, well supported and equal partners in a groundbreaking child led research expertly facilitated by Y&R.”

- WORLD VISION

Children's and young people's feedback is integral to our research process and as such we ask those with whom we engage about their experiences participating in our research. In 2024, we gathered feedback from 429 children across 4 projects in 5 countries. This is what they told us.

Participants said that our workshops are a space where they can learn new things about the world, and themselves...

> I learnt that...customs and traditions differ internationally, [and] even our culture is different compared to others. It touched my heart and mind.
> - RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, INDIA

> [The workshop was] very fun...because it can train self-confidence, train creativity, and train cooperation.
> -RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, INDONESIA

...hear about others' experiences and opinions...

> The conversations and other people's insights were very interesting.
> -RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, AUSTRALIA

> [I gained] intellectual expansion through the diversity and broadening of perspectives.
> - RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, LEBANON

...express themselves freely without judgement...

> [We learned to] express each others' opinions without fear.
> -RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, INDONESIA

> [The most rewarding part was] hearing my peers' perspectives and having the opportunity to talk passionately.
> -RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, AUSTRALIA

> We were able to share our answers without any hesitation. The organizers were friendly and treated us well which dispelled any sense of fear or shyness
> - RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, INDIA

...feel genuinely heard...

> It was good to be a part of this and have input.
> - RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, AUSTRALIA

> It made me feel involved in the conversations.
> -RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, INDIA

> [I learned that] children deserve to be heard.
> - RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, MALAWI

...and realise they can make a difference, together.

> [I learned that] young people can also make a difference and take action on possible solutions to problems. Our ideas as youths are valuable towards the modifications of a better future.
> - RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, MALAWI

> [The most rewarding part was] being in a space with people that all feel so strongly about making change.
> -RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, AUSTRALIA

> [My favourite part was] sharing ideas with my fellow colleagues on how we can promote and protect the fellow youth's life.
> - RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, LEBANON

3.

OUR COMMUNITY





OUR COMMUNITY

Y&R thrives through the collective expertise, passion, and dedication of our diverse community. From experienced researchers, emerging scholars and skilled professional staff, to industry partners and our highly valued youth co-researchers. Together, we are united in our shared vision to co-create digital societies where young people can thrive.

In 2024, we welcomed 6 new members, 1 new professional staff member, numerous casual research support staff, and 3 international visiting fellows. We also collaborated with 38 partners on our research projects - 19 with whom we worked previously and 19 new organisations.

Our high-performing team was recognised and celebrated at the Western Sydney University Vice Chancellor Excellence Awards with wins in three categories: Research Excellence through Industry Collaboration or Partnership; Excellence in Sustainability Impact; and Excellence in Research Management (Lilly Moody, Centre Manager).

In 2024, our community included:

- **9** external advisory board members
- **17** core staff
- **13** youth co-researchers
- **51** school and institute-based members
- **3** visiting fellows
- **199** partner organisations

Figure 4: Breakdown of our community in 2024.

OUR BOARD

We are privileged to have the guidance and expertise of an international board of industry experts.

Our board met twice in 2024 - in April and December - to discuss the Centre's strategy and direction. Key items on the agenda were Y&R's ARC Centre of Excellence bid, and positioning in relation to the Australian government's social media bans for children under 16 years old.

While the board's term was due to conclude at the end of 2024, they agreed to extend until June 2025. We did farewell one valued board member - Saffron Howden (Co-Founder and Editor of Crinkling News) - in April. We are deeply grateful for Saffron's contributions and support for Y&R's work over the last four years and look forward to opportunities to work together in a different capacity in the future.

Meanwhile, we were very pleased to welcome Jackie Coates (CEO, Telstra Foundation) to our board! Jackie brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise from a long career in the corporate and social impact sectors. We know that Y&R will benefit deeply from her knowledge and guidance. Welcome, Jackie!



LESLEY PODESTA
Chair
CEO, Red Mitten



SUNITA BOSE
Managing Director,
Digital Industry Group Inc.



JACKIE COATES
CEO,
Telstra Foundation



ANNE COLLIER
Executive Director,
NetSafety Collaborative



SUJI KANAGALINGAM
Partner,
Price Waterhouse Coopers



AMELIA LOYE
Managing Director,
Engage2



JOHN MORLEY
Team Leader, Climate
Resilient Communites Support
Unit, DT Global



SAM YORKE
Member,
ACMA



JOHN ZOLTNER
Senior Advisory, T4D and
innovation, Save the Children

OUR TEAM

Our work is made possible by the incredible efforts of a talented, interdisciplinary team of academic and professional staff.

In 2024, we had a team of 17 core staff members, and numerous casual research support who contributed to a range of projects across the Centre, including:

- Lucia Barrera Arenas
- Farzana Chowdhury
- Lynne Dowd
- Michael Hartup
- Kit Hawkins
- Sheetal Karki
- Kim Lam
- Lisa Lewis
- Nina Montero
- Tony Nyundu
- Pryor Placino
- Ammar Shoukat Randhama
- Shea Rigney
- Shima Sardarabady
- Francesca Sidoti
- Dinusha Soo
- Skye Tasker
- Tag Yassine

We also farewelled Sarah Bacaller (Research Officer), Rose Lewis (Impact and Comms Assistant), and Sarah Rammall (Senior Comms Officer), all of whom made significant contributions to the Centre during their time with us. Nukte Ogun, our Research Officer (Impact) also moved into a research-focused role.

At the same time, we welcomed a new Senior Comms Officer - Claire Absolum - and Research Officer - Dan Prichard - to the team!



PROF PHILIPPA COLLIN
Co-Director



PROF AMANDA THIRD
Co-Director



LILLY MOODY
Centre Manager



CLAIRE ABSOLUM
Senior Communications Officer



AMY THAYRE
Senior Administration Officer (Research)



DR LUIGI DIMARTINO
Postdoc Fellow



A/PROF BEN HANCKEL
VC Research Fellow



DR GIRISH LALA
Research Fellow



STEPHANIE HANNAH
Research Officer



DR ANDREW KELLETT
Research Officer



DR UMIT KENNEDY
Research Officer



LINDA MARSDEN
Research Officer



DR NUKTE OGUN
Research Officer



DANIEL PRICHARD
Research Officer



DR PAVITHRA RAJAN
Research Officer



LILLY TATAM
Research Assistant



LOUISA WELLAND
Research Officer



Y&R staff members at our end of year picnic. From left: (Back) Pip Collin, Lou Welland, Andrew Kellett, Lucia Barrera, Dan Prichard, Steph Hannah, Luigi Di Martino, Nukte Ogun, Lilly Tatam. (Front) Amy Thayre, Lilly Moody, Amanda Third.

