



fya

UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

A COMMITMENT TO
YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

FYA.ORG.AU

**ALL YOUNG PEOPLE
HAVE UNLIMITED
POTENTIAL: WE'RE
HERE TO UNLEASH IT**

PRESENTED BY

POWERED BY

fya

SAMSUNG

For the past twenty years, the debate about Australia's future and the role of public policy has been shaped by the fact our population is getting older.

The critical question has been: how will this changing population support the costs of an ageing nation? How will fewer working age people support a growing number of people in retirement?

There has also been much talk about the need to ensure that this ageing population does not burden those who come after it with debts generated by unsustainable budgets. These challenges have dominated all areas of public policy from general questions about responsible budgets, to the design of health and education policies.

In all the discussion about our ageing nation, there has been relatively little focus on the people who will be responsible for leading and supporting the country through this challenge: the young people of Australia. Are they prepared for a world that is getting more complex and changing at a far faster rate?

Unlimited Potential: a data and information resource on young Australians sets out to fill in the gaps. Unlimited Potential details a very different world to the one known by the baby boomers whose ageing has preoccupied policy makers for so long.

At the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) we believe in an Australia in which all our citizens: can sustain our standard of living; enhance our quality of life; protect and nurture our fragile environment; are active and generous contributors to the global family.

For this vision to be realised we must prepare our young people for constant and evolving economic, social, cultural and environmental change in Australia and the region. Young Australians will need to be more confident, connected, enterprising, innovative, optimistic and generous than any generation before them.

In every area of life – work, health, education, and housing – the challenges facing young Australians today are challenges for Australia's future. Australia will rely on today's young people for its future prosperity and productivity. If our young people flourish, our nation's prosperity is assured. The question is: are we making it harder for them?

FYA is starting a national conversation to help us put in place a dynamic and forward-thinking set of national policies and initiatives that will build the confidence and capability of our young people.

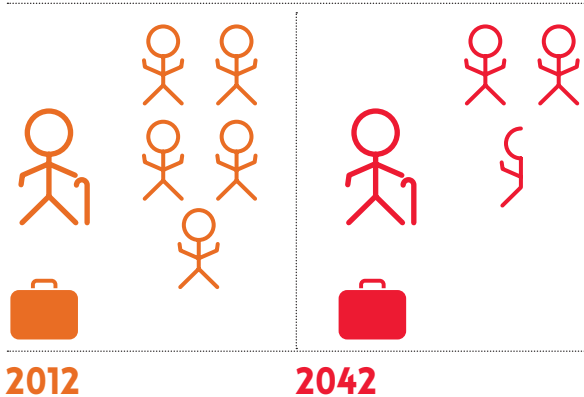
We need governments, businesses, young people and the broader community to join in the conversation and help us find solutions.



JAN OWEN AM
CEO

THE CHALLENGE

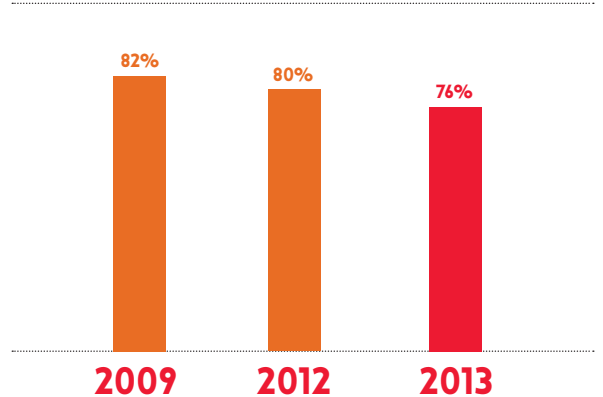
AN AGEING POPULATION



In 2012, there were more than five working people for every person aged over 65 but by 2042, it's predicted that there will only be 2.5.

How will a falling proportion of workers and taxpayers support the demands of an ageing population? The answer lies in equipping young Australians with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to build on Australia's competitive strengths, to innovate, and to increase productivity and grow the economy.

Our young people will have to be properly prepared for the work of the future, with a good understanding of the wider range of career options available and how they can navigate this complex new world of career flexibility. Are we investing enough to make this possible? *Unlimited Potential* shows many young Australians are having trouble transitioning from education to full-time work and that many are underemployed. Both employers and young people report a mismatch between what is being taught at school and what employers need.



