



What *you* said...

Final Report March 2014

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.

Acknowledgements

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Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Part 1: The <i>Y Your Vote Counts</i> Forum	2
What they said matters to you	3
Your questions answers	4
Part 2: The <i>Y Your Vote Counts</i> Survey	12
What you said about voting	12
What you said about the 2014 Election	15
What you said about the issues	15
Conclusion	24
Next steps	24

Introduction

The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) developed the '*Y Your Vote Counts*' forum which was held on Tuesday February 22 2014 at City Hall in Hobart. Around 100 young people came to this event to get the opportunity to learn more about voting, engage in the political process, ask political representatives questions and complete last minute enrolments to vote.

TYF also had an online survey which meant that young people who could not go to the forum could still have their say on what they thought about voting and what their key issues are in the lead up to the election.

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

The forum and survey aimed to:

- Provide young people with a chance to learn more about voting
- Give young people the chance to complete last minute enrolments
- Give young people the chance to ask political representatives their questions
- Give young people a chance to say what issues matter to them in the lead up to the election

Part 1: The *Y Your Vote Counts* Forum

Around 100 young people attended '*Y Your Vote Counts*' forum which was held on Tuesday February 18 2014 from 1pm to 2:45pm, during the election, period at City Hall in Hobart. This included young people from areas such as New Norfolk, Dodges Ferry, Snug, and Dover.

The day was hosted by Ben Waterworth who first introduced the aim and process of the forum and outlined what would be happening during the afternoon. Adam Pulford, a former Australian Youth Representative to the UN, who was the guest speaker for the forum, spoke first about his belief in the power of young people to make a change and why he believes voting is important. Adam said it was important to make an informed vote by doing a bit of research on what party represents your own values and beliefs best.

Following this the panel of political representatives answered questions from young people at the forum. The panellists were Elise Archer MP, representing the Tasmania Liberal Party, Ald Sharon Carnes, a candidate for the State election representing the Tasmanian Labor Party, and Nick McKim MP, representing the Tasmanian Greens Party. Each panel member got to speak for five minutes on issues that they think affected young people. Participants had an hour to quiz panel members who then got one minute each to respond to each question.

The last presentation of the day was from UN Youth Tasmania who created a mock ballot paper and showed how to fill out a ballot paper and how preferences are counted in the Tasmanian election.

What they said matters to you

Each panel member was given five minutes to introduce themselves, speak on issues they believed were important and the key issues in the lead up to the election. The panel members answered in alphabetical order and the summaries and key points of their speeches are below.

Elise Archer MP – Tasmanian Liberal Party

Elise started by thanking Adam, YNOT and the participants at the forum for coming along to show that they cared about the future in Tasmania. Elise highlighted that it is important for young people to vote in an informed way and vote in line with your own beliefs. She mentioned how when she was younger she voted the same as her parents but later regretted not deciding for herself. Elise said that it was important to research the different parties and that there is a lot of information easily available on parliamentary and party websites.

Elise talked about how the election was about looking at the long term future in Tasmania and that unemployment is significant issue as it is very high in Tasmania with many people leaving the state to look for work. It is important that more jobs are created in Tasmania and Elise spoke about a number of policies that the Liberals have announced to address this. Key sectors where job growth would need to happen include agriculture, energy, aquaculture, forestry and tourism. Elise highlighted that jobs in tourism, hospitality and the retail sectors are especially important to young people as that is where a large number of young people are employed. Increasing the number of jobs in rural and regional areas is also important.

The Liberals also have plans to increase the police force and address bullying in particular cyber bullying. Elise mentioned that the Liberals would work with the Youth Network of Tasmania on a youth suicide strategy and the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute on addressing bullying in legislation. Elise finished by saying this election was important to be able to make a difference in Tasmania.

Ald Sharon Carnes – Tasmanian Labor Party

Sharon started by saying she was attending the forum on behalf the Premier who was unable to attend. Sharon stated that she has had a lot of involvement with the Glenorchy Youth Task Force and this has made her well aware of key issues for young people including jobs, education and mental health.

Labor's priorities are for more innovation and jobs growth which are important for the future. Sharon said there was a need to invest in young people to help them stay in Tasmania. The aged care sector is one industry which will have a lot of job opportunities in the future and this is just one area where more young people could find work in the future. The NBN is also key infrastructure which will help young people to access education, health and research opportunities which would allow more opportunities for young people in Tasmania.

Sharon said that retaining young people in education is important and the NBN could also be part of achieving this. Sharon said Gonski funding would also be important as funding will be directly for students and not the schools. Sharon also mentioned the need for ensuring that

we have penalty rates, particularly for young people, as young people tend to work unsociable hours and there is need to protect workers' rights.

Sharon also said that suicide prevention and mental health are also important issues in the community and places such as Pulse and Headspace do great work in addressing these issues.

