



[australian youth led convention](http://www.aylc.org.au)

MEDIA RELEASE:

First ever National youth-led summit at Parliament house this weekend

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The first ever Australian Youth Led Convention at Parliament House in Canberra will be held this weekend Friday the 26th to Sunday the 28th inclusive. This is the first ever conference for this emerging and distinct sector, and brings together the leaders of over 60 youth-led organizations from across the country. All of the delegates are engaged in mobilising young people for positive social change in Australia.

Leading the convention is the Left Right Think-Tank, Australia's first independent and non-partisan think-tank of young minds in partnership with the Australian Government. Left Right Think-Tank CEO, Rick Newnham (22) will open the Convention with The Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for Youth.

Rick Newnham describes the historic moment: "The Convention is the first time these young leaders will come together to share successful strategies, resources and lessons learnt from their previous endeavors. I'm sure there will be a lot of discussion around the opportunities to partner with each other in 2011 and beyond.

"Expected outcomes from the Convention are threefold. First we aim to equip leaders of the youth-led industry with long-term, transferable skills so they can have greater impact through their work. Second, we hope all of the leaders will build stronger networks and dynamic, productive partnerships between their organisations, and the Australian Government. Finally the Convention is the first step to greater recognition and understanding of the youth-led sector by the Australian government, the general public and the media.

"For the first time in Australia's history youth-led social impact work will be formally recognised by the Federal Government.

"Mission Australia has recently released a report that shows that 60% of young people volunteer in their spare time. A massive portion of these young people are involved in running or working in youth-led organizations and will be represented by their senior leader at the Convention.

"It is estimated that \$15.5 million worth of volunteer time is contributed to Australian society by youth-led organisations each year.

"Young people, especially Gen-Y, are known for their audacity and risk-taking but are rarely credited for the creative social change they drive in the community. This Convention is a key step in recognising that young people are organized, insightful and creative in their approach to developing their communities.

"The Hon. Peter Garrett will open the Convention as one of his first major addresses to young Australians as Youth Minister. The Federal Government's partnership with the Left Right Think Tank is very exciting, as the significance of this Convention can not be underestimated. We estimate that the 60 youth-led organisations present have engaged over a million Australians in the last decade.

"The organisations represented cover a diverse range of issues including climate change, poverty, multi-faith cooperation, public policy, women's status, student services, broadcast media and indigenous leadership.



Australian Government





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“Most of these organisations have teams across the country. Social media allows young Australians to seek out causes they are most interested in and contribute to them from where ever they might live.

“Because of Gen Y’s access to, and use of social media, many dynamic movements and communities have flourished across the country, enabling regional locations to be part of the greater movement in Australia.

“Most of the delegates are volunteers who balance university studies, part-time work and their volunteer work. On average, these young people are volunteering more than 20 hours a week leading their organisation which is driving an emerging culture of volunteerism amongst young people.

“We’ve noticed that there is a near perfect gender split in the top tier leadership of Australia’s youth organisations. The youth-led sector is leading the way in gender equality and I expect this culture to flow through to the business sector as these leaders enter the workforce.

“The delegates have an impressive weekend ahead of them with keynotes from Australia’s leading business and social impact professionals. Presenters include Peter Shergold AC, CEO of the Centre for Social Impact and previous Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Jan Owen AM CEO of the Foundation for Young Australians and Benny Callaghan, CEO of the School for Social Entrepreneurs.

“Delegates represent organisation that are entirely youth-led, which means the organisation is run exclusively by young people.

“The Convention wouldn’t be possible without the support of our sponsors: The Foundation for Young Australians, the ABC and Teach for Australia.”

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