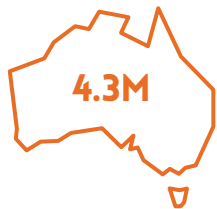
The percentage of higher education graduates who have found full-time work after graduating declined to only 76% in 2013 from 80% in 2012 and 82% in 2009.

The start our young people get in life affects not just them but the whole nation. For example, youth unemployment and underemployment now affects almost 30 per cent of young people in the labour force in Australia. This is a tragic waste of the talents of young people and means they miss out on maximising the on the job skills they need to thrive in the job market. There is also a loss for the nation as a whole.

- Close to 30 per cent of young Australians in the labour force are unemployed or underemployed
- Young Australians are taking on three times as much debt as their parents to buy their first home and graduating with over \$24,000 more in student debt
- Only 22 per cent of Young Australians expect their life experience will be better than their parents.

THE OPPORTUNITY

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE A VITAL RESOURCE

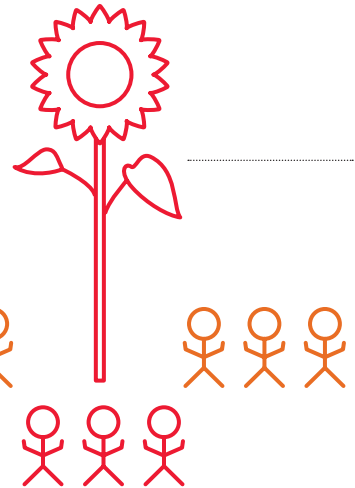


TODAY

There are 4.3 million young people in Australia and it is predicted this number will rise to 6.3 million by 2053.



2053



70%

70% of young people are active in some kind of community, social or school activity.

Having so many young people out of the workforce has cost our economy 790 million lost hours of work this year alone. This equates to up to \$15.9 billion in lost GDP to the Australian economy. The social impact is equally compelling. Loss of confidence, hope and self-esteem has led to mental health issues costing \$7.2 billion per annum.

Our young people are a vital resource to our country. They are a diverse group, with 18 per cent of young Australians born overseas and 40 per cent with at least one parent who was born overseas. This is a significant strength in an increasingly global economy. In the next forty years we will have 50 per cent more young people in Australia, making us one of the youngest and most diverse populations in the OECD.

In general, young Australians are doing well and 80 per cent deal with any issues they face through the support of their community and personal networks. They are contributing and leading change and connecting to national and global issues. They are finding new ways to shape society using technology and the disciplines of business.

THE SOLUTION

FYA is starting a national conversation between all the generations about the role and resources needed to enable young people to shape Australia's future. We have identified four priority areas to start this conversation.

How will we:

- 1 Educate and equip young people with enterprising skills
- 2 Invest in young Australian social and business entrepreneurship
- 3 Turbocharge young people's connections with Asia
- 4 Back young people to contribute and lead change

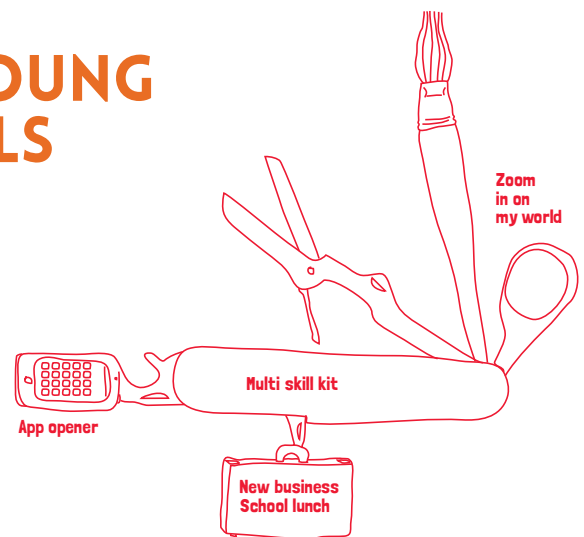
PULSE CAFE

Pulse Café started with \$500 to buy a simple coffee machine. Now it's a fully operational school café run entirely by students. The idea was prompted by a group of students who realised that tensions were at their highest in the morning at Granville Boys High. A student had even been stabbed on school grounds. By providing a new and welcoming place for students to hang out that was also open to teachers and parents, Pulse Café quickly transformed the culture of the school.



