

Talkin' Culture, Thinkin' Youth



MEDIA, CULTURE AND YOUTH

Recommendations from the Youth Jury

A project for youth to identify issues of concern and contribute to their community

COORDINATED BY PARRA YOUTH MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2003

Executive Summary: DELIBERATIVE DESIGNS

Youth Juries comes under the umbrella of Deliberative Designs or consultation methods that are designed to overcome the problems of traditional forms of consultation. The major problems associated with citizen consultation or participation arise from the growing distrust between 'the governed' and those who govern, and this is exacerbated because typical consultation methods are unrepresentative and superficial. Consultation methods such as public meetings or written submissions are unrepresentative because they tend to attract only 'the incensed and articulate'. Consultation is superficial when methods such as surveys are used, asking uninformed respondents to respond to simplistic questions with equally simplistic yes/no, either/or answers.

In contrast, Deliberative Designs such as Youth Juries are meant to be highly representative and deeply deliberative. Representativeness is usually achieved through random selection or stratified sampling to ensure that the community's rich cultural, religious and ethnic diversity is reflected in the participants. Deliberative capacity is deepened when participants gather in a respectful setting, with neutral facilitators who can enable the group to find its own direction, working toward consensus, without being disrupted by group dysfunction. This is thought to be the key to rejuvenating politics, by creating sustainable democracies based on robust decision making processes that draw people together who are too often excluded from the political arena.

Youth Juries take up this challenge of drawing the excluded or 'the voiceless' into political arenas to maximise the diversity of participants. It is not only the silent majority of adults that is absent from political debate; young people are notoriously absent from decision making processes. Youth Juries aim to correct this inequity, providing a site for young people to engage in meaningful dialogue that can inform their judgment about important issues that directly affect them.

Deliberative Designs have withstood rigorous evaluation for over thirty years and shown themselves to be decision making processes that deserve a place in the political arena. Less well-known is the worthiness of Youth Juries. The PYM project adds to the body of knowledge and experience about how youth involvement in decision making might be achieved.



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1. Background to Parra Youth Matters

1.1 About Parra Youth Matters

Parra Youth Matters is a youth organisation that held Australia's first ever Youth Jury in Parramatta in July 2003. It brought together 15 randomly selected young people (typically 16- 17 years) from the Parramatta area (See Appendix 1 for list).

Adapted from the 'adult' focused Citizen Juries, this project provided youth with an unparalleled opportunity to identify issues that concern them most, and contribute to decisions that ultimately impact on their lives and the community. In this way, youths will be acknowledged as being an integral part of the broader community, as they were exposed to differing views on issues of importance to society through a process of democratic deliberation. Having interacted with a diverse group of key local stakeholders, the jury produced recommendations for the consideration of decision-makers.

This is a 'youth for youth' project, with the project team being made up of undergraduate students trained in the theory and practice of community consultation. The team has been supported by academic experts with an extensive network of professional contacts in the community consultation sector in Australian and overseas. It is an innovative consultation event designed to give the youth of our community an opportunity to express their view on confronting political issues.

For more information about Citizen's and Youth Juries or Parra Youth Matters and its Youth Jury, go to www.parryouthmatters.org.au.



**THE PARRA YOUTH MATTERS
JURORS AND PROJECT TEAM**

1.2 About DIMIA

Parra Youth Matters is proudly supported by the Australian Government *Living in Harmony* initiative. Administered by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, the *Living in Harmony* initiative aims to promote community harmony. It recognises that, whatever our backgrounds and beliefs, we are united as Australian and want to live in a country that is free of racial intolerance and demonstrates the Australian Government's serious commitment to promoting community harmony.

For more information on the *Living in Harmony* initiative, visit www.immi.gov.au/harmony



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and
Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs



2. How the recommendations were formed

2.1 The introductory sessions process

The Youth Jurors went through three introductory sessions before the Youth Jury in July. The first introductory session was held on Sunday 8th June 2003 at the Parramatta Heritage Centre. The second introductory session was held on Sunday 22nd June 2003 at the Parramatta Heritage Centre. The third introductory session was held on Sunday 6th June 2003 at the Parramatta Police Station. The time of each session was from 12:00pm – 3:30pm. The purpose of these sessions was for the Jurors to learn more about the other young people they would be working with, create an atmosphere of respect and support between the Jurors and the PYM team, learn more about the Youth Jury process and to decide upon a single topic area they wanted the Youth Jury to focus on and provide recommendations for.