Nick McKim MP – Tasmanian Greens Party

Nick started by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land. Nick said that it was important that young people could stay in Tasmania or return if they wanted to leave for a period of time to study, work or travel which creates good networking opportunities. He talked about his own experience of leaving and returning to Tasmania and said this was a good chance to learn more and bring this back with him.

Nick said that marriage equality is one way of attracting people to Tasmania as it helps to make us to be an inclusive society and community. Public transport such as bus networks and light rail would also encourage young people to stay or return to Tasmania. The Greens also have a policy to allow 16 and 17 year olds to opt-in to vote in election.

Nick said that climate change is a huge issue which our generation has got wrong and this is the key issue to address. In terms of jobs, Tasmania needs to look for job growth in areas where we have a competitive edge like science, renewable energy and ICT. Nick also mentioned the NBN being a key part of economic and social growth.

Your questions answers

The Q and A session where young people could ask questions from the floor, either by standing up and asking them or writing their question on a piece of paper which was passed on the Ben to read out. Each panel member had the chance to answer each question with a one minute time limit. Here are the summaries of the questions and answers:

What initiatives would you put in place to address youth boredom?

Elise

We know that boredom can create trouble and we need to support young people to become engaged in activities. It's not just up to government to do something; it is a whole of community responsibility. I know in the northern suburbs the Glenorchy Youth Task Force does some great activities. It would be good to see more young people engaged with not for profits.

Sharon

The ALP will consult with young people in the community about what they need as it's important to find out what they think. I know that in the Moonah Business District there has been more tagging and graffiti. Things such as walls for street art would be a good way to address this particular issue. We should keep pushing for these initiatives in the future.

Nick

It's not for older people to say what happens. We need young people to tell government, local government and community groups about what young people need. There is a lot of things we could do. I also like the idea of graffiti walls, but it's not just about activities as it's up to individuals how they fill their time.

Do you support the first home builders grant continuing as an opportunity for young people to build and own a home before they are 25?

Nick

Yes, we've supported this. It makes it easier for young people to own a house but it's hard for a young person to get loans from banks because of how they operate and also house prices.

Sharon

Absolutely. I am in the process of building my own home and I just missed out on this grant but I'm glad that others can benefit from it. It's not just about young people being able to afford their own home; it also has the benefit of providing opportunities for jobs.

Elise

We had this policy originally because we knew that young people found it hard to enter the market but also because of the building sector. It builds confidence for employers to put on more employees.

Nick, would you please stop lying about the statistic that 97 percent of scientists agree on climate change?

Nick

No I won't because what I say is absolutely true and I believe that climate change is the biggest public policy issue facing us. There is an overwhelming consensus that climate change is happening and humans are making it happen

What are your policies for retaining young people in education?

Elise

We won't be closing colleges. The extension to year 11 and 12 will start in rural and regional areas because it is harder to access year 11 and 12 in these areas due to transport and the costs of moving.

Sharon

I think it's important to concentrate on the early years. The ALP has announced that there

will be early childhood educators working in child and family centres to assist with the transition into early education. The transition from primary school to high school is also of concern with levels of literacy and numeracy falling behind during these years.

Nick

Our direct retention rate has improved by about 1.5% over the past 5 years in Tasmania. Other places such as the Australian Capital Territory have not extended their school system to years 11 and 12 and they have higher rates of retention. We need to invest in the early years and the value that people place on a good education. Involving parents in the education of their children improves the value we place on learning and the Launch into Learning program is an example of this.

How can I get a political party to listen to my views?

Sharon

The way you can have an influence is to become active in the political party of your interest or choice. Meet your local politician or write to them. We are lucky in Tasmania to have our politicians approachable and accessible. I am open to hearing from anyone.

Elise

We live in a society where we have a right to contact political candidates and representatives. This is an important feature of our democratic system. If you emailed or called me I would certainly reply, we know your vote is important.

Nick

Cast your vote and join a political party. I'm not suggesting which party to join, you need to decide for yourself which best fits your beliefs. In the Greens our policies are member driven and our members get to influence our policy position. Being a member of a political party also provides you access to that political party's representatives.

Why are all the parties so keen on growing Tasmania's population at the risk of losing our unique lifestyle?

Elise

We have a policy for increasing our population, but not by a huge amount. We have the capacity for a larger population to grow the economy to create the jobs we need and not be over populated. One third of Tasmanians rely on welfare benefits of some descriptions so we need sufficient population growth without going overboard.

Sharon

I think we need population growth, but not a significant amount. One of the drawbacks of our state is that we are small and have a small population, but if everyone moves here then that defeats the purpose. It's about investing in innovation which suits our current population and

our assets such as areas like agriculture and aquaculture. We need to stay focused on the things that attract people to Tasmania.

Nick

I don't think small is a disadvantage, small is an advantage. We are connected, flexible and it easier for a small jurisdiction to change. If we want to get ahead and deliver the prosperity we need to respond quickly. We need to think about social infrastructure such as transport and health systems and ensure they can carry an increase in population.

Do you support the NBN and do you think all Tasmanian's should be able to access it?