ENTERPRISING SKILLS EDUCATE AND EQUIP YOUNG PEOPLE WITH NEW SKILLS

If young people are to take up the challenge of growing an economy with a shrinking workforce, and navigate a changing world that is more complex, global and flexible, they will need to be innovative, creative and enterprising.



NOW

- > Urgent reform of careers education to engage students, parents, business and schools to ensure a better match and transition between what schools teach and what the economy and society needs.
- > Provide more opportunities for young people to gain the enterprising skills and experience needed to make them successful in this century. For example communication, project management, financial literacy, digital literacy, creativity and innovation.

NEXT

- > Ensure every young person gains work exposure and immersion opportunities beyond the classroom at every year level of secondary school through a \$10 million investment to demonstrate careers education partnership in high schools.
- > Introduce enterprise education in all secondary schools with an investment of \$36 million in an evergreen enterprise 'bank' to give students the opportunity to borrow \$20 and start their first venture.

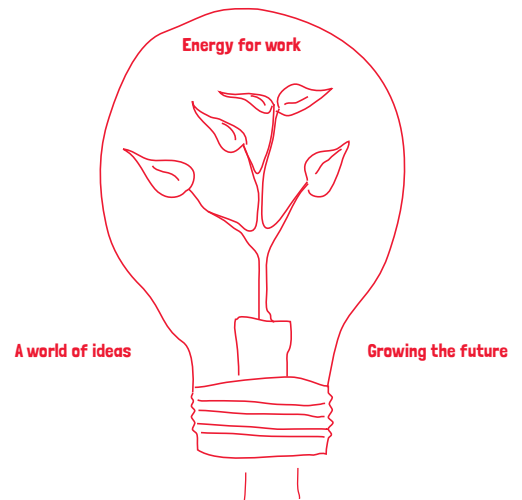
GIRLS ENGINEERING THE GLOBE

Sometimes young women need personal encouragement to take up disciplines like engineering. After noticing that there were not many girls studying engineering at University, Marita Cheng got a group together to form Robogals. Now evident in four countries and having taught more than 16,000 girls, the group is about inspiring young women to take an interest in robotics through career talks, demonstrations and workshops.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP INVEST IN YOUNG AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL AND BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Innovation and entrepreneurship drive social and economic progress. Fostering innovation increases opportunities for young people to be job creators rather than job seekers. To develop a strong culture of innovation and entrepreneurship we need to invest in young Australians and their ideas, and give them a chance to take risks.



NOW

- > Ensure young people have opportunities to learn to be entrepreneurs.
- > Support young entrepreneurs once they are having a go, through an 'eco-system' of business mentoring, training, incentives and investment.

NEXT

- > Establish an innovation fund for young Australians by allocating five per cent of the Federal Government's Entrepreneurs Infrastructure Programme.
- > Seek contributions from business and philanthropy, to create to a fund specifically for young people.

LIVING IN INDIA

After a trip to India to live and work as a volunteer for disadvantaged schools and hostels, Tenille came home and saw her community through a new set of eyes. Her time in India was spent working with young women, many of them homeless and struggling with the lack of opportunity. These experiences gave Tenille new skills and introduced her to a rich and fascinating culture first hand.



ASIA CONNECTED TURBOCHARGE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONNECTIONS WITH ASIA

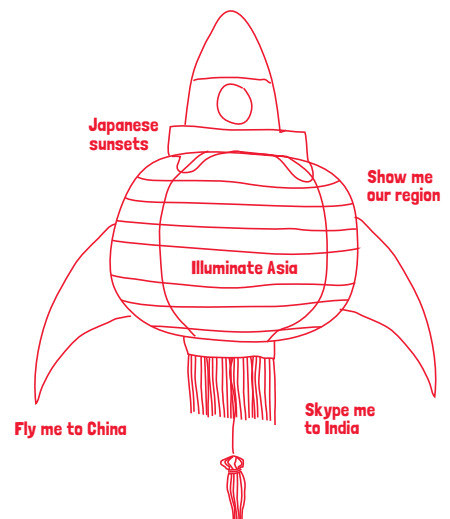
To capitalise on the opportunities being generated by the growth of the Asian economies young people will need to be building links with the Asian region. We need to create and accelerate a real appetite for Asia literacy and capability by building exciting and relevant opportunities throughout secondary school years and beyond.