Throughout the first and second introductory sessions the Jurors discussed issues, ideas and feelings they individually raised in regard to cultural diversity in Parramatta. They also discussed ideas arising from information provided by stakeholders and individuals in the Parramatta community through surveys and interviews. Based on the Jurors' deliberations in introductory session three, the Jurors discussed which topic area was most appropriate for the Youth Jury to focus on, based on its degree of interest and its potential for generating realistic recommendations. The group successfully selected their topic area: Media as related to Cultural Diversity.

In order to give the Youth Jury focus, the Jurors formed a 'Charge' (a specific question to be examined throughout the course of the Youth Jury):

The media adversely influences people's views about different cultures, affecting perceptions of Australia as a nation.

2.2 The Youth Jury Process

The Youth Jury was held from Monday the 14th of July to Wednesday the 16th of July 2003 during the school holidays. The first day was held at the Parramatta Town Hall and the second and third days were held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Parramatta. The time of each day ran from approximately 10:00am – 4:00pm. Throughout the entire three days of the Youth Jury, the project team aimed to ensure that the jurors were given the opportunity to understand and incorporate new ideas relating to the media in Australia so as to encourage the Jurors to challenge their Charge. The PYM team emphasised the importance of small and large group dynamics, open

discussion and brainstorming. Each day was an assortment of different size groups having different lengths of time together.

The first two days of the Youth Jury presented the Jurors with the opportunity to question 'Informed Presenters' from different sectors of the media and communications industry (Appendix 2). The task required of the Jurors when questioning the Informed Presenters was to identify new concepts (versus old ones) and together reach a consensus on key ideas and perspectives. There were three Informed Presenter Panels during the Youth Jury. The Informed Presenters were chosen and grouped together based on their level of expertise in the field of media and communications and differing views.

At the end of the Informed Presenter Panels, the Jurors were encouraged by the facilitators to 'brain-dump' ideas to express their thoughts and feelings rather than have the reiteration of new ideas and opinions circulate in their minds.

The third and last day of the Youth Jury involved intensive exercises operated by the PYM facilitators to help the Jurors take all the new information they had attained in the previous two days and formulate that into ideas and eventually Recommendations to be used in regard to the Charge.

2.3 Background summary of the discussions relating to the recommendations

The Youth Jurors demonstrated a variety of views about the Charge from the very beginning of the process. Most Jurors reported that their opinions about the Charge shifted to varying degrees over the course of the Youth Jury.

The Youth Jury did not reach a definitive verdict on the Charge, but rather raised many points both for and against the Charge, and developed nine strategies to reduce the adverse effects of media practices and enhance the beneficial effects. Overall, the Youth Jury agreed that the media does adversely influence the views some individuals hold about different cultural groups. However, there were many contradictory points raised about the extent and cause of this influence and the allocation of responsibility for changing it. In addition, the Youth Jury also agreed that the media is capable of positively influencing the views of some individuals about different cultural groups.

The questions addressed to the Informed Presenter Panels probed complex issues such as the incentives for the media to make certain portrayals of cultural groups; the role of different styles of cultural reporting in generating media sales; the effectiveness of existing media guidelines and regulations; whether the media simply reflects stereotypes that already exist in society; and strategies for improving media practices. As the Charge was in a sense conclusive, the Jurors were encouraged to take a critical slant on their own original views and provoked the Informed Presenters to obtain strong counterarguments against their Charge. The

Jurors were also presented with a Background Information Kit at the end of the first day of the Youth Jury, which provided additional factual information and selected opinions that emphasised the beneficial role of the media.

A number of recurrent themes emerged over the course of the Youth Jury. The contribution that media portrayals make towards stereotyping, and the impacts this has on local communities, was explored from many angles. The adverse influence of the media was associated with a disproportionate number of negative stories about different cultural groups, the undue emphasis of certain negative terms linked with cultural groups, and in some cases the inaccurate use of evidence. Yet the Jurors acknowledged that some media reports were able to combat negative attitudes towards cultural groups. Such media reports tended to focus on the situation of the individual in the first instance, and place secondary emphasis on their cultural background.

The important role of the audience's own interpretations was emphasised by several Jurors, who believed that the media is not responsible for the views of its audience, but merely for the accurate reporting of events. The interpretation of media reports varies greatly amongst individuals, it was argued. Hence it is of secondary importance to change media practices; the primary objective should be to educate the general public. This view was strengthened by arguments that emphasised the critical role of a free press in democratic society, and sought to minimise the restrictions placed upon the media. Most Jurors seemed to agree that the present media arrangements were preferable to no media at all.