Sharon

Yes I do support the NBN and support the roll out of fibre to every home in Tasmania. It's not just about downloading things quickly. It is possible to do medical consultations online meaning that people do not have to travel long distances to see specialists.

Elise

Yes, it's a shame that it wasn't rolled out quicker. At a state level, the Liberals support the NBN and we will continue to lobby our federal counterparts. We have suggested that it could be rolled out using power poles.

Nick

The NBN has the capacity to drive the economy in this state for the better part of the next century. We can't imagine what will happen and how people will use the internet. Let's not rely on the Commonwealth and let's step up as a state and complete the work.

What is Gonski?

Sharon

Gonski is the federal funding for schools which was announced in 2013. It's about investing in students and the funding stays with the student and goes to those with the most need. For example, lower socioeconomic students face more challenges and would therefore get more funding. It is currently 4 year funding.

Nick

It's a needs based funding model where the funding follows the student. Students with disabilities, behaviour challenges, and indigenous students will attract more funding. It is essential. If a student moves school the funding moves with the student. The major improvements of funding will occur in the 5th or 6th year of funding and we're only funded up to 4 years because it has been scaled back.

Elise

It is important to remember that education is an area with a dual responsibility that is why it

is a bit confusing. I encourage you to look at the party websites to learn more about what is happening.

Where do you stand on the forestry agreement?

Elise

The forestry sector is vital in Tasmania. We don't need our market and brand trashed overseas because it destroys confidence. We do not support the agreement as we believe the industry is viable however we do not believe it was handled well. We don't support the logging of old growth forests; we support logging of native forests which are renewable.

Nick

Forestry has been in the too hard basket for years. It was propped up and is a smaller industry than many people realise. The agreement was an achievement with parties, who previously disagreed, working together.

Sharon

The situation in regards to forestry is not sustainable. There is a lot of conflict in the industry and this agreement was the result of two parties coming together, who had opposing views, to come up with a solution.

How are you going to make a difference on national issues?

Nick

Depends on the issue, but when it's necessary we will take a constructive and collaborative approach, but also, quite happy to let them know when it's not in Tasmania's best interests.

Sharon

There are some issues which span across all levels of government, such as employment and education. It does depend on the issue but I'm not afraid to stand up for Tasmania.

Elise

We need to work constructively with federal government. We need to stick up for our state and that every Member of Parliament does that. It's why we have the senate so that there is equal representation between states at a federal level.

How does volunteering in my local community make a difference and how much of a difference can bigger organisations make? Do you support the work they do?

Elise

It's been an interesting to work as the Shadow Minister for Community Development. YNOT has done some really good work and you should be really proud of the work they do on behalf of young people and they do shape our policy.

Sharon

Don't ever think volunteering at your local community doesn't make a difference, even if it's less than an hour a week. Peak organisations and national organisations can really bring issues to the front, educate the community and influence policy and you can't put a price on that.

Nick

The power and difference you can make by volunteering is awesome. No matter what you can contribute it does make a difference. There are so many organisations that make a difference. There are different people pulling in different ways and doing different things but in the end we can see the overall difference.

What are the advantages for voting for a party rather than an independent?

Nick

We are seeing a rise of independents across Australia and Tasmania. If you vote for a party you have a value set which you can hold members to account. The Greens have a value set of environmental sustainability, social justice, peace, non-violence and participatory democracy. You can facebook, tweet or email me and let me know if you think I'm going off the rails on these values. With independents it's harder to do that as it's their values are about them as a person.

Elise

With parties you have a set of policies that all candidates and elected members have influenced. It is a common set of beliefs and values. Independents have their own decision but may not make a decision in the best interests of the state.

Sharon

You get a basic philosophy and set of ideas that you identify with the party. Independents have their own individual ideas and beliefs. The Australian Labor Party is about equality, opportunity and fairness.

If laws are not based on religion then why deny equality on same sex marriage?

Sharon

I have no idea why you would deny equality. We tried to get it passed in Tasmania last year but unfortunately it failed. Same sex marriage is a basic right.

Elise

I didn't support it for legal reasons at the time and personal beliefs. We had a conscience vote, people voted on legal reasons and their own beliefs. We need to ensure we recognise same-sex couples in other of the law, not just marriage. I am not homophobic, in fact one of my good friends is gay and who doesn't want to get married, but I believe in the institution of marriage, that's my personal belief.

Nick

No good reason at all. I was the first member to table any laws in 2005 and I couldn't get any support to take it to a committee. I have tabled 4 bills in 2005 2007 2009 and 2013 where the 2013 bill did pass. It's about trying and not giving up. The suicide rate of young people is really high and you can't remove discrimination from our communities unless you remove it from our laws.

How are you going to support the creative industries?

Nick

Creative industry is worth nearly 3% of Tasmania's GDP which is more than forestry. The creative industry is everything from novelists, artists in their own home and community radio organisations. It doesn't just employ people like artists but has benefits for hospitality and transport and it is one of the future linchpins for Tasmania.