OUR YOUTH CO-RESEARCHERS

Our team of youth co-researchers play an integral role at Y&R. Through a program of training and hands-on project experience, youth co-researchers gain valuable skills in research, knowledge translation, and teamwork. At the same time, Y&R benefits from their unique perspectives, lived experiences, and fresh insights into what it's like growing up as a young person in a digital society.

In 2024, we trained and worked with 13 youth co-researchers on nine projects. They contributed to research design, workshop facilitation, data analysis, writing, and other activities in the Centre. This team of extraordinary young people are juggling many other commitments at school, university, and in life, and we are deeply appreciative for all they bring to Y&R.

To read more about our youth co-researchers' experiences working with Y&R in 2024, see this section.


ALIET AGANY


JENON CASTRO


JAE CHARLTON


CHARLIE CONNELL-TOBIN


LOGAN CULLEY


YEHANSA DAHANAYAKE


LINH DANG


DANYA DAOUD


FIONA JIANG


JEAN LEWIS


TAMIMA RAHMAN


ANIRUDH SASTRY


MIETTA SYMMONS-JOYCE

CELEBRATING OUR TEAM'S EXCELLENCE



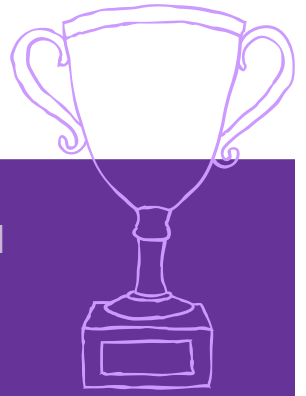
LOUISA WELLAND

Louisa Welland has been a Research Officer with Y&R since October 2021. During her time with us, she has contributed her expertise in youth participation, mental health, and innovative research methods to numerous key projects, as project manager and researcher. At every step of the way, Lou consistently finds ways to level up the work of the Centre, and support her colleagues and young people in the process.

In 2024, Lou went from strength to strength. She was a key driver behind the 'Culture-Centred Design' pilot project, and pivotal in securing a prestigious and highly competitive grant from the Internet Society Foundation to extend the work into 10 countries. She was also awarded a Vice-Chancellor's professional development scholarship to attend the Association of Internet Researchers conference in the UK in October (supported by Y&R career development funding).

We are very lucky to have Lou on our team!

> A young person recently told me that 'hope is about the future, and the future will be led by young people'. That's why I love working with young people. The next generation are hopeful and hungry for change, and for challenging the status-quo. Young people bring inspiration, drive and energy. They make the future exciting.



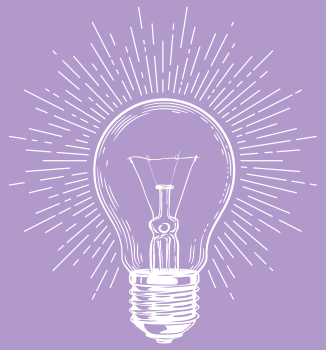
EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH MANAGEMENT AWARD

We are proud to announce that our Centre Manager, Lilly Moody, was awarded the 2024 Deputy Vice Chancellor Award for Excellence in Research Management. Lilly has been critical to growing Y&R into an impactful and efficient research centre by improving research systems, streamlining impact reporting, and fostering a collaborative and connected team where team members feel valued, youth co-researchers are nurtured, members are supported, and partners feel involved. Her efforts have enabled the Centre to grow, achieve collective success, and a global reputation.



Y&R staff members, Skye Tasker and Lou Welland, on a field trip in Cowra, regional NSW for the ‘Culture-Centred Framework for Ethical Digital Design’ project.

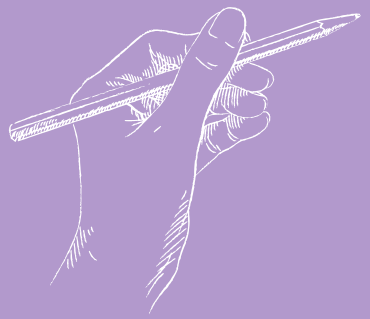
We continued our commitment to fostering the professional development of our staff through dedicated funding to support opportunities that build skills and knowledge that advance our team's careers, and benefit the Centre.



NURTURING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our career development funding scheme was open to our staff again in 2024. This funding is available to support professional and academic staff who do not have access to other sources of research development funding.

In 2024, we funded two staff members to attend and present papers at conferences in Australia (International Communication Association Conference) and the United Kingdom (Association of Internet Researchers Conference), and two staff members to undertake courses in research finance, and diversity and inclusion for organisational excellence.



LEVELLING UP PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Sixteen members of our core team undertook the Prince2 Foundation Course in 2024. Prince2 is a widely recognised project management methodology and is considered the gold standard internationally. This training supported our team to level up their project management skills and apply them to research, admin and communications projects underway in the Centre. It also informed and has been embedded into our internal project management processes and protocols, for more effective project delivery.

> "The career development funding I received allowed me to enroll in the Australian Research Management Society's Foundation Level Accreditation Program, a pivotal step in my professional growth. Through modules covering research systems, legislation, researcher engagement, pre-award grants, and research finance, I am strengthening my ability to support Y&R with enhanced knowledge, efficiency, and strategic insight in research administration."
>
> - AMY THAYRE, SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICER (RESEARCH)



> I attended two masterclasses on leadership conducted by Women & Leadership, Australia. Through these masterclasses, I learnt about empathetic ways to make decisions, both personally and professionally. I have also applied my new learnings on both fronts, personal and professional, with some success. I thank Y&R for their generous funding, without which it wouldn't have been possible for me to undertake these trainings.
>
> - PAVITHRA RAJAN, RESEARCH OFFICER

> The career development funding enabled me to attend the 2024 International Communication Association Conference in Brisbane, one of the most prestigious international conferences where international experts in media and communication gather every year. During the conference, I presented research findings and research approaches from the 'New Possibilities' project through three papers. These opportunities allowed me to showcase my work to an international audience, gather critical feedback from field experts, and cultivate valuable connections that will enhance both the impact of my research and my professional development.
>
> - LUIGI DI MARTINO, POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

OUR MEMBERS

Our members have a broad range of interdisciplinary expertise. Our membership base spans seven Schools and two Institutes at WSU, and also includes external members and students.

In 2024, six new members joined our community, bringing our total number of members to 51, including 37 core members internal to Western Sydney University, four student members, and 10 external members.

