

Tasmanian youth forum

# SHOULD I STAY or SHOULD I GO?

*Final report:*

*What young people say about staying or leaving Tasmania*

*what would make you stay? what would make you go?  
what would make you come back to Tasmania (to learn,  
earn, work or play)?*

*December 2013*

**TYF**

Tasmanian youth forum

## About TYF

The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) is Tasmania's peak youth consultative body. TYF is an initiative of the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT), the peak organisation for the non-government youth sector in Tasmania, with funding from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, through the Community Development Division's Office of Children and Youth Affairs (OCYA).

## Our Mission

To work with young people, the Tasmanian Youth Sector, the community and all levels of government to increase the participation and contribution of young people in the state.

## Our Vision

A Tasmania where young people are actively engaged in community life and have access to the resources needed to develop their potential.

## Acknowledgements

YNOT and TYF would like to thank the young people who participated in the 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' forum and survey. Thank you to our TYF members, volunteers and sector workers who volunteered their time in the lead up to the forum and on the day. We would also like to acknowledge our event sponsors, Launceston City Council and Community Development Division of Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC).



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## Executive Summary

This report was developed to communicate the ideas and views of young people who participated in the Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Statewide Youth Forum and online survey.

The forum and survey was an initiative of the TYF which is the peak consultative body for young people in Tasmania. TYF is supported by the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT), the peak organisation for the non-government youth sector in Tasmania.

The retention of young people in Tasmania is a topic which is frequently raised and discussed within groups in the Tasmanian community and by young people. TYF conducted the forum and online survey to provide young people with the opportunity to discuss this topic and contributing factors which influence the decision of young people to stay in Tasmania or leave.

TYF used these opportunities to gauge whether or not young people wanted to stay in Tasmania or leave, and see whether or not there was a difference at the forum in particular after discussing the different opportunities available within Tasmania

From this report it can be concluded that although the majority of young people indicated that they wanted to leave Tasmania at some stage, many of them wanted to return. Young people identified the lifestyle, community and environment within Tasmania as some of the aspects they liked and would like to return to. Some of the significant factors which would influence a young person's decision to either stay in Tasmania or leave included education, employment and travel.

The results and ideas from the forum and survey have been collaborated to develop key findings.

### **The key findings of this report are:**

Finding 1: The majority of young people who think that they might leave Tasmania, also want to return.

Finding 2: The Tasmanian environment and community are the most valued aspects of Tasmania by young people which can encourage some to return to Tasmania if they leave.

Finding 3: Young people view the lack of jobs in Tasmania as significant issue for their future in Tasmania.

Finding 4: Young people view their lack of options to study at University and TAFE as a significant issue for them in the future in Tasmania.

Finding 5: Young people identified that there is a gap in the available, youth specific, opportunities, events and activities in Tasmania and they may have to move in order to find these opportunities.

Finding 6: Young people who discussed topics that were not directly linked to education and employment, saw that these two issues are significant factors which contribute to a young person's decision to stay in or leave Tasmania.

Finding 7: Forum participants were more likely to want to stay in Tasmania after participating in forum discussions about the options available within, and outside of, Tasmania.

Finding 8: The majority of young people reported that they felt proud to live in Tasmania at least sometimes.

Finding 9: The majority of young people are thinking about the decision to stay in or leave Tasmania.

Finding 10: The decision to stay in or leave Tasmania is something which starts at a young age.

Finding 11: Young people identified wanting to travel as the main reason why they would leave Tasmania.

Finding 12: There are some differences between the reasons young people give for leaving Tasmania themselves and the reasons that they think other young people would leave Tasmania for.

Finding 13: Young people do not make the decision to leave Tasmania lightly as many consider other options within the State and know that they should develop a plan for their future if they decide to move.

## Introduction

The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) developed the 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Statewide Youth Forum and Survey through being informed by background research and in consultation with young people to find out what young people thought about this topic. This topic is something which is raised and discussed frequently by the general public, media, decision makers, young people and other groups within the Tasmanian community. The issues which surround this topic are complex and overlap, and are also influenced by how young people perceive Tasmania.

'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' provided young people with an opportunity to discuss whether or not they had thought about leaving Tasmania or moving within Tasmania, discuss their thoughts about Tasmania, discuss what are some of the key issues or factors which influence their decisions, and discuss some of the ideas they have to make Tasmania a place where young people would like to live or return to in the future. In conjunction with the forum, an online survey was also conducted to allow young people who were not able to attend the forum to have their say on the topic and reach a more diverse range of young people.

While this report outlines the process of each consultation, the key findings which are presented are based on the consultation process as a whole.

## Background Information

The number of young people in Tasmania is continuing to decrease and young people continue to represent a smaller proportion of the Tasmania population. The decreasing number of young people in Tasmania is an issue for all aspects of the community, particularly with an ageing population. Young people have an important role to play today, as well as in the future, in Tasmania. Issues around labour force participation, labour productivity, education, health and housing are just some of the areas which will be impacted because of a lower population of young people in Tasmania (DCAC 2007).

In 2011, Tasmania had the lowest proportion of the population who were young adults when compared to all other States and Territories in Australia (ABS 2013). It has been predicted that the proportion of young people in the Tasmanian population will continue to fall as the ageing population increases, particularly in the proportion of people who are aged 65 years and over (DCAC 2007). In addition to this, the lower proportion of young adults in Tasmania has also been attributed to an outflow of young people who are leaving to travel interstate for education and employment opportunities (ABS 2011). This is reflected in people aged 15 to 29 comprising the highest proportion of people who leave the state, even in periods of strong population growth (DCAC 2007). In contrast, people aged 44 and over make up the majority of people who move to Tasmania (ABS 2011).