Sharon

The creative industry is extremely important to the future of the state and the ALP understands having to put more funding into this area. Crowdfunding is a way to seek funding for creative idea and we have interest free arts loan programs available.

Elise

The creative industries have always been a strong industry in Tasmania. I personally see the value in the creative arts. We are seeing more partnership with private sectors that are also seeing the benefits.

Are there any investments you are going to make for roads in rural areas?

Elise

The Midlands highway funding from the Federal Government will proceed. The Liberals have announced money for the Craggy Ridge development.

Nick

I believe and our party believes that our transport funding has been too skewed towards roads and not public transport. We need to build better transport infrastructure which encourages people to get active and get public transport.

Sharon

State Labor has invested money in upgrades on the Midland Highway, Richmond Bypass. I think we need to invest more in terms of access and infrastructure and also more in our rail network which can create less pressure on our roads by transporting freight.

Why are you running for politics?

Elise

I ran for parliament in 2006 and didn't get in. I was elected to Hobart City Council in 2007 and elected to parliament in 2010. I believed we needed a totally transparent government and I was unhappy at the time with what was happening with the government. I am really glad I ran again as I was elected and have really enjoyed the role. It is challenging but it is more of an honour to represent people this way.

Nick

I got involved because of climate change and intergenerational equity. We often hear that the Greens don't care about people and only about trees. But we are part of the ecosystem. There is research which suggests that 10 billion people who will die or not be born

Sharon

If I'm honest, it was because I wanted to get weekly bin collections at Glenorchy City Council. So 2 years ago I stood for local council and was elected. I've come to realise I can be a more effective representative at a government level. There have been times in the past 4 or 5 years that I've been disappointed in what government has done so I decided to put up my hand and have a go.

Part 2: The Y Your Vote Counts Survey

What you said about voting

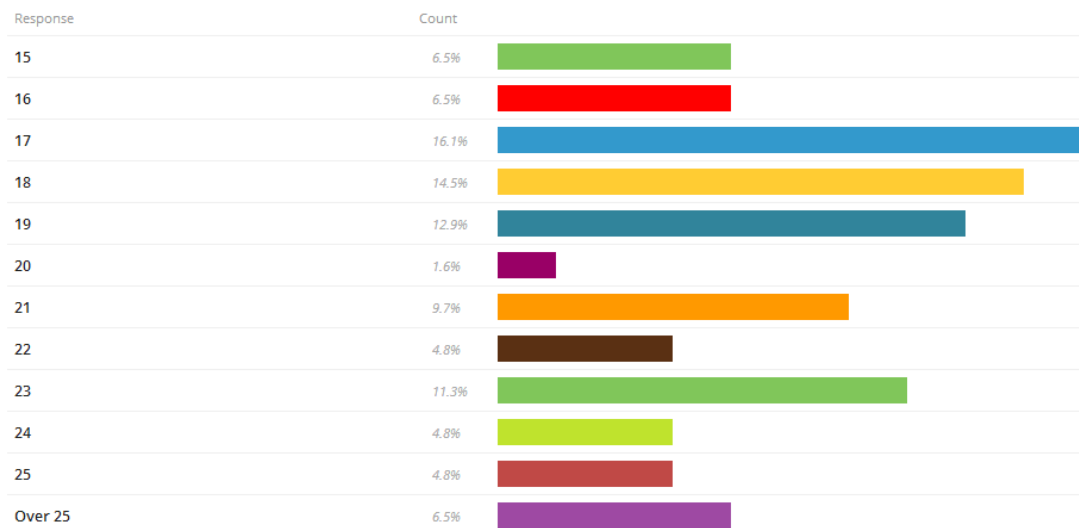
TYF also ran an online survey in the lead up to the 'Y Your Vote Counts' forum. This gave young people the chance to have their say on their thoughts on voting and what some of the key issues are that they think about who to vote for. There were 79 young people who completed the survey.

The survey asked young people about what they thought about voting, what are the important issues when deciding who to vote for in an election, what are the important parts of these issues and what could be done to help improve these issues.