NEW MEMBERS

Our new members in 2024 were:

- A/Prof Katrina Barker, School of Education
- Dr Donna James, School of Social Sciences
- Dr Joshua Kalemba, School of Social Sciences
- Dr Khandakar Farid Uddin, School of Social Sciences
- Dr Emily Wolfinger, School of Social Sciences
- Dinusha Soo, WSU Student

We extend a warm welcome to our new members and look forward to working with them more closely in 2025.

For a full list of members, see Appendix 4.

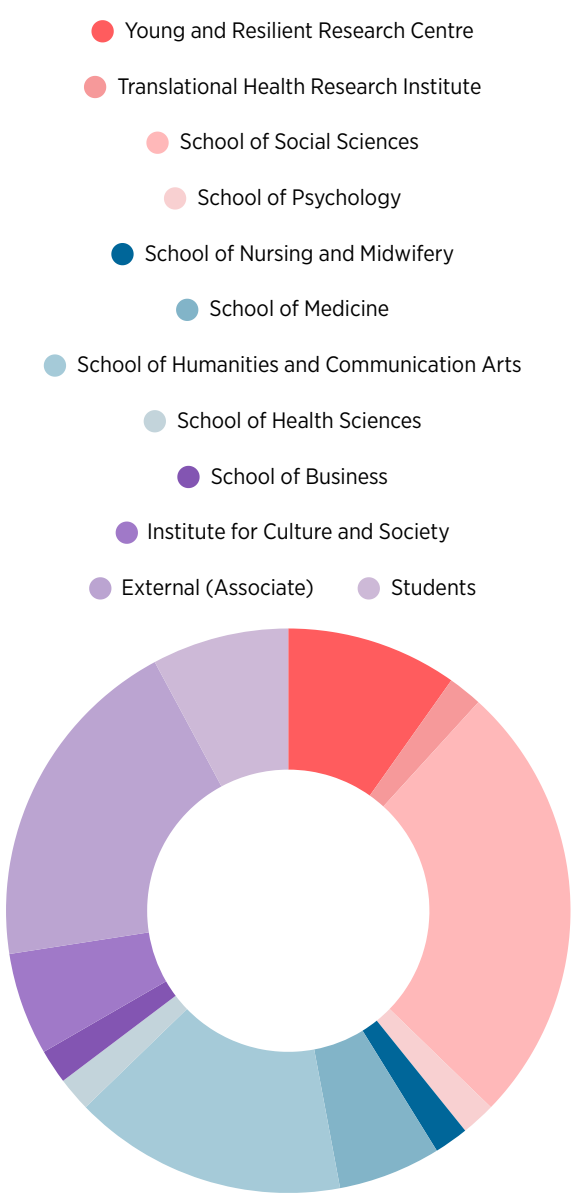


Figure 5: Breakdown of membership based on school/institute affiliation.



NEW MEMBERS



A/PROF KATRINA BARKER

Katrina is an A/Professor in Educational Psychology at the Centre for Educational Research in the School of Education. She fuses research and teaching to transform curriculum, assessments, and pedagogical approaches with the goal to inspire future teachers and improve their work. She has been recognised for her expertise through an Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning citation, a UniJobs Top 10 Lecturer of the Year, and the Vice Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award.



DR DONNA JAMES

Donna is a Lecturer in Heritage and Tourism Studies. Her research explores precarious labour geographies at the tourism/migration nexus. She has published on the topics of working holidaymakers' vulnerability to harms in Australia; Tinder Tourism; social equity in car parking technologies; and childcare equity and justice. Donna is a member of the Critical Pedagogies Research Group; a research cluster that seeks to develop creative and robust educational research that centres social justice.



DR JOSHUA KALEMBA

Joshua is a Lecturer in Youth Work in the School of Social Sciences. His research focuses on how categories of difference are perceived, lived, and the implications for young people assigned difference in relation to work. Joshua's research explores this in relation to mobility, racialisation, coloniality, migration, education, belonging, and aspirations for the future. Currently, Joshua is researching young racialised migrants' experiences of engaging in digitally mediated gig work in Australia.

NEW MEMBERS



DR KHANDAKAR FARID UDDIN

Dr Khandakar Farid Uddin is an early career academic in the School of Social Sciences. He has published significant research in various international journals and attended numerous international conferences. His scholarly interests and expertise include public administration, public policy, governance, local government, urban planning, regional development, sustainable cities, and resilient communities.



DR EMILY WOLFINGER

Dr Emily Wolfinger is an Associate Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences. Emily's research explores contemporary and historical discourses on sole mothers, policies and practices that support mothers and caregiving, and young adults' financial decision-making in relationships and work-family expectations. She is also co-author of bestselling book, 'The ABC of XYZ: Understanding the Global Generations' (2011).



DINUSHA SOO

Dinusha is a Master of Research student in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, and an Associate Researcher on 'New Possibilities' project. Her research focuses on how visual communication shapes society. She is a freelance designer with a background in professional accounting, and uses her transdisciplinary skillset for impact in social advocacy and climate justice spaces.

OUR STUDENTS

Y&R feeds into teaching and learning at WSU through higher degree research training, and undergraduate and postgraduate intern and placement programs. We are committed to providing our students with the best possible education and experience to grow the next generation of researchers and professionals.

2 PhD candidates

3 Masters' of Social Work placements

4 Summer Scholarships

In 2024, we had two PhD candidates - Linda Marsden and Skye Tasker - enrolled with the Centre, both of whom are working toward submission of their thesis. We also celebrated the graduation of our previous PhD student, Dr Martyna Gliniecka, and the publication of her monograph.

In addition to PhD students, we hosted three Masters of Social Work students on their first year, 400-hour placement, and four students through the Summer Scholarship program. These placements give students practical, hands-on experience working on engaged research projects that create tangible outputs and outcomes for policy and practice.

> "I really enjoyed working [at Y&R during my placement]. It was very welcoming and I wasn't stressed out or anything during my time here. The team's lovely, and I felt very included and happy. I wasn't expecting to be at a research placement, but being here has actually made me really enjoy [research]."

- COURTNEY HAZELL, MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PLACEMENT STUDENT



CONGRATULATIONS, MARTYNA!