## Scope

This report aims to communicate the results, ideas and views of young people who participated in the TYF 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Statewide Youth Forum and survey. Both the survey and forum engaged a diverse range of young people from across the State that were of different ages and backgrounds.

## Consultation Process: Forum

Around 150 young people attended TYF 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Statewide Youth Forum which was held on Tuesday 22 October 2013 at Door of Hope, Launceston, from 10:00am to 3:30pm. Young people came from 25 different areas across the Tasmania including Triabunna, George Town, Snug, Hobart, New Norfolk and Burnie. Micheal 'Mo' O'Meara from MoHOW Consultancy facilitated the forum. An agenda was developed for the day but was flexible to accommodate what young people wanted to discuss (see appendix 1). The day focused on having small group discussions where each group was facilitated by a sector worker and young person.

The day started by the facilitator introducing the forum topic and getting participants involved with a positioning activity where they could indicate whether they wanted to stay in Tasmania or leave. This was a way of gauging what young people thought they might like to do in the future at the beginning of the day.

Participants were then asked to brainstorm, in small working groups, what they thought the good and bad things about Tasmania were. They were also asked what were the biggest factors which would make them decide to stay or leave and what needed to change in

Tasmania for them to stay here or return. Each working group presented their ideas to the other working groups.

Participants then got to choose to work on one of 10 table topics (see appendix 2) to discuss what their vision for the future in Tasmania in relation to their topic would be. Participants were then asked participants to brainstorm what their table topic meant to them and the issues surrounding the topic before having guest speaker Rick Marton of Coyote Special Events, talk to participants about his experience as a young social entrepreneur in Tasmania.

After lunch, participants returned to their table topics to focus on what could be done in Tasmania to encourage young people to stay or return if they had left and achieve their future vision for Tasmania. Each group was asked to present their main idea or project to the other groups. At the end of the afternoon workshop, participants got to vote on which one they would most like to see happen.

Participants finished the day with a photo board activity where they could write down their reason for staying in or leaving Tasmania and completing feedback forms and a survey on whether or not they would want to leave Tasmania. This was to get an indication of whether or not young people at the forum had changed their mind from the beginning of the day.

### **Positioning Activity**

The first activity of the day was to get an indication of whether forum participants came to the event with the idea of staying in Tasmania or leaving. Participants were asked to place a sticky note with their name on it, on a piece of butchers paper that either said Stay, Leave, Leave but come back and Unsure/Never thought about it. This provided a visual representation to gauge what young people envisaged for their own future.





**Figure 1 Results of positioning activity**

This activity found that 72% of participants wanted to leave Tasmania with 40% indicating they wanted to come back. There were 17% of participants who wanted to stay and 11% were either unsure or had not thought about it.

While this activity demonstrated that most young people wanted to leave Tasmania, most of them also wanted to return at some stage. It is interesting that the majority of participants reported having thought about this topic prior to attending the forum.

*Finding 1: The majority of young people who think that they might leave Tasmania, also want to return.*

## Discussing the Issues

Participants were asked to identify issues by participating in a brainstorming activity. They were asked to discuss what they thought were the positive and negative aspects of Tasmania and what the biggest factors which influence a young person's decision to stay or leave Tasmania are. Participants broke into smaller working groups to discuss these topics and then each group presented their ideas.

There were some common themes among the groups about the positive aspects of Tasmania. Participants identified that the sense of community in Tasmania was something very positive. This included a sense of feeling safe in their communities, a sense of belonging, having friendly people in their communities, and knowing lots of people in their communities and Tasmania more broadly. Participants also indicated that Tasmania's environment is a positive aspect. Groups identified things such as Tasmania's clean air, low



levels of pollution, diverse range of environments (such as forests and beaches), scenery, wilderness and wildlife as being things which they valued.

*Finding 2: The Tasmanian environment and community are the most valued aspects of Tasmania by young people which can encourage some to return to Tasmania if they leave.*

Groups also shared ideas which related to the general lifestyle associated with living in Tasmania such as being cheaper and quieter in comparison to other places in Australia, the lack of traffic, and the Tasmanian culture particularly around festivals and events which happen over summer. Proximity and being close to things, such as family and friends, was also identified as something which is positive about Tasmania.

The negative aspects of Tasmania which the groups identified were quite broad as some related to very specific issues in local communities while others had a broader focus. The majority of the groups did identify unemployment and a lack of jobs in Tasmania as one of their negative aspects. Some groups identified more specific things such as the lack of support for businesses, too much regulation and low levels of investment while others broadly referred to the lack of jobs. Education at a tertiary level, in particular, was also seen by participants as a negative aspect in Tasmania. This was due to a small range of TAFE and University courses being offered in Tasmania or at a particular campus, or a specific course that participants were interested in not being available in Tasmania to study.

*Finding 3: Young people view the lack of jobs in Tasmania as significant issue for their future in Tasmania.*

*Finding 4: Young people view their lack of options to study at University and TAFE as a significant issue for them in the future in Tasmania.*

Groups also reported back on a wide range of leisure and recreational opportunities which they thought were not available to them in Tasmania. This included things such as music events, sports, events specifically for young people, outdoor activities and activities in indoor venues. Some groups also identified the lack of transport in Tasmania as a negative, despite proximity identified by some groups as a positive aspect. This could be because although young people are close to family, friends and services, they do not have the means to access them independently and in a timely manner with the transport available to them.