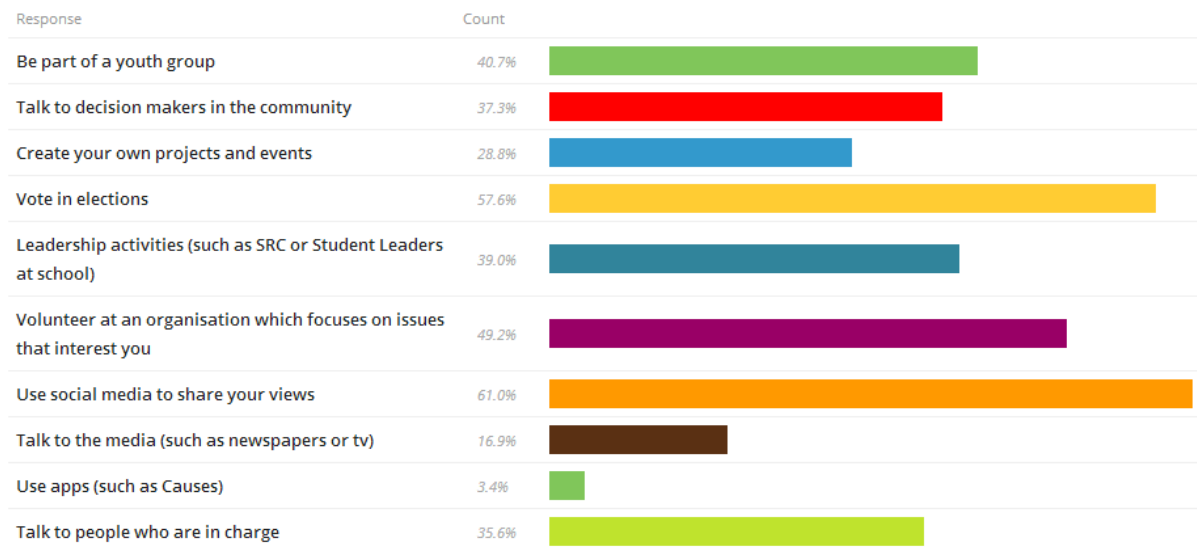
Are you:



Age



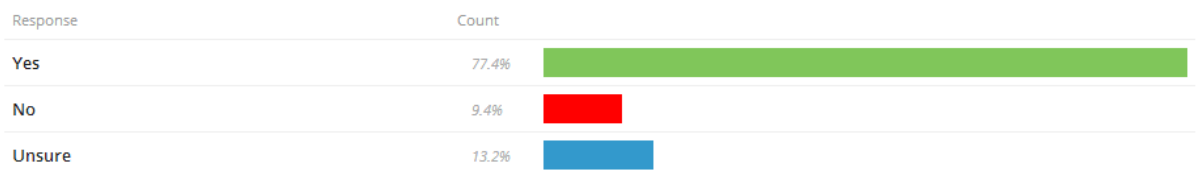
How do you have a say about what happens in your community in Tasmania?



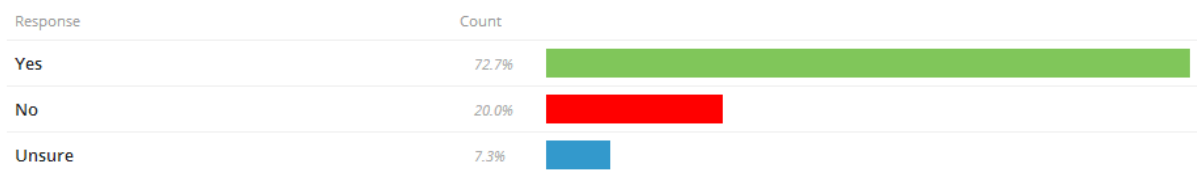
The survey asked young people what they thought about voting. Some young people said positive things about voting while others did not see voting in this way. Some of the responses included:

- Voting is a chance to have a say
- Voting is a chance to be involved in the decision making process
- Voting is a chance to improve and be involved with the community
- That there is not much choice between candidates
- Voting doesn't matter because the result is always bad

Do you know how to fill out a voting form?

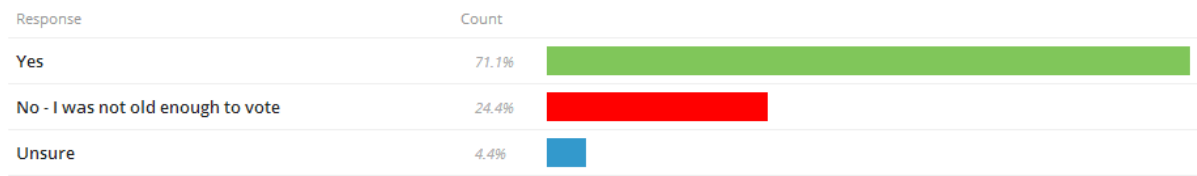


Are you enrolled to vote?



Most young people are enrolled to vote and know how to fill out a voting form. There is still a number of people who are unsure if they know how to fill out a voting form or who are not enrolled to vote. It is important that young people get the chance to find out how to vote and how to enrol properly.

Have you voted before in either a State or Federal election?