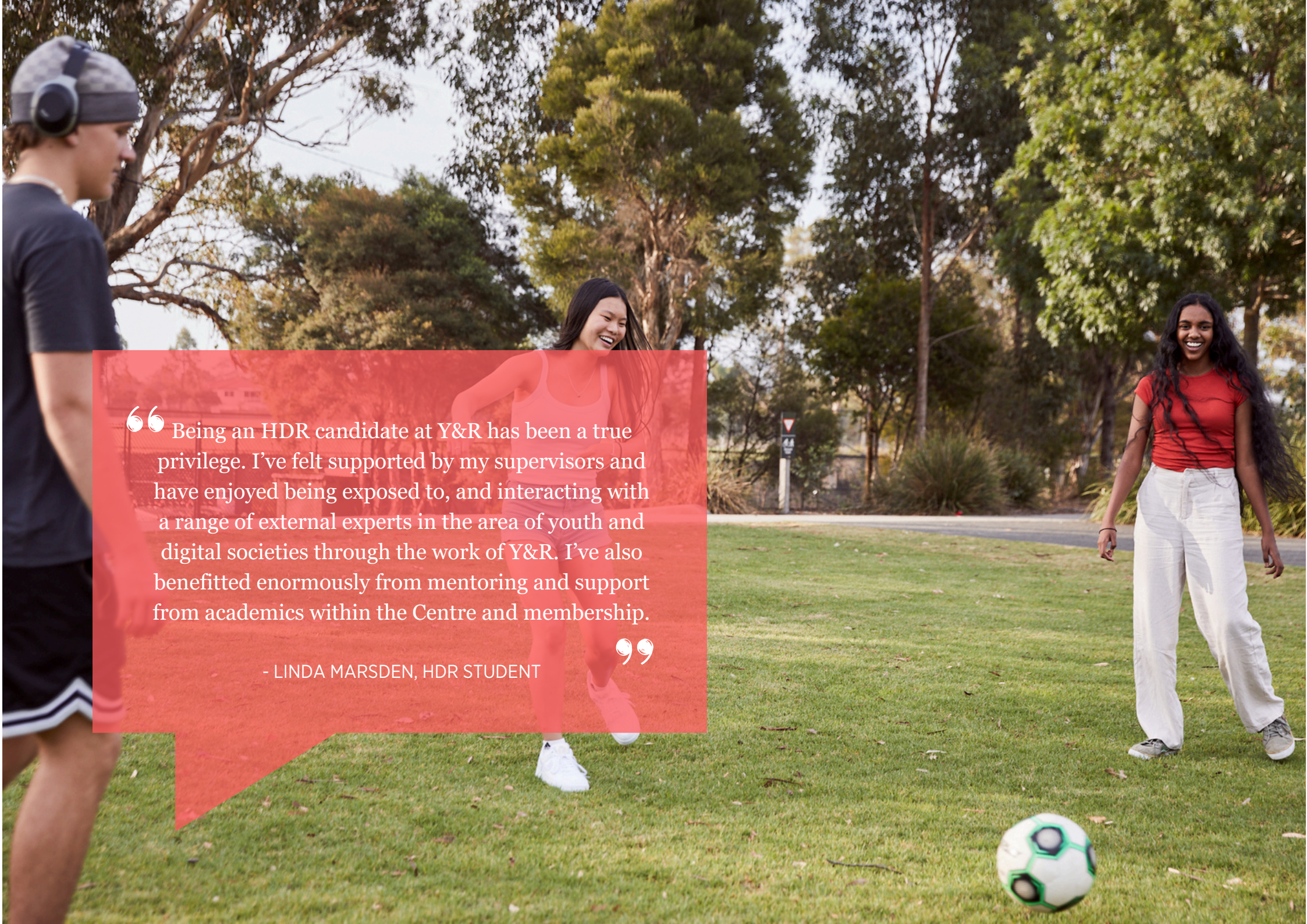
Dr Martyna Gliniecka graduated with her Doctor of Philosophy in 2024, with her thesis on 'Making health with peers. A dialogical analysis of discussions on teenagers' subreddits'. Her monograph based on her thesis was contracted by Routledge, and was published at the end of 2024. We wish Martyna all the best in her future career and have no doubt she will go on to do great things!

In 2024, we had the pleasure of hosting three Masters' of Social Work students in their first year, 400-hour practical placement. They shared that the experience working on engaged, impactful research was enriching for them and their future careers. This is what they had to say.

> [I gained an understanding] of how the Centre adapts a child- and youth-centred approach to their research. I want to specialise in children and young people so I will definitely apply that to my practice. Also, the strengths-based approach [used by Y&R] is really important for in social work and I know I'll be applying that to my practice.
>
> **- MADDISON HALABI**

> One of the things I really enjoyed, besides doing the research work, was the seminars where we learned about other researchers, research they've worked on, or doing the workshops to learn more about how Y&R work. Probably the most memorable thing from being here was the research masterclass (at Research Week). I really enjoyed that.
>
> **- COURTNEY HAZELL**

> I thoroughly enjoyed [my placement]. I never really realised the amount of respect, ethics and thought that goes into working with children and young people and protecting them in the research process, and giving them a voice and empowering them to have agency in their own lives and a voice in decision making processes in their life. It is just so important.
>
> **- REBECCA POWER**



> “Being an HDR candidate at Y&R has been a true privilege. I’ve felt supported by my supervisors and have enjoyed being exposed to, and interacting with a range of external experts in the area of youth and digital societies through the work of Y&R. I’ve also benefitted enormously from mentoring and support from academics within the Centre and membership.”
>
> - LINDA MARSDEN, HDR STUDENT

OUR VISITING FELLOWS

We were privileged to have three esteemed academics - Aishwarya Arora (MICA), Dr Ingrida Milkaite (Ghent University) and Professor Jessica Taylor Piotrowski (Amsterdam Shool of Communication Research) - join as us visiting fellows in 2024.



PROF JESSICA TAYLOR PIOTROWSKI

Jessica Taylor Piotrowski is a Professor in the Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR) at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) where she holds the Chair Communication in the Digital Society. As a media psychologist, she focuses on identifying risk, resiliency, and enhancement factors that allow youth to become engaged digital citizens.



DR INGRIDA MILKAITE

Ingrida Milkaite is a postdoctoral researcher in faculty of Law and Criminology, Ghent University, Belgium. Her research interests cover human rights law, privacy, data protection, contemporary developments in the field of law and technology, and children's rights issues arising in the digital environment.



AISHWARYA ARORA

Aishwarya Arora is a doctoral scholar at MICA, India. Her research focuses on digital media and consumer cultures. She has presented her research at multiple global platforms such as the Academy of Marketing Science, USA Consumer Culture Theory Conference, American Marketing Association, and NETNOCON.



> [My time at Y&R was] very rewarding. First of all, I was introduced very warmly with the Y&R team. And when you make somebody a part of your inner circle [like I was], I feel that's a bigger reward. I would recommend [Y&R as a host for visiting scholars]...because you're very supportive, and all PhD scholars are curious to learn more things. You give the freedom to choose to learn whatever is essential for our respective areas.

