

**Submission
No 11**

VOLUNTEERING AND UNPAID WORK PLACEMENTS AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN NSW

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Inquiry into volunteering and unpaid work placements among children and young people in NSW

Submission by Youth Action

To Whom It May Concern:

Youth Action thanks the committee for their interest in this issue, and believes that it is important for the role of volunteering and unpaid work for children and young people be examined closely. To this end, we wish to make a number of comments, and endorse the submission by Interns Australia, which mirrors our thoughts on the issue of unpaid work placements for young people in NSW.

Volunteering

It is clear that in certain circumstances, young people benefit extensively from volunteering in their local community and on issues that they care passionately about. Young people possess a number of skills that are often not recognised in volunteering circumstances, including technological knowledge, physical capacity and a desire to learn. These are all positive traits that young people can offer to organisations looking for volunteers that are often noted as skill areas that organisations list as traits they would like to attract volunteers in.

Additionally, for young people, it is clear that volunteering promotes social inclusion, a strong sense of community and positive perceptions of young people by the community at large.


The NSW Government is well placed to support young people's continued and expanded volunteering through a number of mechanisms. These mechanisms include:

- Directing the Centre for Volunteering NSW to further publicise their www.youthvolunteering.com.au website and continue to develop resources for organisation to take on young people to volunteer.
- Providing incentives for organisations to take on young volunteers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young people with disabilities and young people with experiences of the juvenile justice and/or care and protection system as a means to promote social inclusion.
- Direct the Commission for Children and Young People to investigate what young people seek to gain from volunteering and to disseminate these findings to better adapt volunteering to be beneficial for young people.

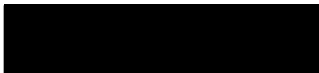
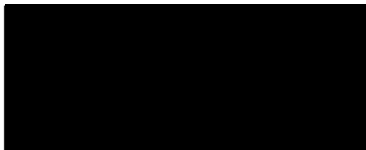


Unpaid work placements

Interns Australia, a youth-led organisation created to advocate for fairer internships for young people in Australia, has provided an extensive submission on the positive and negative aspects of unpaid work experiences. After reviewing their submission, we wish to support their submission as it's recommendations and policy directions mirror our own perspective on this issue.

If you require any additional information regarding this issue, or wish to ask clarifying questions, please do not hesitate to contact our 

Kind Regards,



About Us

Youth Action is the peak organisation representing young people and youth services in NSW.

Youth Action works towards a society where all young people are supported, engaged and valued. To achieve this, it is the role of Youth Action to:

1. Respond to social and political agendas relating to young people and the youth services sector
2. Provide proactive leadership and advocacy and shape the agenda on issues affecting young people and youth services
3. Collaborate on issues that affect young people and youth workers
4. Promote a positive profile in the media and the community of young people and youth services
5. Build capacity for young people to speak out and take action on issues that affect them
6. Enhance the capacity of the youth services sector to provide high quality services
7. Ensure Youth Action's organisational development, efficiency, effectiveness and good governance.