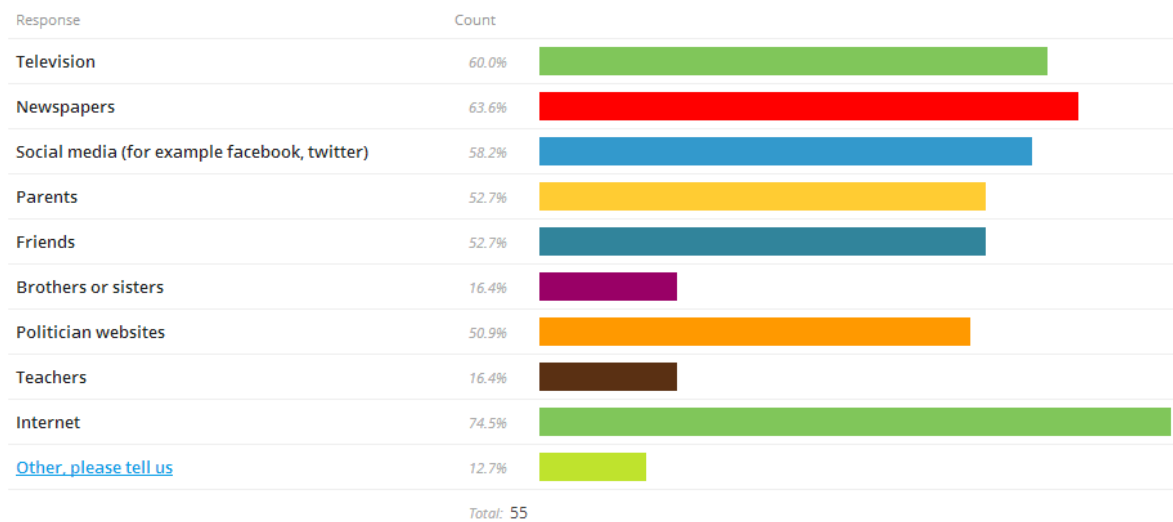


Do you remember who you voted for?



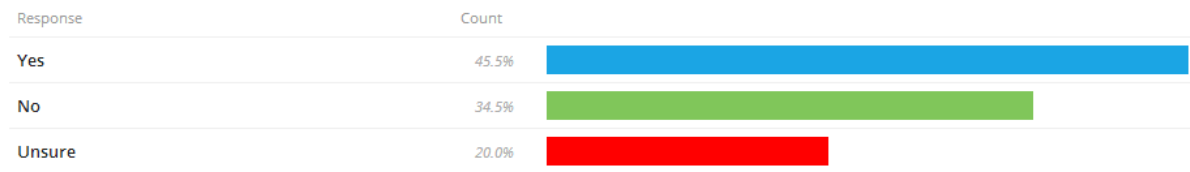
Most of young people who were old enough to vote said that they had voted before. Most of these young people could remember who they voted for, but a large number also said that they could not remember.

Where do you go for information to help you decide who to vote for? (Even if you can't vote yet you can answer this question by thinking about where you might go for this information)



Most young people said that they access the internet to get information to help them decide who to vote for. Other ways young people said they get information included television, newspapers, social media, friends, parents, politician’s websites, talking to local policies, work colleagues and attending community events.

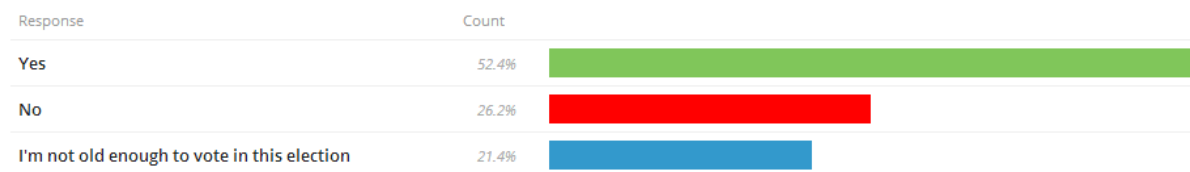
Do you think you have enough information to help you decide who to vote for in the election? (Even if you can't vote yet, do you think you would have enough information if you had to vote?)



Despite accessing a wide range of sources of information, over half of the young people surveyed said they didn't think they had enough information to help them to decide who to vote for in the upcoming election or were unsure. This could mean that it is hard for young people to find the information or answers they are looking for when searching for information. Young people said extra information such as having a more youth-friendly summary of policies, more honest facts and more education would help them to get more information that they wanted.

What you said about the 2014 Election

Have you thought about who you would like to vote for in the 2014 Tasmanian election on March 15?



Over half of the young people in this survey said that they had already thought about who they would like to vote for in the upcoming election. Although young people who are old enough to vote in this election may not have thought about who they would like to vote for, they will have most likely thought about the issues which are important to them in the lead up to the election.

What you said about the issues

The survey covered 16 different issues. With each issue, young people were asked what it is about the issue which is important to them and what they thought could be done to improve the issue.

It is important to note that although young people may not identify an issue as important when deciding who to vote for, this does not mean the issue is not important to them. It just may not be an important factor when deciding who to vote for.

The following issues are listed in order from the most respondents who said the issue was important to the least.

Employment

Is employment an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count	
Yes	86.7%	
No	13.3%	

What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- High rates of unemployment and youth unemployment
- Being able to access entry level jobs
- Encouraging more businesses to provide jobs

What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Develop more sustainable industries
- Create more jobs for young people
- Invest in new technology
- Create incentives for businesses to take on young employees

Equal Access to Services

Is having equal access to services (This might be health services or services which help you with employment for example) is an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count	
Yes	86.7%	
No	13.3%	

What is it about this issue that is important to you?