- AISHWARYA AURORA, MICA, VISITING SCHOLAR

OUR PARTNERS

Y&R's work would not be possible without our network of outstanding partner organisations around the world. We are eternally thankful for their collaboration and support in meaningfully involving children and young people and translating our research for real world impacts.

In 2024, we received funding from 20 funding bodies, and collaborated with 38 partner organisations to deliver our work in 12 countries.

We worked with collaborating partners in local NGOs and community organisations, international NGOs and their country offices, state and federal government bodies, tertiary education institutions and philanthropic organisations. Our collaborating partners participate in our research by co-designing methodologies and processes, co-analysing data, and co-producing outputs with us, and as delivery partners, conducting research in-country with children and young people to feed into our large scale international research projects.



Figure 6: Collaborating partner organisations in 2024.

> Working with Y&R was enlightening, meaningful, and of mutual benefit. Our collaboration with Y&R has reminded us to place well-being, ethics and culture at the top of the deliberations we have on young people's digital practices.
>
> - MICA, INDIA

DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS

Our partnership with MICA (Mudra Institute of Communication, Ahmedabad - India) continued to grow in 2024. We embarked on a pilot project together, 'Culture-Centred Framework for Ethical Digital Design' and key members of our team - Amanda Third, Girish Lala, Louisa Welland and Lilly Moody - travelled to Ahmedabad in India in January to visit our colleagues at MICA and conduct fieldwork for the project. Due to the success of our partnership and pilot project, we were awarded a significant grant from the Internet Society Foundation to scale up the project in 2025. The Y&R team's time in Ahmedabad was an incredibly rich, cultural experience and we are thankful to Professor Manisha Shelat and her team for their hospitality. Y&R also had the pleasure of hosting a MICA PhD student - Aishwarya Aurora - as a Visiting Scholar for three months for the international immersion component of her degree. We look forward to hosting more students and continuing to deepen our relationship with MICA in the coming years.



Professor Amanda Third with Professor Manisha Shelat (MICA) on a team trip in Ahmedabad, India. Photo credit: Girish Lala

4.

OUR OUTREACH





Photo credit:
Sally Tsoutas

OUR OUTREACH

Our research can only create meaningful change when it reaches the people who need it most - young people, families, educators, and decision-makers at all levels. Bridging the gap between research and real world impact remained our highest priority in 2024.

In 2024, we focused on delivering high quality events for external audiences at conferences, creative exhibitions, and launches of our research outputs. We also launched our first monthly seminar series in June and welcomed thought-provoking presentations from members and visiting scholars alike.

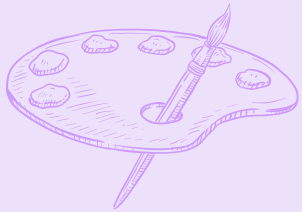
Our media engagement grew, with Professor Amanda Third at the forefront leading a coalition of experts to advocate for the best interests of children and young people in the Australian Government's proposed social media bans for under 16 year olds.

We continued to channel our evidence and expertise into policy submissions to government on relevant topics, and into industry via our team's expert advisory roles.

In 2024, our outreach included:

- **8** external events
- **561** external event attendees
- **7** internal seminars
- **275** media mentions
- **1** policy submissions
- **24** industry expert advisory roles

We hosted eight events in 2024: from workshops and launch events, to capacity-building masterclasses for professionals and creative exhibitions. Below, we highlight three events that exemplify our commitment to engaging communities and fostering collaboration.



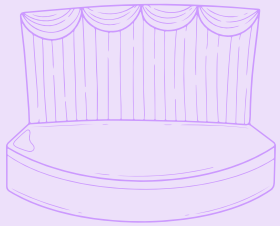
THE ART OF CLIMATE CHANGE EXHIBITION

Members of the Y&R team collaborated with the Greenhouse Climate Tech Hub and Edge Impact to showcase the 'New Possibilities' project at a creative exhibition. The exhibition showcased 50 artworks by WSU students that communicate the urgent need for action on climate change. The event explored the ways we communicate about climate change, and aimed to open discussion about how this shows up in culture, in activism, and for young people who play a crucial role in climate change movements. The event, which attracted over 100 people, included a panel discussion featuring Y&R academics, Prof Philippa Collin and A/Prof Michelle Catanzaro.



AMPLIFYING YOUTH PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP

Y&R hosted a pre-conference workshop at the International Communication Association (ICA) Conference in Brisbane in June. The event facilitated dynamic and thought-provoking conversations highlighting the potential of children's and adolescents' involvement in media and communications research. The 30 participants who attended took part in interactive sessions and heard insightful presentations from local and international academics, including our very own A/Prof Michelle Catanzaro, Prof Philippa Collin, Dr Milissa Deitz, Dr Luigi Di Martino, Dr Rachel Morley, Dinusha Soo, and Dr Katie Sutherland.



RESEARCH OUTPUT LAUNCH EVENTS

In 2024 Y&R launched a number of high-profile research outputs to local, national and international audiences. In May, we launched the 'We Deserve to Live in a Thriving World: Child-centred indicators for climate change' report at the Whitlam Institute, in partnership with UNICEF Australia. In June, Prof Philippa Collin and colleagues from RMIT (Judith Bessant and Patrick O'Keefe), celebrated the release of the 'Routledge Research Handbook on the Sociology' of Youth which they co-edited together. Finally, the 'Protecting Children from Online Grooming' report was launched at two online webinars to a large international audience in November.



Members of the Y&R team facilitating a masterclass as part of WSU's Research Week. From left: Professor Philippa Collin (Co-Director), Yehansa Dahanayake (Youth Co-Researcher), Jean Lewis (Youth Co-Researcher), Lou Welland (Research Officer), Dan Prichard (Research Officer), Rose Lewis (former Impact and Communications Assistant).

OUR SEMINAR SERIES

One of the key highlights of 2024 was the launch of Y&R's monthly seminar series! The seminar series was created in response to feedback received in the 2023 member review that members want a space to share their research, and connect and network across schools and disciplines.

We hosted seven seminars in 2024. We heard presentations from Y&R members and visiting scholars, and guest speakers, on a broad range of topics. The seminars were thought-provoking and stimulated vibrant conversations.