The degree of media influence was seen to vary across individuals. Many Jurors believed that individuals who had greater exposure to and knowledge of different cultures, were less susceptible to media influence. There was also a common opinion that young people hold views that are relatively independent of media influence, due to a lack of trust. However the Youth Jury recognised the capacity for the media to reinforce existing stereotypes held by individuals, or even create stereotypes in individuals who lacked any preconceptions about a particular cultural group.

The role of the general public was relevant in discussions about the causes behind distorted media portrayals of different cultural groups. The commercial nature of most media organisations was recognised by all Jurors, but different value judgements were made about this. There were some perceptions that the profit motive and individual career aspirations increased the likelihood of distorted reporting. This view was compatible with vesting ultimate responsibility with the general public since the media merely provides what the general public is most willing to purchase. However it also raised critical discussion about the corruption of 'news values' and principles of 'newsworthiness'. To some extent tension emerged between the role of the media as an instrument of democracy and its commercial profit motives.

The motivations of media organisations and professionals were generally regarded as self-interested at worst. The lack of awareness amongst media professionals was a recurring theme. This lack of awareness referred to both the impacts that certain reports have on local communities, and the guidelines that exist to maintain journalistic standards. Hence Recommendations were made about improved ongoing education for journalists and greater incentives for media organisations and professionals to adhere to guidelines. At the same time the Youth Jury agree that members of the general public have some responsibility to notify the media about impacts they have on local communities. This would be facilitated by the provision of educational resources to facilitate contacting the media.

The processes undertaken throughout the Youth Jury have been documented in detail, and will be presented in a Youth Jury Handbook currently being developed by the PYM Team. The Youth Jury Handbook is intended as a resource to assist the development of future Youth Juries.

3. The recommendations

Underpinning the Recommendations developed by the Youth Jury was a belief that there should be open channels of communication between the media and the wider community, so as to increase the capacity for better communication in both directions.

3.1 Media education

3.1.1 **THAT 'LIFE-LONG' LEARNING PROGRAMS BE INTRODUCED TO EDUCATE JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA PROFESSIONALS IN REPORTING ON MULTICULTURAL ISSUES**

The Problem: The Youth Jury found that media professionals may be limited in their capacity to accurately and sensitively report on people from different cultural groups, and sometimes this is due to a lack of knowledge about different cultural groups or skills associated with reporting on multicultural issues.

The Youth Jury also found that some people in the media are not aware of existing guidelines about reporting on people from different cultural backgrounds.

In response to this problem, jurors recommended that journalists be required to maintain skill levels by partaking in life-long learning courses.

Outcome: This recommendation aims to increase the number and quality of appropriate opportunities throughout the university training of media professionals, in which they are exposed to the latest theory and best practice approaches to cultural diversity reporting. Further educational opportunities should be provided for journalists throughout their career, to refresh and update their university training.

The Youth Jury found that existing curricula address codes of conduct for journalists; however there should be more opportunities to develop skills in cross-cultural communication. Enhancements to the educational curriculum in undergraduate Communications degrees should be developed by universities in collaboration with media industry associations.

Furthermore, the establishment of a professional association and the sponsoring of formal training by media organisations, would serve to update the skills of those media professionals already immersed in the industry. In particular, their awareness of existing guidelines about reporting on people from different cultural backgrounds should be increased.

The Youth Jury believes that this would improve the quality of journalism now and, importantly, into the future.

Potential Responsibility: To be implemented by the Australian government in collaboration with media organisations and their peak bodies.

3.2 Community education

3.2.1 CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF FACT SHEETS DESCRIBING HOW INDIVIDUALS CAN CONTACT THE MEDIA

The Problem: The Youth Jury discussed how there is a need for people to communicate their views to the media, in particular, how people from different cultural groups should communicate stories about the true nature of their culture.

The Youth Jury found that problems to do with insensitive reporting may be due to a lack of awareness amongst some media professionals about the impacts that insensitive reporting can have on communities and individuals.

The Youth Jury also concluded that there is a responsibility for citizens to tell media outlets when they are not satisfied with their reporting practices. However the Youth Jury recognised that it is often difficult for many people to contact the media and communicate their concerns. This is largely because they are not aware of the avenues that are available, and also because they may lack the skills to utilise these avenues effectively. Young people in particular may lack the skills and confidence to communicate their views to the media.