- It's a basic human right
- Costs in accessing services
- Transport to services

What do you think could be done about this issue?

- More advertising on available services
- Increased transport in regional areas
- More services available online
- More investment in key services to keep up with demand

Education and Training

Is education and training an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count	
Yes	82.2%	
No	17.8%	

What is it about this issue that is important to you?



- Class sizes
- Retention rates
- Funding
- Costs and access to education

What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Have smaller class sizes
- Make it more affordable and accessible
- Have more flexible learning options
- A better funding model for schools

Mental, Sexual and/or Physical Health

Is mental, sexual and/or physical health an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count	
Yes	80.4%	
No	19.6%	

What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- People struggling with mental health issues
- The stigma of mental health
- Effects of mental health on others
- Lack of resources on mental health
- The health system particularly hospitals
- Access to health services in rural areas

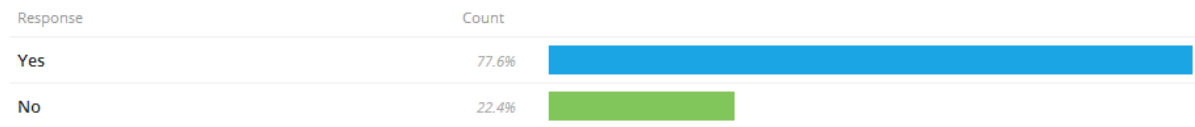
What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Reduce the costs for young people to see healthcare professionals
- Increase funding to organisations who provide low cost or free services
- More education and awareness of health issues
- Including groups of people who are marginalised in the community

Preventing Suicide

Is preventing suicide and self harm an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	77.6%
No	22.4%



What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- People feeling isolated
- Knowing someone who has died by suicide or self harmed
- Negativity around suicide such as stigma and victim blaming

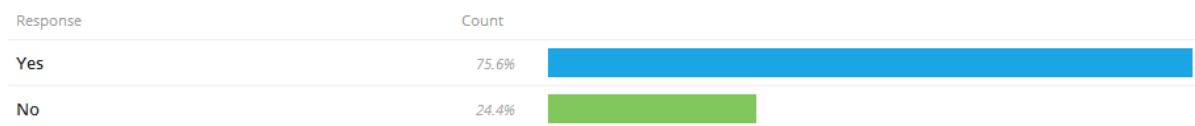
What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Changing perceptions in the community about this issue
- More support within communities for people feeling isolated
- Early intervention programs and education programs
- Campaigns

Accepting Other Cultures and Backgrounds

Is being accepting of people from other cultures and backgrounds an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	75.6%
No	24.4%



What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- Racism
- Helping to support people who come to Australia
- Making people feel included in the community

What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Creating greater awareness, tolerance and acceptance in the community
- More support to people who arrive in Australia

Marriage Equality

Is gay marriage an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	75.0%
No	25.0%

What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- Equality for same sex couples
- Ending discrimination

What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Making same sex marriage legal
- More education and awareness in the community about diversity, acceptance and equality

Housing and Homelessness

Is housing and homelessness an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	70.8%
No	29.2%

What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- Housing to have a good standard of living
- Rates of homelessness
- People who are homeless not getting the support they want and need
- High costs of moving out of home

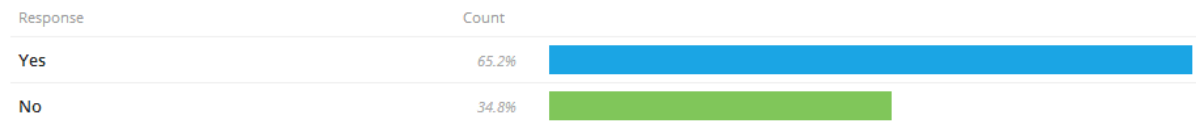
What do you think could be done about this issue?

- House prices lowered to make it more affordable
- Having better strategies for public housing so people are supported in their community
- More services for transition housing, shelters and support agencies for those who are or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Income Support

Is income support an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	65.2%
No	34.8%



What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- Being able to use income support while looking for work, balancing study and work or supporting your family
- Giving people who receive income support the opportunity to gain more employment and education

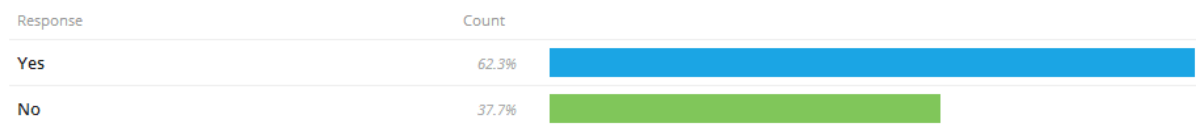
What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Aligning the different types of income support
- Reducing the obstacles for people trying to get income support
- Encourage more people to work or study while on income support
- Investing in more jobs so people do not have to rely on income support