Presentations in 2024 included:

- Professor Kath Albury (Swinburne University): 'Digital technologies for sexual and reproductive health – young adults' lived experience and lived expertise'
- Aishwarya Arora, (MICA, India): 'Using a Matricentric Lense to Explore Consumer Cultures of New Mothers.'
- Dr Catharine Fleming (WSU): '#lets_make_a_change: a child rights approach to child and adolescent nutrition measurement'
- Dr James Gardiner (USYD): 'Understanding 'ordinary wellbeing' for queer youth in suffocating conditions: reflections from an online reading and writing group'
- Dr Donna James (WSU), "Precarious labour geographies of Working Holiday Makers: deepening inequalities among young temporary migrants"
- Professor Ton Liefaard (Leiden University, The Netherlands): 'The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at 35 Years: Ready for a New Chapter?'
- Dr Ingrida Milkaite (Ghent University): 'The Profiling of Children through Voice Assistants: Implications for Children's Rights'
- Prof Jessica Taylor Piotrowski (University of Amsterdam): 'Youth in the Digital Society'

We thank all of the researchers who presented in our first year of seminars. We look forward to seeing how the series matures in 2025, and encourage all our members to join us. A special thank you to Luigi Di Martino for his work coordinating the seminar series in 2024 and shepherding it through its first six months!



OUR MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, we had 275 media engagements, from newspaper articles mentioning our research to interviews with our researchers on TV and radio. Media outlets across Australia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, China, Vietnam, Singapore, the Philippines, Taiwan and the United States published our work. These media pieces achieved a combined reach of over 18 million people, with 3 interviews with Professor Amanda Third on the Australian Government's social media ban for under 16-year-olds reaching a **prime-time tv audience of over 4 million viewers** on Channel Nine's *60 Minutes* program and the ABC's *7.30 Report* & *Media Watch* programs.

Media engagements brought attention to the work and ideas of our co-directors, research fellows, centre members and our staff, covering topics such as:

- Climate justice and youth advocacy
- Intergenerational problem-solving
- How technology impacts mental health
- The positives of social media
- Online safety education

WILL A SOCIAL MEDIA BAN BE EFFECTIVE IN SHIELDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE POTENTIALLY NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA USE?

Source: 7.30 Report, ABC TV

"The country's first-ever social media summit began today. Political momentum to ban children from online platforms has been growing but not all experts agree that's the best solution.

Professor Amanda Third, Co-director of the Young and Resilient Research Centre at Western Sydney University, said...

"The solution here is not to evict children from social media, it is to make social media better and to demand that the platforms step up and deliver on that responsibility.""

Watch the story here

WHAT MATTERS TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

Source: ABC Radio Sydney Afternoons

Professor Philippa Collin joined James Valentine on ABC Radio Sydney Afternoons on 26 February 2024 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Whitlam Institute's What Matters competition: A writing competition which asks school students to respond to the question - 'what matters?'. Prof Pip Collin and Y&R member, Dr Sky Hugman, have analysed young people's entries from 2010-2023. Prof Collin spoke to James Valentine on air about some of the findings:

"A lot of the entries still deal really profoundly with this idea of hope and an ethics of care, how we look after each other, how we look after the planet, how we look after non-human entities, and how we can tackle these really challenging issues without losing hope."

The first report with entries from 2010-2018 can be read here. The second report (2019-2023) will be released in early 2025.

APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1: RESEARCH PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS IN 2024

The below research projects were awarded and commenced in 2024

CATEGORY 2

'Australian Government Youth Engagement Toolkit', Office for Youth, Professor Amanda Third, Professor Philippa Collin

CATEGORY 3

'Batyr Longitudinal Study', Balnaves Foundation, Professor Philippa Collin, Associate Professor Katrina Barker, Professor Ann Dadich, Dr Andrew Kellett, Dr Heath Spong

'CHAMP child-led research', World Vision, Dr Catharine Fleming, Professor Amanda Third

'Child-centred indicators for climate change: Australia Phase 2', UNICEF Australia, Professor Amanda Third

'Children's rights in relation to the digital environment: Spotlight on Africa', London School of Economics, Professor Amanda Third

'Decolonising digital design: Towards safe and inclusive digital experiences for children and young people', Internet Society Foundation, Professor Amanda Third

'From Participation to Accountability in Health Care for Young People', Sydney Childrens Health Network, Professor Philippa Collin

'Online safety for children and young people in PNG', Save the Children, Professor Amanda Third

'Telstra Foundation Partner Evaluation', Telstra Foundation, Professor Amanda Third, Professor Philippa Collin

'What Matters to Young People? ', Whitlam Institute, Professor Philippa Collin, Dr Sky Hugman

ACTIVE PROJECTS AWARDED PRIOR TO 2024

The below projects were awarded prior to, but were being delivered in, 2024.

CATEGORY 1

'New Possibilities: Student Climate Action and Democratic Renewal', Australian Research Council (Discovery), Professor Philippa Collin, Associate Professor Michelle Catanzaro, Dr Luigi Di Martino

'Examining Youth Digital Wellbeing in Australia and the Philippines', Australian Research Council (DECRA), Associate Professor Ben Hanckel

CATEGORY 2

'Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies', VicHealth (via Deakin University), Professor Amanda Third, Professor Philippa Collin

'Imagining the Future and Young People's Wellbeing and Resilience', VicHealth (via Deakin University), Professor Amanda Third

CATEGORY 3

‘Breath Circle Evaluation’, Breath Evaluation, Professor Amanda Third

‘Child online protection resources’, International Telecommunications Union, Professor Amanda Third

‘Culture-Centred Framework for Ethical Design for Youth People: Foregrounding Young People’s Perspectives (Pilot Study)’, Professor Amanda Third

‘Dangerous Challenges and online hoaxes’, TikTok, Professor Amanda Third

‘ITU child online taskforces’, International Telecommunications Union, Professor Amanda Third

‘Long term test evaluation framework to assess the impacts of educational materials on behaviour change for child online protection’, UNICEF East Asia Pacific Regional Office, Professor Amanda Third

‘OurHerd Evaluation’, batyr, Professor Philippa Collin

‘Swipe Safe Pilot Testing’, ChildFund Australia, Professor Amanda Third

‘The power of recognising more: Action-research study - Young Person Cycle’, Learning Creates, Professor Philippa Collin

‘Understanding and fighting online child sexual exploitation and abuse’, End Violence Against Children (via Save the Children Hong Kong), Professor Amanda Third

PROJECTS AWARDED IN 2024 AND COMMENCING IN 2025

The below projects were awarded in 2024 but are due to commence in 2025.