NOW

- > Provide subsidies and opportunities for all young people to gain access to immersive cultural experiences during their secondary and university education.
- > Utilise technology to forge new and innovative opportunities for young people to connect with their peers in the region.

NEXT

- > Provide platforms and forums for young people from across the region to come together and work collaboratively to solve the most pressing challenges.
- > Increase the opportunities through local government for young people, particularly the 28 per cent who live in regional and rural Australia.
- > Provide immersive experiences in the Asian region for young Australians who can then return to contribute and educate others in their local communities at home.



ON YOUR BIKE

Dismantle uses the simple bicycle as a tool to reconnect young people to employment or education pathways. Founder Lachy Ritchie has taken his passion for cycling and transformed it into a vehicle for social change by helping young people overcome adversity. At-risk and disengaged young people are trained by Dismantle to repair the old bikes for re-use. The program encourages participants to engage positively in the community, teaches tangible employment skills and promotes healthy lifestyle choices.

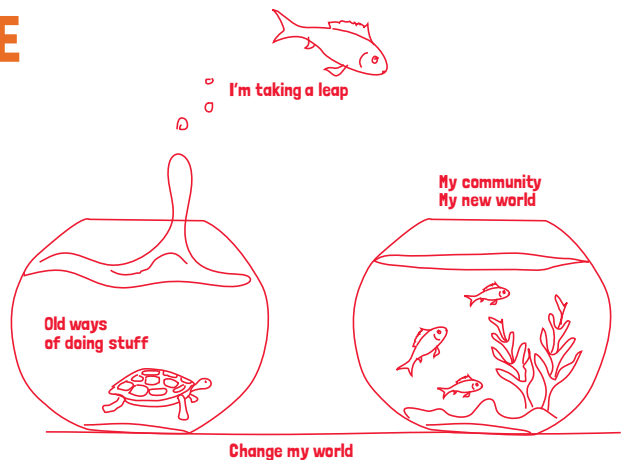


CREATE CHANGE BACK YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONTRIBUTE AND LEAD CHANGE

To create change, and find better ways of doing things, we will need a generation of confident citizens, with a global outlook. We will need to build on and extend Australia's culture of contribution and volunteering, create new leaders in the public life and support community life.

NOW

- > Invest in young people's capacity to understand and shape the nation and world in which they want to live and work. For young people this usually means starting at the community level, where through various forms of social engagement, particularly volunteering, they learn about civic problem solving and leadership.
- > Ensure young people have the opportunity to thrive and excel by providing them with diverse experiences within their communities. It is everyone's business to prepare young people for a significant intergenerational transfer of leadership.



NEXT

- > Develop ways to engage and empower young people to start their first social change projects with micro-grant funding and support to have a go at starting something to create change in their community.
- > Develop a national social citizenship 'report card' which recognises and celebrates young peoples' contributions to their community throughout their school years, and contributes to their work-ready portfolio.

FYA IS A NATIONAL INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA. DELIVERING A RANGE OF INITIATIVES (CO)DESIGNED WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, TOGETHER WE CREATE CHANGE ACROSS AUSTRALIA.

FYA is demonstrating a range of initiatives which reflect the key areas of focus identified throughout *Unlimited Potential*.

ENTERPRISING SKILLS

\$20 Boss – enterprise education in schools.

Adappt – young people build social purpose apps.

Beyond the Classroom – new framework for careers education.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Young Social Pioneers – mentoring and support for young social entrepreneurs.

ASIA CONNECTED

Young People without Borders – young people volunteering in Asia.

CREATE CHANGE

Change it Up – creating change in local communities.

Propeller – celebrating the ideas of ordinary extraordinary young Australians.

National Indigenous Youth Leadership Academy – connecting Indigenous young people from communities across Australia.

Impact – a community of young Indigenous leaders across the Northern Territory.

For more information on our diverse range of initiatives please visit fya.org.au



WE'RE STARTING A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

FIND OUT MORE AT
[FYA.ORG.AU/UNLIMITEDPOTENTIAL](https://fya.org.au/unlimitedpotential)

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