*Finding 5: Young people identified that there is a gap in the available, youth specific, opportunities, events and activities in Tasmania and they may have to move in order to find these opportunities.*

From these positive and negative aspects, groups identified the availability of jobs, wanting to experience new and different things such as other cultures, availability of education, transport, safety and support from others as some of the bigger factors which would influence the decision of young people to either stay in Tasmania or leave. These may be things that are available within or outside of Tasmania so may also be things which influence young people to leave Tasmania or stay.

Participants were also asked to brainstorm what would need to be change in Tasmania to make it more appealing for people to stay or return. In terms of education, participants said there needed to be more money invested in education so that more opportunities could be created for young people to study a more diverse range of courses, particularly in rural and

regional areas to ensure that there is equal access across the state. Participants also wanted more job opportunities and career pathways available in Tasmania by encouraging businesses to Tasmania and ensuring that well paid jobs are available in the State. In relation to jobs, a few groups said that increasing tourism and developing more attractions in Tasmania would benefit tourists and locals by there being more things to do, and, creating more business in the State. Some of the groups also referred to having more options for transport so that it is easier to get around the State, including between the north and south.

Something which also came across in this question was that participants identified the need to market Tasmania to the rest of Australia and the world. They identified a need to demonstrate the potential of Tasmania to attract more people to live here and attracting more specialists and businesses to set up here.

## Issues and Ideas

To focus discussions further, participants broke up into topic groups after presenting their ideas from the big picture brainstorm. Participants could choose from one of ten topics that interested them (see appendix 1). These topics were formed prior to the forum on the basis of background research and consultation with young people. Each topic had the scope for young people to discuss what might make people leave Tasmania or stay or return to Tasmania. A lot of participants chose 'Wandering the World' and 'Moving for Money' so these topic groups were very large, indicating that these particular topics are a big issue.

The purpose of these topic groups was to refine the issues in relation to each topic and to focus on developing ideas and solutions. Each topic group was given the following questions by the facilitator to help guide their discussion in relation to their topic:

- What is this topic about and what does it mean to you?
- What is your vision for the future?
- How do we get to that future?

A summary of each group discussion is below.

### Wanting Work

Participants in this group identified how money is just one aspect of work and that other factors such as who you work with, where you work, your skills, personal development, independence, and stability, can have an influence on a person's life. Being independent was highlighted as particularly important in terms of being able to move out of home and being self sufficient.

This group suggested that having a future where there is a bigger population will create more demands for services which will create more businesses and bigger industries. This included having technology such as the National Broadband Network (NBN) available for businesses, having new industries such as renewable energy and more social events to attract visitors. It was also discussed that it is important to have a sustainable population growth to maintain the environment and lifestyle which is in Tasmania.

### Wandering the World

Participants in these groups identified the topic being about travelling to seek new

experiences and exploring which could be for enjoyment or gaining more knowledge. This included things such as meeting new people, experiencing new cultures, seeing tourist attractions, experiencing a different climate, attending events and learning new things. They also identified that travel could be to go and help people in other places who are less fortunate or visit family and friends.

Participants created a vision for the future in Tasmania where there is acceptance of other cultures, learning from others, recognition of Tasmania's connections with other places and learning from the experiences of other countries. The development of Tasmania as an eco tourist spot with a clean, natural, peaceful, environment would be a way to encourage people to travel to Tasmania but it was identified that there needs to be a balance between conservation and business. This group also said that there should be the acceptance of Tasmania as being unique and not try to market it or develop it to be like another part of Australia. Participants also noted some of the difficulties such as money, lack of passion and a lack of people as some of the barriers to this vision.

### School and Study

Participants in this group identified a broad range of issues which they saw related to the topic of school and study. This included things such as the range of courses available, support for study and training, teachers, career guidance, other students, work experience, internships, resources, funding, subjects and flexible learning options.

The future for this group would involve having more teachers in schools, more opportunities to learn on the job such as internships, students who are keen to learn, personalised learning pathways for everyone, more refined curriculum, variety of education courses and more information available on study options. To achieve this, participants in this group thought there needed to be a multifaceted approach. This included having more specialist teachers, more funding for higher levels of education and TAFE, better facilities at schools, better support in planning for study options, more practical placements, more financial support for students, and equality across all of Tasmania in terms of access to education.

### Family and Friends

Participants in this group discussed the tension between the different views of friends and family, who are the people you need support from, and how to make a decision to leave friends and (or) family behind or move to be with them. Most participants in this group saw their own future as being outside of Tasmania but would come back because of friends and family, either to visit or stay. They noted that the broader issues such as jobs and education that may make people move away and that friends and family are not enough to make young people stay in Tasmania.

Participants in this group believed that if there were more jobs and opportunities in Tasmania, not as many people would have to leave their family and friends. This could be achieved by giving more support to young people in schools to do what they want to do in work or study.

### Staying in the State

Participants in this group identified that staying in the state would mean facing a number of issues and challenges which included education, lack of services in regional areas, lack of

reliable transport, having to travel to access services, long waiting lists for health care, recreation and lack of mental health services for young people.

Participants in this group envisaged a future where there were more university and VET courses available in Tasmania, capitalising on new technology such as the NBN, having youth friendly health services in all areas, more opportunities in social enterprise for young people, supporting young people in the arts, more leisure opportunities which are not sport based, more access alternative sports, mentoring and 'funky, interactive' spaces for young people to feel safe.