CATEGORY 1

‘Artificial Intelligence for the Early Years’, Australian Research Council (Discovery), administered via ANU, Professor Amanda Third

‘Child-centred evidence to drive meaningful social change for children’, Australian Research Council (Linkage), Professor Amanda Third

CATEGORY 3

‘Exploring Intergenerational Online Safety Perspectives’, Meta, Professor Amanda Third

‘Centre of Excellence Seed Funding: Google Proposal’, Google Australia, Professor Amanda Third

‘Youth Voices on AI: Shaping a Safer Digital Future’, Tech Coalition Safe Online, Professor Amanda Third

‘Global Advisory Support to pilot adolescent centred indicators (CAN-I) in Pakistan’, Nutrtion International, Dr Catharine Fleming

APPENDIX 2: PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Bessant, J., Collin, P., & O'Keeffe, P. (2024). Research Handbook on the Sociology of Youth. U.K.: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Gliniecka, M. (2024). Youth digital health and online platforms: Dialogue with peers on Reddit. Routledge.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Bessant, J., Collin, P., & O'Keeffe, P. (2024). The sociology of youth. In J. Bessant, P. Collin, & P. O'Keeffe (Eds.), Research Handbook of the Sociology of Youth (pp. 1-18).

Bessant, J., Collin, P., & Watts, R. (2024). A revisionist account of the crisis of the crisis of democracy and 'youth participation'. In J. Bessant, P. Collin, & P. O'Keeffe (Eds.), Research Handbook of the Sociology of Youth (pp. 23-38)

Catanzaro, M. (2024). Understanding young people's visual politics: making young people's participation (more) visible. In Research Handbook on the Sociology of Youth (pp. 215-236). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Collin, P., Bessant, J., & Watts, R. (2024). 'When we can't vote, action is all we have' : student climate politics, rights and justice. In K. Wright & J. McLeod (Eds.), Childhood, Youth and Activism: Demands for Rights and Justice from Young People and their Advocates (pp. 55-72). https://doi.org/10.1108/S1537-46612023004

Hanckel, B. (2024), "Evaluation, Digital Data and Excess(es) in Health Interventions", Hendry, N.A. and Richardson, I. (Ed.) Data Excess in Digital Media Research, Emerald Publishing Limited, Leeds, pp. 139-154. https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-80455-944-420241010

Livingstone, S., Third, A., & Lansdown, G. (2024). Children vs adults: negotiating UNCRC General comment No. 25 on childrens rights in the digital environment. In Handbook of Media and Communication Governance (pp. 414-428). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Hanckel, B. & Collin, P. (2024). 'Youth, Health and the Digital', In Bessant, J. Collin, P. O'Keefe P. (eds) Research Handbook on the Sociology of Youth, Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd

Shepherd, A. & Hanckel, B. (2024). Ontologies of transition(s) in healthcare practice: examining the lived experiences and representations of transgender adults transitioning in healthcare. In Newman, C. E., Smith, A. K. J., Duck-Chong, E., Vivienne, S., Davies, C., Robinson, K. H., & Aggleton, P. (eds) Social Perspectives on Trans Health, Routledge.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Third, A. (2024)Youth Agency, Rights, and the Promise of a Well-Designed Digital World. In Harrison, V., Collier, A., & Adelsheim, S. (Eds.). Social media and youth mental health. American Psychiatric Association Publishing.

Watts, R., et al & Collin, P. (2024). 'Academic Freedom' v. Climate Change Denial: How the Politics of Research Funding Shapes the Possibilities for Researching Grassroots Activism. In S. von Mering, et al & M. Arjona Soberón (Eds.), The Routledge Handbook of Grassroots Climate Activism (1st ed., pp. 15). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003396567-28

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Condie, J., Di Martino, L., Hanckel, B., Arachchi, T. M., & Chitranshi,B., (2024). A pedagogy of digital identities: Identity as a conceptual lens for teaching socio-technical justice. Digital Culture & Education, 15(1), 54-70

Dadich, A., & Hanckel, B. (2024). Brilliant care: a conceptual argument for scholarship of the extraordinary. Health Sociology Review, 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1080/14461242.2024.2371132

Di Martino, L. (2024). Strategic authenticity in the promotion of a protest action on social media: the case of the School Strike 4 Climate in Sydney. Communication Research and Practice, 10(4), 426–444. https://doi.org/10.1080/22041451.2024.2417140

Di Martino, L., & Ford, H. (2024). Navigating uncertainty: Public diplomacy vs. AI. Place Branding and Public Diplomacy. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41254-024-00330-z

Di Martino, L., & Swiatek, L. (2024). Events-within-events and the online reproduction of their emotional dimensions: a case study of the Dubai 2020 expo. Tourism Recreation Research, 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1080/02508281.2024.2339073

Hanckel, B., & Hendry, N. A. (2024). Young adults and investing for the future: Examining futuring practices and wellbeing through digital brokerage platforms. The Sociological Review, 00380261241236255. https://doi.org/10.1177/00380261241236255

Hanckel, B., Garnett, E., & Green, J. (2024). Risk ambassadors and saviours: Children and futuring public health interventions. Sociology of Health & Illness. https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9566.13802

Hanckel, B., Morris, A. Yasukawa, K. (2024). 'On (not) being literate enough: The literacy experiences of Homeless People and those at risk of Homelessness', Australian Journal of Social Issues, https://doi.org/10.1002/ajs4.324

Kennedy, Ü, Bacaller, S., Moody, L., Hannah, S., Dahanayake, Y. ., & Third, A. (2024). "The Earth Is Dying, Bro": Examining the Local Effect of Climate Change on Australian Children. M/C Journal, 27(5). https://doi.org/10.5204/mcj.3085

Lewis, C. C., Taba, M., Allen, T. B., Caldwell, P. H., Skinner, S. R., Kang, M., ... & Scott, K. M. (2024). Developing an Educational Resource Aimed at Improving Adolescent Digital Health Literacy: Using Co-Design as Research Methodology. Journal of Medical Internet Research, 26, e49453.

Marsden, L., Munn, L., Magee, L., Ferrinda, M., St. Pierre, J., & Third, A. (2024). Inclusive online learning in Australia: Barriers and enablers. Education and Information Technologies, 1-30.

Third, A., Livingstone, S., & Lansdown, G. (2024). Recognising children's rights in relation to the digital environment: challenges of voice and evidence, principle and practice. International Journal of Children's Rights.

Watts, R., Bessant, J., Catanzaro, M., Collin, P., Jackson, S., (2024). The Political in the Anthropocene: Reflections on a Ministerial Veto, 2021. Australian Journal of Environmental Education. 2024:1-14. https://doi.org/10.1017/aee.2023.37.

Watts, R., Bessant, J., Catanzaro, M., Collin, P., Jackson, S., (2024). The Political in the Anthropocene: Reflections on a Ministerial Veto, 2021. Australian Journal of Environmental Education. 2024:1-14. https://doi.org/10.1017/aee.2023.37.