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Is drugs, alcohol and tobacco an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	62.3%
No	37.7%



What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- Accessibility of drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Consequences of drugs, alcohol and tobacco such as violence, unhealthy relationships, crime and decreasing quality of life
- The abuse of these things such as binge drinking or heavy smoking


What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Some said more control and legislation around drugs, alcohol and tobacco and others said less.
- Treating drugs, alcohol and tobacco as a health issue, not a legal issue
- Make it less appealing to take drugs, alcohol and tobacco and changing the culture
- More rehabilitation and support services for people who are addicted
- More harm minimisation strategies

Bullying and Violence

Is bullying and violence an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	60.0%
No	40.0%



What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- Bullying is getting worse
- Cyber bullying
- Violence in public and people not feeling safe


What do you think could be done about this issue?

- More investment in programs which encourage resilience in young people
- Education and raising awareness in the community
- Running programs in schools to empower young people

Disability

Is disability an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	54.5%
No	45.5%



What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- People who have a disability are supported with their decisions
- People who have a disability are able to participate in the community
- Equality
- Support for anyone with a disability

What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Having a whole of family approach when providing support
- Focus on the skills that individuals have to help them gain employment

Transport

Is transport an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	52.1%
No	47.9%



What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- The cost and availability of public transport
- Difficult to get around without a car

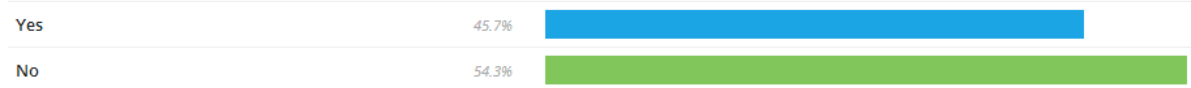
What do you think could be done about this issue?

- More services for public transport, especially in regional areas
- More options for alternative transport such as bikes and trains
- More trains between Hobart and Launceston for passengers and freight

Public Spaces

Is the use of public spaces an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	45.7%
No	54.3%



What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- Having welcoming public spaces
- Public spaces that all members of the community can use
- Public spaces which include safety, environment, atmosphere, public art and culture

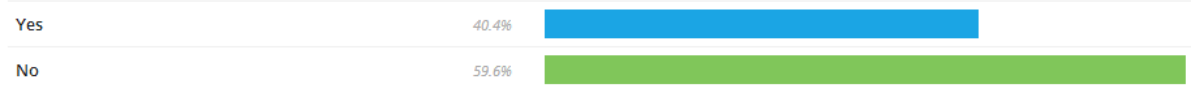
What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Public spaces which are flexible in their design
- Better planning of public spaces
- More community consultations
- More options for alternative transport such as bikes and trains

Cyber Safety

Is cyber safety on social media an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	40.4%
No	59.6%



What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- Cyber bullying
- Abuse
- Predators
- Censorship

What do you think could be done about this issue?

- Tighter regulations on social media sites to be responsible for what happens
- Some said more internet surveillance others said no surveillance
- More help available for young people experiencing cyber bullying
- Tougher penalties

Body Image

Is body image an important issue for you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	30.6%
No	69.4%

What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- What is portrayed in the media
- Self esteem

What do you think could be done about this issue?

- More restrictions on media around photo-shopping and models
- Education for young people on this issue
- Developing more skills with young people to deal with this issue

Other Issues

Are there any other issues which are important to you when deciding who you might want to vote for? (You can still answer even if you can't vote yet.)

Response	Count
Yes	34.9%
No	65.1%

What is it about this issue that is important to you?

- Climate change
- The environment
- Arts and culture
- Women's role in society
- The NBN
- Tourism
- Sport and recreation

What do you think could be done about this issue?

- More sustainable energy options

- Reduce our own impact on climate change
- Have the NBN for everyone to access to create more opportunities
- Creating more jobs in tourism
- More opportunities for women, arts and culture, and sports and recreation in the community

Conclusion

Young people asked some great questions at the forum and were interested in hearing what the panel members had to say and finding out more about voting.

The survey also showed that young people say that make their voice heard in their community in a number of different ways and think voting is an important part of this.

There are lots of different issues and parts of these issues that are important to young people. Employment and equal access to services were identified by the most young people as important issues when deciding who to vote for.

When thinking of solutions on how to address these different issues, young people had some great ideas which the whole of community can be involved in. They were not just focused on young people. This shows that young people are thinking about the bigger picture and what is happening in their communities.

Young people understand that it is important to think about who they want to vote for by doing some research and finding out what different policies are and what candidates are standing for.

In both the forum and survey, young people showed an interest in learning about voting and having their say on the issues that matter to them and effect their communities.

Next steps

The feedback from the forum and responses from the survey will help us to develop TYF forums in the future. A version of this report has been sent to key decision makers and people who work with young people.

YNOT and TYF will continue to work to progress these issues and use the information to inform the work that we do. If you want to know more or find out how you can get involved in future events then contact us.