### Everyone Knows Everyone

Participants in this group saw that 'everyone knowing everyone' in Tasmania can be an issue. They identified being self conscious about who is around, having trouble to develop an identity and be anonymous, and not easily being able to mix with new people because of the tight connections.

They envisaged a future in Tasmania where there was more people working cooperatively and considerately, more people actively tried to meet new people, a more welcoming society of different people and encouraging others.

### Moving for Money

These groups discussed how money is also about making good decisions around spending, budgeting, saving, investing, and having the financial skills to do this. They also noted a social element to it in terms of people who do not have a lot of money may be living in poverty and the importance of charities to help those who are less fortunate. Money as a form of security to get a good education and standard of living was also discussed.

They envisaged a future where there would be more job opportunities and investment in education to help people secure an income, more tourist attractions to generate money in Tasmania and better advertisement of Tasmania particularly to people such as professionals to encourage them to work here. Participants in this group saw that tourism would be a good way to generate more money and jobs in Tasmania by using what Tasmania already has, such as beaches, or products which are being produced here. They also identified that opportunities online would be another way to make more money and jobs here.

### Seeking Services

Although this topic could be very broad, participants in this group focuses on having access to education as a service because of its importance for the future in terms of getting a job and earning money. The future vision of this group was about making education more accessible for young people in Tasmania through more subsidies being available for education and more diverse and reliable transport to get to their place of study. Having more diverse and reliable transport was also identified with having better access to other services such as health or youth related services.

### Finding Fun

Participants in this group listed particular activities such as sports, outdoor education, travelling, and entertainment opportunities which they regarded as being fun. They also identified that interacting with other people, such as teachers, making other people happy, talking to people and finding new things were all other aspects which related to being happy and making things fun.

Participants in this group liked the lifestyle in Tasmania but also wanted some change so that the future would have more entertainment and activities in Tasmania for young people. This included things such as which would include having more festivals and music festivals, more shopping, more excursions at school, and more transport to events and activities specifically for young people.

### Form Your Own Future

Participants in this group saw that creating your own job was part of how you could form your own future. They also discussed about the importance of making decisions that shape your life in a way that you want it, doing things that make you happy, making opportunities for your future, and doing what you want in a self directed way. This group really focused on the idea of having more mentors to support young people who wanted to create their own pathways.

## Summary of Discussions

It is interesting that through the discussion in these different topic groups, most groups related the topic back to employment and education. Groups identified that these were factors which would influence other things such as staying with friends and family or having more things for young people to do. Many groups identified that by improving education and employment opportunities in Tasmania, it would also improve other aspects of living in Tasmania for young people.

*Finding 6: Young people who discussed topics that were not directly linked to education and employment, saw that these two issues are significant factors which contribute to a young person's decision to stay in or leave Tasmania.*

## Ideas

Following the brainstorm and discussion about issues in topic groups, each group developed one main idea or project as their idea for contributing to the solution of their identified issue. Each project was then presented to the other groups and twelve projects were presented in total. Following this, each participant voted on the ideas by using dot voting to vote on the ideas which they would like to see happen most. The following projects were voted as the top five.

## Voting on ideas by forum participants



Figure 2 Results of voting on ideas

### **‘Making Connections’ from the discussion group ‘Wandering the World’ (29 Dots 15% of the vote)**

The idea of this project was to create ways to make strong connections between Tasmania and other parts of the world to get greater awareness of what Tasmania has to offer. This included having ‘sister cities’ as a way of promoting Tasmania, more exchange students who come to experience living and studying in Tasmania, and having positive campaigns to promote Tasmania. This would be a way of increasing the multicultural population in Tasmania.

The project would also involve having more multicultural events in Tasmania so people could experience what different cultures have to offer and look to the positive experiences of other countries which could be used here.

### **‘Expanding Tasmanians Tertiary Education’ from the discussion group ‘Seeking Services’ (27 dots, 15% of the vote)**

This project was about improving education services and the support for students in Tasmania so that they did not feel like they had to move from their home town to another place in the State, or move away from Tasmania.

Their idea was to have more courses available at University and TAFE, particularly at the smaller campuses in Tasmania such as the Cradle Coast, so that young people could be closer to their support structures such as family. They wanted more subsidies to be available for young people who finish year 12 to encourage them to finish school and go on to tertiary study. When people did take on study, there would also be more support to make studying easier in conjunction with working. To increase the demand for higher education, this project would also have subsidies for mature aged students to encourage people to come back to Tasmania and study.

**‘Keeping Students in Tassie’ from the discussion group ‘Wanting Work’  
(23 Dots, 12% of the vote)**

This project focused supporting young people who are studying at university or are in apprenticeships. This included having subsidised housing available to make it easier for young people to access higher education or apprenticeships and traineeships if they had to move away. It would also involve developing a campaign and encouraging students to study at UTAS and TasTAFE if the courses are available, rather than moving away, by highlighting the benefits of staying in Tasmania. Apprentices would also be encouraged to work in Tasmania through a similar campaign.

**‘Keeping Tasmania Our Home’ from the discussion group ‘Finding Fun’  
(20 dots, 11% of the vote)**

This project focused on developing ways that Tasmania could have more opportunities for young people by building upon what Tasmania already has. This group said that they wanted to keep Tasmania the same because it was unique, had a good environment and a nice, relaxed lifestyle, but find ways that more opportunities could be built around this.

For recreation, having more festivals that go throughout the year rather than just in summer which would give more young people activities to do during the year. Developing more tourist attractions that locals and tourists could enjoy, such as a theme park, would also serve as a dual purpose. The retail in Tasmania also be further developed which would become a tourist attraction for shopping while also creating jobs.