REPORTS

Collin, P. Connell-Tobin, C., Dang, L., Kellett, A., Symmons-Joyce, M. (2024). The Whole Learner Report: Young people on the next chapter in learning beyond limits. The power of recognising more research series. Learning Creates. https://www.learningcreates.org.au/portfolio/the-whole-learner-young-people-on-the-next-chapter-in-learning-beyond-limits/

Fleming, CAK, Hannah, S, Gorkin, R & Third, A (2024). The Development of Global Child and Adolescent-Centred Nutrition Indicators (CAN_I): Summary Report. Young and Resilient Research Centre, Western Sydney University, Sydney Australia DOI: 10.26183/7r0d-gv59 https://westernsydney.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/2058879/CAN_I_Summary_Report.pdf

Third, A., Baú, V., Tasker, S. and Welland, L. (2024) 'Involving Children in Research and Data Collection: a gap analysis.' London: Save the Children International.

Third, A., Chowdhury, F., Dahanayake, Y., Hannah, S., Kennedy, U., Lala, G., & Moody, L. (2024), 'We deserve to live in a thriving world: child-centred indicators for climate change', Young and Resilient Research Centre, Western Sydney University and UNICEF Australia

Third, A., Hannah, S., Moody, L., Tasker, S., Sardarabady, S. (2024), 'Swipe Safe Pilot Testing: Key findings and recommendations', Young and Resilient Research Centre and ChildFund Australia

Third, A., Kennedy, U., Lala, G., Rajan, P., Sardarabady, S. & Tatam, L. (2024), 'Protecting children from online grooming'. Young and Resilient Research Centre, Western Sydney University and Save the Children. DOI: 10.26183/b8w5-7341 [Child-Friendly Report]

Third, A, Welland L, Rajan, P. 2024. 'Breath Circle Evaluation: Research Report'

NON-TRADITIONAL OUTPUTS

Online Safety Campaign Assessment. (2024). OSCAP Portal. Retrieved March 26, 2025, from https://oscap.org/

Office for Youth, Youth Engagement Toolkit (2024) Retrieved April 29, 2025 from https://www.youth.gov.au/office-youth/youth-engagement-toolkit

APPENDIX 3: ADVISORY ROLES

Collin, P., Fitbit, Youth Experiences Advisory Group

Collin, P., Raising Children Network, Scientific Advisory Board

Hanckel, B., Health Sociology Review, Associate Editor

Hanckel, B., ICS Queer Cultures Research Program, Co-Convenor

Hanckel, B., Journal of Applied Youth Studies, Co-Editor in Chief

Hanckel, B., Meta, Combatting Hate Speech Advisory Board

Hanckel, B., Parramatta Queer Forum

Hanckel, B., Rainbow Western, Co-Convenor

Third, A., 2168 Children's Parliament, Advocate

Third, A., AI Ally, Advisory Board Member

Third, A., Australian Living Labs Innovation Network, Co-Founder/Co-Director

Third, A., Child Online Redress Sandbox, External Advisory

Third, A., Child Rights Taskforce, Steering Committee

Third, A., eSafety, Online Safety Advisory

Third, A., Global Kids Online, Advisory

Third, A., Meta, Advisory for the Pacific Strategy

Third, A., MICA International, External Advisory Board

Third, A., Online Safety Exchange, Director

Third, A., Pymble Ladies College, WisePhone Advisory Board Member

Third, A. Safe Online, Technical Review Panel

Third, A., Snap, Online Safety Advisory

Third, A., System2, External Advisory Board Member

Third, A., Telstra and ReachOut, Technology and Wellbeing Roundtable Member

Third, A., YouTube, Children and Families Advisory

APPENDIX 4: MEMBERS

Alanna Kamp, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Alex Hawkey, Translational Health Research Institute, WSU

Amanda Third, Young & Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Ann Dadich, School of Business, WSU

Anna Denejkina, Translational Health Research Institute, WSU

Ben Hanckel, Young & Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Catharine Fleming, School of Health Sciences, WSU

Donna James, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Emily Wolfinger, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Girish Lala, Young & Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Ingrid Matthews, University of Sydney

James McDougall, Australian Child Rights Taskforce

Jenna Condie, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Joshua Kalemba, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Josh Whitkin, Josh Whitkin Consulting

Julia Kantek, School of Social Sciences, WSU.

Karen Soldatic, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Kate Huppatz, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Kate McBride, School of Medicine, WSU

Kate McIntyre, Child-centred

Katrina Sandbach, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU

Kevin Dunn, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Khandakar Al Farid Uddin, School of Social Sciences, WS

Liam Magee, Institute for Culture and Society, WSU

Linda Marsden, Young and Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Louise Crabtree, Institute for Culture and Society, WSU

Lucie Ramjan, School of Nursing and Midwifery, WSU

Luigi Di Martino, Young & Resilience Research Centre, WSU

Madison Shakespeare, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU

Martyna Gliniecka, Young and Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Michelle Catanzaro, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU

Ned Rossiter, Insitute for Culture and Society, WSU

Nida Denson, School of Psychology, WSU

Peter Bansel, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Philippa Collin, Young & Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Phillipa Hay, School of Medicine, WSU

Rachel Hendery, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU

Rachel Morley, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU

Shanthi Robertson, The Insight Centre

Shiva Chandra, University of Sydney

Sky Hugman, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Skye Tasker, Young and Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Stephen Healy, Institute for Culture and Society, WSU

Sukhmani Khorana, University of New South Wales

Teresa Swist, University of Sydney

Valentina Bau, Institute of Culture and Society, WSU

APPENDIX 5: COLLABORATING PARTNERS

EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS

Alannah and Madeline Foundation

Australian National University

batyr

Centre for Multicultural Youth

ChildFund Australia

Deakin University

Edge Impact

International Telecommunications Union

MICA

Powerhouse Museum

RMIT

Save the Children

SEJIWA

Sydney Children's Health Network

UNICEF Australia

UNICEF EAPRO

University of Sydney

Whitlam Institute

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Accountable Futures Collective

Dar Al Amal

Learning Creates

Office for Youth

Save the Children Malawi

Save the Children PNG

Save the Children UK

Serah Pyawa

Taronga Western Plains Zoo

Telstra Foundation

UNICEF

World Vision Australia

World Vision Bangladesh

World Vision Indonesia

World Vision Nepal

World Vision Philippines

World Vision Sri Lanka

YLAB



Young and Resilient Research Centre
Western Sydney University
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith NSW 2751

westernsydney.edu.au/Young and Resilient