In addition, the Youth Jury found that sometimes when people communicate to the media, their input is not sufficiently recognised. For example, usually only a proportion of letters to the editor are published.

Outcome: This recommendation aims to inform the general public about what avenues are available for communicating their views to the media, and how to best make use of them. Separate fact sheets should be produced for young people and adults, and could be translated into different languages. Fact sheets for young people would be disseminated through schools and youth centres, and also through youth networks established to address issues of cultural diversity. (See also '**Recommendation 9**').

Potential Responsibility: To be implemented by media industry associations in collaboration with the Australian government.

3.2.2 THAT WORKSHOPS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO ATTEND IN ORDER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MEDIA STRATEGY AND GOALS

The Problem: The Youth Jury recognised that media is powerful in influencing Australians through various strategies. (for example, one of the Informed Presenters confirmed that the headlines are designed to attract the reader, thus they often include controversial material). The Youth Jury also understand that the goal of media is not simply to provide information, but to operate along commercial lines like all private businesses.

Outcome: The Youth Jury believed that by coming to an understanding of what motivates media organisations, it was better equipped to distinguish between fact and editorial opinion.

This recommendation aims to educate members of society about media strategies, goals and motivations.

The Youth Jury supports this because it would provide members of the general public with the skills to analyse the information presented by media.

The Youth Jury recommended that these workshops be trialed at the high school level because young people are the decision-makers of the future.

Potential Responsibility: In the first instance, these workshops would be initiated by high schools on a trial basis, before being sponsored by the Australian government and local media outlets to be run in a community forum format.

There is also a role here for the citizen (and student) in engaging with the material provided by the workshop, and improving his or her understanding of how the media works.

3.2.3 THAT GOVERNMENT AT THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS PROVIDE/S A COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE WIDER PUBLIC ARE AWARE OF DIFFERENCES IN CULTURE AND THEIR EFFECT ON LIFESTYLES

The Problem: This recommendation focuses on trying to rectify the problems in society rather than the internal workings of media itself.

One of the problems identified by the Youth Jury was that the media's reporting of issues involving different cultural groups, influences people's views about different cultures to varying extents, depending on the depth of knowledge about other cultures.

Outcome: The Youth Jury recommends then, that more 'proactive' educational strategies be undertaken by all spheres of government to encourage greater understanding and acceptance of different cultural groups in Australia. Strategies could also take the form of more practical education. The federal and state governments are in the best position to promote a greater infusion of information into the community relating to multiculturalism and can organise events aimed at improving interaction of cultural groups on a larger-scale.

Some suggested educational strategies might include:

- Undertaking community-based educational programs about difference between cultures in the Australian community;
- The initiation of more community events celebrating cultural differences and encouraging interaction between different groups. More multicultural type 'national days' like 'Harmony Day' is also a possibility here.

It would be expected that through the implementation from some of the above strategies, individuals would gain a deeper understanding of cultural diversity and hence facilitate the ability of individuals to distinguish between accurate and inaccurate media accounts of different cultures.

Potential Responsibility: The educational programs to be implemented by state governments with the Australian government examining the feasibility of introducing more national multicultural celebrations.

There is also a role here for community organisations in lobbying government for improved educational strategies on behalf of their members/clients.

3.3 Media responsibility and the community

3.3.1 PROMOTING THE 'SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY' OF THE MEDIA THROUGH MORE BALANCED AND ACCURATE MEDIA COVERAGE OF STORIES INVOLVING DIFFERENT CULTURAL GROUPS

The Problem: A recurring point of discussion throughout the Youth Jury was the tendency of the media to focus on negative stories regarding particular cultural groups. The Youth Jury found that despite the diversity of media outlets, sometimes there is a lack of diversity of opinion. Currently, balanced reporting is the exception rather than the norm.

Issues of crime and unrest involving individuals from certain cultural backgrounds were seen by Jurors as making up a disproportionate amount of current commentary on various cultural groups and their lifestyles. This tendency within the media restricts the amount of positive media attention received by different cultural groups, and is not conducive to positively influencing people's views about different cultures or promoting harmony in the Australian multicultural community.

The Youth Jury agreed that it is important that all viewpoints surrounding a particular issue are presented.

Outcome: The Youth Jury's recommendation is to increase the incidence of balanced reporting of cultural differences in the media through a commitment by both governments and the media to promote the 'social responsibility' of the media regarding community perceptions of cultural differences. The idea being that a desire within the media to enhance community harmony combined with their internal agenda-setting capacity, will produce stories with a positive focus on different cultural groups.