This group also saw that having young people employed would be important in the future. Increasing the amount of volunteer and training options that are available to young people who could help them get a job and career in Tasmania. This would also tie in with providing more engaging activities where young people could have a more ‘hands on’ learning experience.

**‘Expanding Your Future’ from the discussion group ‘Family and Friends’  
(19 dots, 10% of the vote)**

This project was focused on developing the education and employment opportunities so young people and their family and friends did not have to move away to access those opportunities. This was because they believed that family and friends were not enough to make a young person want to stay in Tasmania.



Their idea was to have pathway planners for each year of school where the work of the previous year was built upon the following year. This included having mentoring, work experience and internships available to young people earlier to help them get an idea of what they might like to do in the future and build their experience. Families could also be included in this process so there was a greater understanding of how a young person might make the decision to follow a particular pathway, such as moving away for study.

## Summary of Ideas

It is interesting to note that despite employment being identified as a significant issue for young people, the project ideas that received the most votes focused more on education. This may be because going to college, university or further training is in the more immediate future for young people and therefore the issue which they would like to see improvement on first.

## Stay or Go?

At the end of the forum, participants were surveyed to determine whether they wanted to leave Tasmania, stay in Tasmania but move to a new place, leave Tasmania or stay where they currently were in Tasmania. There were 69% of respondents said that they would want to leave, 14% said stay but move to a new area and 12% said stay in Tasmania and not move. Other was indicated by 5% who said things such as going to travel. Compared to the beginning of the day, there were 9% more participants who wanted to stay in Tasmania, either in their hometown or move to a new area. Participants may have learned during the day from sector workers, young people from other parts of Tasmania or speakers at the event about the possibilities and opportunities in Tasmania which may have encouraged them to think they would stay in Tasmania.

An optional photo board activity was also conducted to provide a visual representation of the thoughts of young people at the end of the day on whether they wanted to stay or go. The photo board activity involved young people writing whether they wanted to stay, go or go and come back and writing a short reason as to why, such as for education, employment or travel on a small whiteboard. They then had their photo taken while holding the board.

*Finding 7: Forum participants were more likely to want to stay in Tasmania after participating in forum discussions about the options available within, and outside of, Tasmania.*

## Feedback of the Forum

Overall, the feedback of the forum was very positive. Of the participants who had attended, 40% of said meeting new people had been their highlight while 21% said their highlight was getting the opportunity to discuss their ideas or hear different ideas from other people.

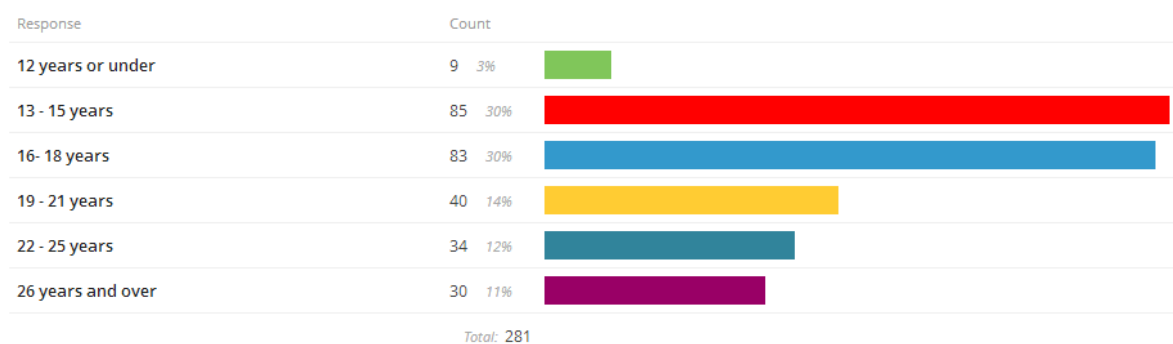
There were also 75% of participants who said that they had learnt something new that they could share with others. This included things such as the opportunities which are available in Tasmania, the potential that there is in Tasmania for their future and some things to consider when thinking about leaving or staying in Tasmania.

## Consultation Process: Survey

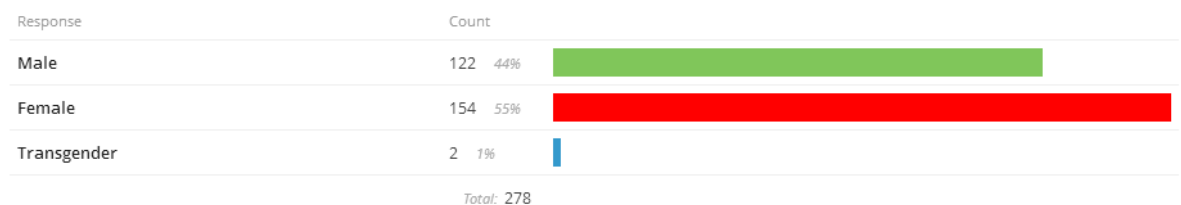
TYF also ran an online survey on the topic of ‘Should I Stay or Should I Go?’ in conjunction with the forum. This allowed young people who could not attend the forum because of things such as transport or work commitments to have their say on the topic. The survey took young people approximately five minutes to complete and was open for a four week period between October and November 2013. The survey received 292 responses from young people across Tasmania including places such as Flinders Island, Coles Bay, Orford, Smithton, Snug, Huonville and New Norfolk. These responses also included the participants at the forum who completed the survey which would account for the higher proportion of respondents being in the 13 to 18 age bracket.

