

## YPA 2008 Program Report

This report aims to provide an overview of the Youth Participation and Access (YPA) Program in 2008. This will include a profile of participants and activities throughout the year.

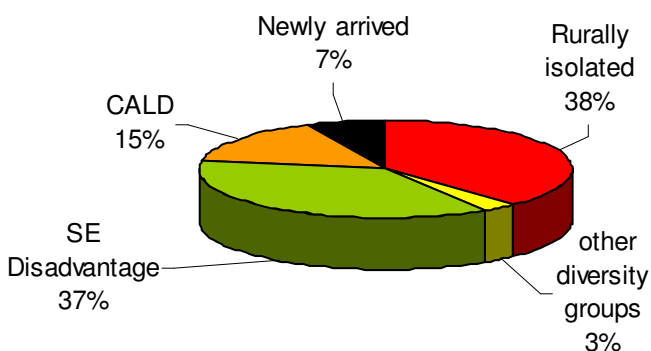
### Background

The goal of the program is to build strong, active and inclusive communities. It facilitates pathways and transitions for young people through locally planned activities and services.

The YPA program helps vulnerable young Victorians aged 12 to 25 years who face barriers to participation in community life. The program increases their access to and participation in social, learning and cultural opportunities in their community. As well YPA helps young people manage issues in their transition to adulthood, such as social isolation and family conflict.

### YPA- Diversity and Participants

In 2008, over 40,000 young people participated in YPA program. Rurally isolated young people continue to be the highest group of participants in the program. Young people who are effected by socio-economic disadvantage was a close second in overall participation in YPA. The high numbers of both rurally isolated young people and those effected by socio-economic disadvantage is a significant achievement for YPA, given these groups often have limited access to community activities. If combined newly arrived and CALD young people represent 22% of total participants in the program. This data of target groups is both stable and consistent in recent years of the YPA program.



### YPA and Broader Community Involvement

In 2008 over 5000 local community members were engaged in the YPA program, this included over 3500 family members. This demonstrates success in improving young people's connection to family and broader community.

### Case Study

Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre (Ethnic Youth Committee)

The Ethnic Youth Committee (EYC) is a capacity building project made up of 20 CALD young people and who meet on a weekly basis in Preston

During 2008 the EYC:

Held the Media Madness Conference (October 2008) to tackle racial vilification of CALD and Newly Arrived young people in the media. This forum was attended by over 100 people including representatives of government, Victoria police, youth workers, other youth committees and the media.

They developed, produced and uploaded a range of short films onto UTube that addressed themes of racial vilification and violence.

The Vice Chair of the EYC was awarded the Herald Sun's VCE Achiever Award, due to her academic achievement and involvement in the EYC.