Some mechanisms included in this recommendation to achieve such a development include:

- An incentive-based strategy developed in collaboration between the media and government to encourage the 'social responsibility' of the media. Such a system would emphasise the intangible benefits for the media of reporting examples of positive interactions among diverse cultural groups;
- Increased media coverage of cultural festivals of individual cultures;
- A commitment by editors/or media decision-makers to increase the number of articles and feature stories about the positive aspects of different cultures.

- Greater commitment by media organisations to use evidence accurately, for example footage must be dated so images cannot be misrepresented or manipulated (on purpose or by mistake)

Potential Responsibility: Strong commitments here are required from the Australian government in partnership with the editorial management of media organisations.

3.3.2 THERE NEEDS TO BE A GREATER ENFORCEMENT AND INCENTIVES FOR JOURNALISTS TO ADHERE TO GUIDELINES REGARDING REPORTING OF ISSUES WITH REFERENCE TO CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS

The Problem: The Youth Jury here recognised that the ideals of 'free speech' and a 'free media' do not always correlate with those laws imposed by the Anti-Discrimination Act.

The Youth Jury acknowledged that there might need to be regulations introduced so those journalists adhere to guidelines related to the reporting of cultural background.

Outcome: This recommendation aims to ensure journalists are made aware of their responsibilities to the community, particularly the need to balance a commitment to reporting the facts while being sensitive to the cultural groups involved.

The Youth Jury supports the following:

- Internal initiatives within media organisations could foresee journalists changing their reporting methods so as to avoid the stereotyping of certain cultural groups; **(See Recommendation 1)**
- Local community or cultural-based action groups who forward concerns about negative reports so the relevant media bodies could drive these initiatives.

Potential Responsibility: Community and cultural-based organisations in support of individual members of the general public have a responsibility to advocate and work with the media organisations in question.

See 'Recommendation 1' regarding the education of journalists.

3.3.3 MORE INCENTIVES FOR MEDIA ORGANISATIONS TO ADHERE TO GUIDELINES DESIGNED TO MONITOR THE USE OF NEGATIVE MATERIAL REGARDING DIFFERENT CULTURAL GROUPS

The Problem: The Youth Jury noted that the media does have the potential to adversely affect peoples' perceptions of different cultural groups, in this case, their concern being that the existing guidelines and codes of practice for the media's

reporting of culture, ethnicity and race, are currently only suggested and not enforced.

This recommendation addresses the problem of ineffective guidelines. It was observed that this was partly due to these guidelines being developed and endorsed by media industry associations themselves, potentially presenting a conflict of interest. Other than the Australian Broadcasting Authority and their regulation of television, radio and internet, there is no independent regulation of media codes of practice relating to race, culture or ethnicity.

Outcome: Thus the Youth Jury recommends the establishment of some form of 'third-party' body, made up of non-members of the media sector (possibly government), to adjudicate on identified instances where the guidelines have been blatantly breached and which is potentially destructive of community harmony. Complaints may be made by members of the general public.

The intended outcome of the implementation of the above recommendation would be to limit the opportunity for media organisations to emphasise aspects of culture or race in stories, where arguably commercial news values are placed above the public interest.

Potential Responsibility: The federal and state governments would be required to negotiate the appropriate funding and logistical commitments to establish such an independent body. The introduction of state-focused bodies would better reflect local differences and concerns with media reporting.

3.3.4 THERE IS A NEED FOR MEDIA TO MAKE CLEAR, FORMAL APOLOGIES IN THE CASE OF ERRONEOUS REPORTING

The Problem: The Youth Jury found that apologies by the media to affected communities are not frequent or visible enough. This recommendation seeks to change the current practice of apologies being 'hidden' in the corners of a newspaper page or radio report.

The Youth Jury understands how easy it was for media to erroneously present information due to time restraints. For example, a journalist who works on a daily newspaper is limited to one day to research for an article to be published the next day. Sometimes sources are not sufficiently validated due to time limits or inefficiency, leading to inaccurate representations of different cultural groups. However, stereotyping that is unintentional can be still be damaging to other members of the cultural group concerned.

Outcome: The Youth Jury supports action taken by community or cultural-based organisations on behalf of the cultural communities concerned, to make representations to the media organisation responsible for any erroneous reporting

The Youth Jury believes that, if media outlets accept responsibility for incorrect or unfair accounts of information, it would be less likely for instances of erroneous reporting to occur in the future.