The age and gender of respondents was distributed by the following:

### 1. How old are you?



### 2. Are you?



## Positive Aspects of Tasmania

Respondents were asked to identify what they liked about Tasmania. Having friends and family in Tasmania was referred to by 152 respondents in this question. Tasmania’s environment was also valued by respondents with 143 mentioning things such as Tasmania’s scenery, low levels of pollution, beaches and coastline in their responses.

Aspects of the Tasmanian community such as having a sense of belonging, having a sense of safety, friendly people and knowing or recognising lots of people, was referred to by 68 respondents as a good thing about Tasmania. Other aspects about the Tasmanian lifestyle which is associated with this was referred to by 57 respondents and included things such as Tasmania not being too busy, having a small population, and a good food and arts culture.

[See Finding 2](#)

## Negative Aspects of Tasmania

The lack of jobs in Tasmania was significantly the most referred to negative aspect of Tasmania with 143 responses. There were 73 respondents who identified a lack of things specifically for young people to do in Tasmania. The lack of opportunities for young people was therefore quite a considerable aspect of the negative things about Tasmania.

There were also 50 respondents who referred to social issues such as having a high proportion of the Tasmanian population from low socio-economic backgrounds and forms of discrimination of people as negative aspects of Tasmania. Low socio-economic status could relate to the concerns around the lack of jobs. Forms of discrimination could also be seen by respondents as threatening the sense of community which they identified as a positive aspect in the previous question.

Other aspects which were also frequently mentioned by respondents included the availability of higher education and the limitations of living in a place where there is such a small population with such a connected community.

*See Findings 3, 4 and 7*

## Things That Could Improve Tasmania

Respondents were also asked what they thought could be done to improve Tasmania. There were a variety of responses but creating more jobs in Tasmania gained the highest amount of responses with 91 in total. There were also 57 respondents who said that increasing the opportunities for youth focused events and activities would improve Tasmania for them. The availability of options for education, particularly at a tertiary level through the provision of more courses in Tasmania, was also identified by 50 respondents. There were also 29 responses that said becoming more multicultural and having events to celebrate this would improve Tasmania.

*See Finding 5*

An interesting response was that there were 28 responses that related to the better promotion of Tasmania and creating a better reputation of the state. Other responses included having better transport, more youth friendly services and better government support of communities and industries.

## Having a Tasmanian Identity

Respondents were asked whether or not they felt proud to live in Tasmania. There were 46% of respondents who answered with yes and 45% said sometimes. The majority of respondents had therefore, at some point, felt proud to live in Tasmania.

*Finding 8: The majority of young people reported that they felt proud to live in Tasmania at least sometimes.*

## Living In or Leaving Tasmania

Only 16% of respondents said that they felt like they could do everything in Tasmania that they wanted to. The majority of respondents (64%) said that they would have to move to do everything they wanted to in the future. The remaining respondents were unsure.

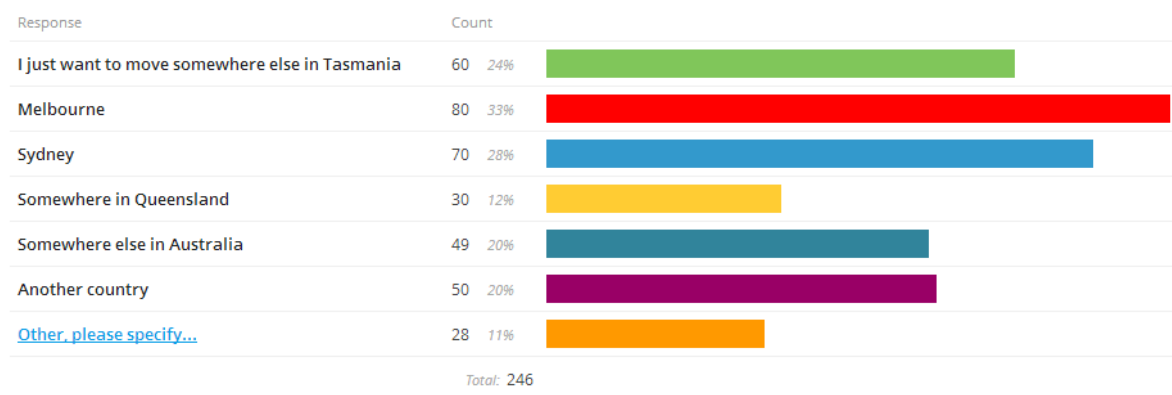
An overwhelming 90% of respondents said that they had thought about leaving Tasmania at some stage but 98% of respondents also agreed that it was 'ok' to leave and then come back.

*Finding 9: The majority of young people are thinking about the decision to stay in or leave Tasmania.*

This statistic is particularly interesting as the survey had responses from the 12 years and under age bracket and a high number of responses in the 13 to 15 year age bracket, suggesting that young people start thinking about this issue from an early age.

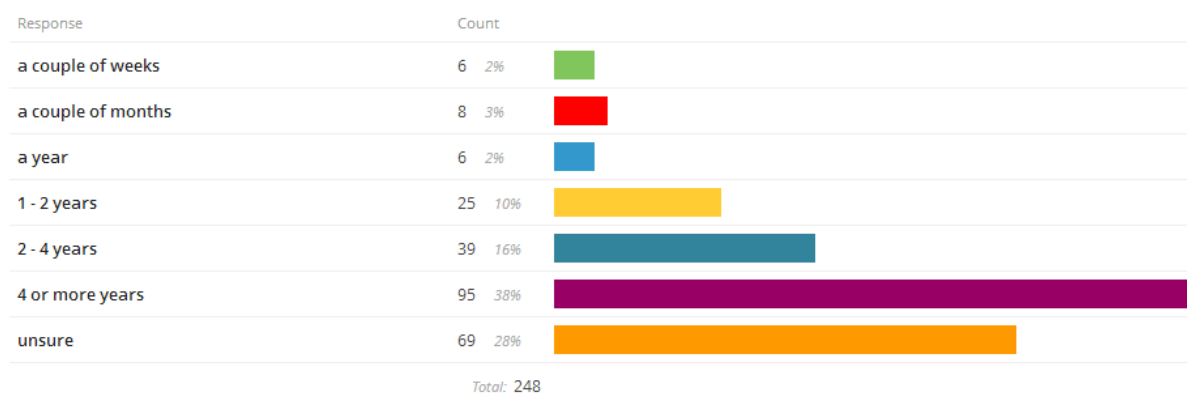
*Finding 10: The decision to stay in or leave Tasmania is something which starts at a young age.*

9. Where do you think you would go?



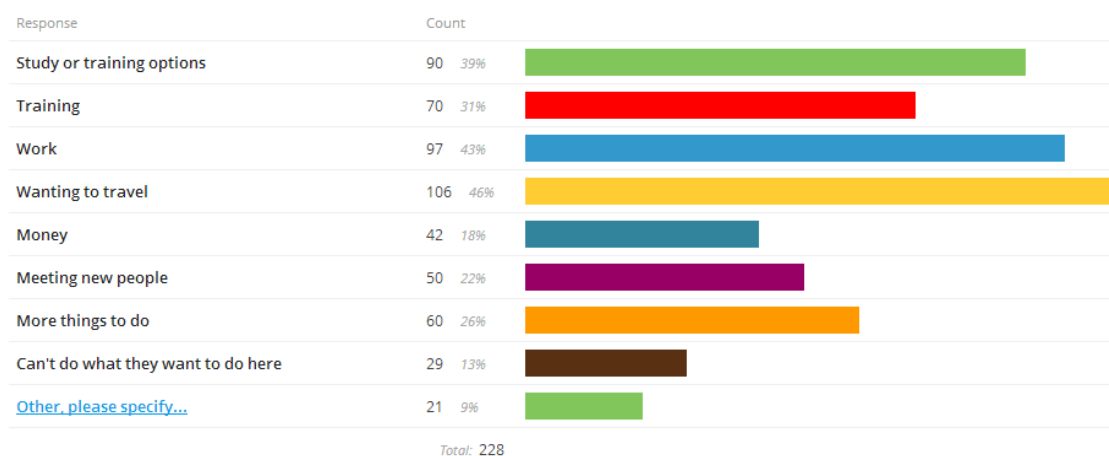
Most respondents had thought about moving to Melbourne, possibly because of its close location to Tasmania. It is interesting that 24% of respondents had considered moving to somewhere else in Tasmania and not necessarily away from the State.

10. If you did leave, how long do you think you would go for?



There were very few respondents who had thought about leaving for a period of less than a year and these were possibly the people who wanted to travel. Most respondents had thought about leaving Tasmania for a long period of time but there was also a significant proportion of respondents were unsure about how long they might leave Tasmania for.

8. Why do you think you would move from Tasmania?



The majority of respondents (46%) who had thought of leaving Tasmania were considering leaving to travel. This was closely followed by moving for work (43%) or study and training options (39% and 31%). Moving to find more things to do was also another factor which was rated quite highly with 26% of respondents identifying with this reason.

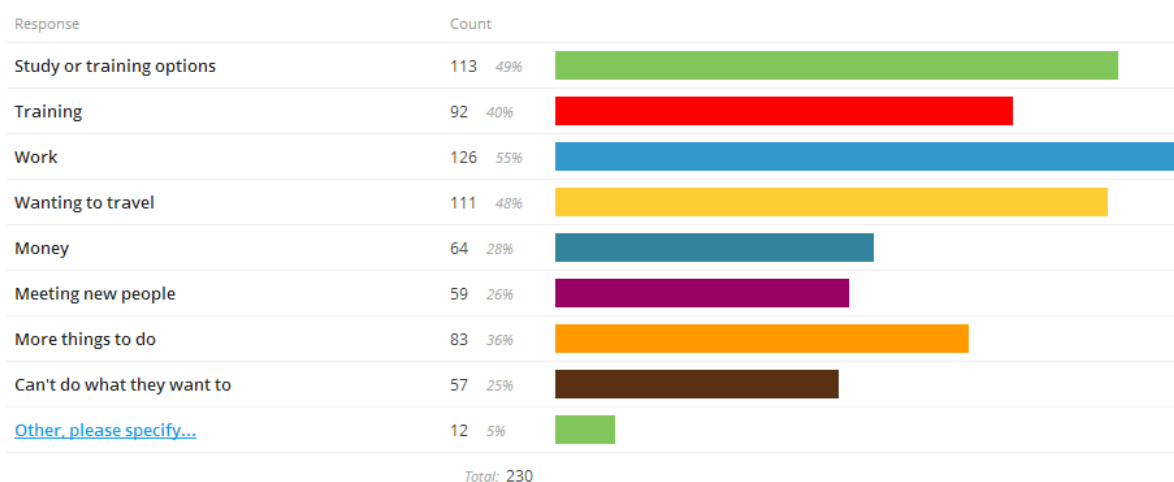
*Finding 11: Young people identified wanting to travel as the main reason why they would leave Tasmania.*

It is interesting that money was not a frequent response, suggesting that young people wanted to leave Tasmania for other aspects such as a lifestyle, learning or particular job or career.

### Perceptions of Why Others Would Want to Leave

The majority of respondents (93%) also indicated that they knew of other young people who had thought about leaving Tasmania. They were also asked why they thought other young people might want to leave Tasmania.

12. Why do you think other young people would want to move from Tasmania?



Most respondents (55%) believed that other young people would move from Tasmania for work. This is interesting as most respondents said that they would leave Tasmania to travel and 43% identified with work as being a reason as to why they would move. Study and training options were also identified by respondents 10% more for reasons why other young people might leave Tasmania than reasons respondents identified for themselves with for leaving Tasmania.

It is also interesting that there were 10% more respondents who thought that other young people would leave Tasmania to get more money, despite this not being a significant factor for them.

*Finding 12: There are some differences between the reasons young people give for leaving Tasmania themselves and the reasons that they think other young people would leave Tasmania for.*

## **Advice from Young People to Young People**

There were 126 respondents who said their advice to young people thinking about leaving Tasmania would be to go. Of these, 54 respondents also said that they would suggest that young people eventually return to Tasmania.

There were also 73 respondents who said they would not really say to either stay or go but their advice would be to make sure that young people had thought through their decision carefully. This included making sure that there were not already some opportunities in Tasmania that they could take advantage of before moving away. If they did decide to move away, respondents also referred to making sure the person new to make a plan for when they moved, had saved enough money and support structures in place.

It is important to note that there were a small proportion of respondents (37 responses) who said to stay in Tasmania because of things such as the opportunities here.

*Finding 13: Young people do not make the decision to leave Tasmania lightly as many consider other options within the State and know that they should develop a plan for their future if they decide to move.*

## **Conclusions**

Many young people value aspects of living in Tasmania, particularly the lifestyle, environment and community, and this was identified at the forum and through the survey. Despite this, many young people see education and employment as the significant factors which will influence the decision of young people to either stay in Tasmania or leave. This does not necessarily mean that all young people will want to leave Tasmania as many will find opportunities here that they wish to pursue or will want to stay for social aspects. Young people may also move between places within Tasmania to pursue these different opportunities, such as moving to access higher education or employment.

Although education and employment are seen by young people as significant factors which influence the decision of other young people to either stay in Tasmania or leave, many young people identify with the desire to travel as a reason why they want to leave. This was demonstrated by 'Wandering the World' being one of the largest topic groups at the forum

and the highest response on the survey that young people identified with for wanting to leave. It is interesting that many young people do not immediately think of travelling as a reason why other young people might want.

Education and employment in Tasmania does pose a significant issue for young people. Young people identified at the forum and in the survey that the lack of education courses that they wanted to pursue or specific jobs as one of the main reasons why they might decide to leave Tasmania. Aspects such as friends and family, lifestyle and community may not be enough to retain these young people in Tasmania but may encourage them to return in the future once they have pursued different opportunities. When young people do consider leaving Tasmania, they understand that they should develop a plan of what they want to do and how they are going to do it.

Many of the ideas that young people had about improving the future in Tasmania centred on creating more opportunities, particularly in terms of education, employment and recreational activities. Although many young people indicated that they wanted to leave Tasmania, most of them wanted to return at some stage and so ensuring that it was possible for them to do this was important. Young people valued the aspects of Tasmania such as the environment, sense of community and lifestyle and wanted this to come back to but also wanted this to be balanced with the creation of more education, employment and recreational opportunities.



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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Agenda of TYF 'Should I Stay or Should I Go' Forum

Time	Activity
9:30-10:00	Registration
10.00 - 10.05	Arrival and taking of seats
10.05 - 10.15 10.15 – 10.30	Welcome by the Hon Cassy O'Connor MP Introduction by Facilitator Mo and of YNOT
10.30 - 10.40	Fill out survey
10.40 – 10.50	Big-picture brainstorming – Facilitator Mo
10.50 - 11.10	Morning Tea
11.10 - 11.30	Workshop Session 1 – brainstorm
11.30 – 12.15	Workshop Session 2 – topic groups
12.15 - 12.35	Reporting Back
12.35 – 12.50	Rick Marton – creating your own future
1.50 – 1.20	Lunch
1.20 - 1.25	Introduction of workshop sessions for afternoon – Facilitator Mo
1.25 –1.50	Ideas Group 1 – divide into topic groups
1.50 – 2.15	Ideas Group 2 – divide into topic groups
2.15 – 2.30	Afternoon tea
2.30 - 2.50	Group presentations on top ideas for further action
2.50 - 3.05	Dot voting on ideas
3.05 - 3.20	Photos with #staygo2013 photo boards
3.20 – 3.30	Feedback forms, thank you and conclusion by YNOT and TYF

## Appendix 2: Table Topics for Discussion Groups

TOPICS	DESCRIPTION
Wanting Work	Looking for employment, jobs and careers
Wandering the World	Travelling, finding your place and being young
School and Study	Learning, training, university and internships
Friends and Family	New connections, old connections. Disconnecting, Reconnecting.
Staying in the State	The things you love that make you stay
Everyone knows Everyone	Good? Bad? Both?
Moving for Money	Wanting to earn more money
Seeking Services	Services that you need to get access to
Finding Fun	Looking for entertainment and things to do
Form your own Future	Creating your own future and opportunities from where you are