Potential Responsibility: Community and cultural-based organisations in partnership with the media organisations would work to rectify erroneous reporting.

3.4 Local networks

3.4.1 THE FORMATION OF A BODY OF YOUTH WITHIN EACH SUBURB OR REGION SPECIFICALLY ESTABLISHED TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO CULTURAL HARMONY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Problem: In their summation of the charge, the Youth Jury considered that at present the media were at times unaware of the negative influence on people's perception of different cultures that their coverage sometimes incited.

The Youth Jury held strongly that the media does have the capacity to change, and that this could be accelerated through a greater organised response from media consumers.

Outcome: To address this problem, the Youth Jury supports the establishment of a body of youth in each suburb or region that could address issues such as this, as well as others, as they pertain to cultural harmony. Since youth, aged between 15-18, are considered primary users of media and also through their school experiences may be considerably enlightened on issues regarding cultural differences, they are in a good position to actively provide feedback to media and government regarding evidence of problems that affect perceptions of Australia as a nation.

This body of youth could be formed on a voluntary basis, or merged with existing youth organisations, thus taking advantage of networks and structures already in place. Furthermore, it is envisaged that application for government funding through grant programs would be a factor in gaining financial support.

Potential Responsibility: The implementation and acceptance of such a recommendation requires local government, existing youth organisations, and local media organisations to establish a feedback mechanism whereby any concerns are brought to the attention of media professionals and worked through accordingly.

4. 'Where to Now?' for the Parra Youth Matters Youth Jury Project

Central to the success and integrity of any Youth Jury is ensuring that the recommendations *are* publicly acknowledged *and* acted upon. The following steps are a brief outline of how the PYM project team intends to promote the Youth Jury's recommendations:

4.1 The release of the recommendations – the public forum (September 23)

This will be an opportunity for the PYM project team and the Youth Jury to begin the task of promoting the Recommendations to both the community and the government. Through an interactive Public Forum, with corresponding media exposure and the attendance of invited stakeholders, the PYM team will circulate the Youth Jury's Recommendations and encourage stakeholders and the general public to offer their opinion on how these Recommendations can be utilized.

4.2 Equipping jurors and interested members of the community in future activities (September and beyond)

The PYM team will take on a mentoring role for the Jurors (and other interested members of the community) and support and encourage them to promote the Recommendations. The PYM team feels that in order to encourage further active citizen participation in community affairs, the Juror's and other members of the community should play a direct role in communicating the Recommendations with relevant stakeholders as opposed to being kept in the dark about the progress of the Recommendations. The PYM team will encourage one-on-one consultations with interested stakeholders.

Furthermore, the Jurors are direct links to schools in the Parramatta area that are an excellent starting point for community education regarding the motivation behind media's reportage of cultural issues.

The Jurors and those young people that applied for the Youth Jury but were not randomly selected will be given examples of other local projects and opportunities that they can take advantage of. This has begun, with Parramatta City Council's Youth Development Worker, Matt Roberts informing the Jurors and other young people of the Parramatta Youth Advisory Committee and some of the work it does with Council.

5. Conclusion

While recognizing that the work of promoting the recommendations is one that may go beyond November, the formulation and implementation of certain plans, as shown above, will ensure that the Youth Jury has a positive and lasting impact on the Parramatta community. While ordinarily it is not the role of a Youth Jury or Citizens Jury project team to concern itself with how the recommendations are received; being an Australian-first heightens the importance attributed to this pilot project, because any possible perpetuation of the Youth Jury process will be contingent upon the ability of the PYM project team to successfully help promote the Youth Jury's recommendations.



Appendix 1

The Project Team

Samantha Allen	Youth Jury Chairperson, Web-site coordinator.
James Cullen	Stakeholder, Media & Communications Co-Ordinator/Youth Jury Rapporteur.
Rebecca Hicks	Stakeholder, Media & Communications liaison.
Frances Philips	Youth Jury Process Design/Youth Jury Rapporteur.
Christopher Sargant	Facilitator of Youth Jury/Youth Jury Process Co-Ordinator/Project Co-Ordinator.
Marc Tutaan	Youth Jury Process Design/Youth Jury Rapporteur.
Lorien Vecellio	Facilitator of Youth Jury/Youth Jury Process Co-Ordinator.
Maria Zuza	Facilitator of Youth Jury/ Youth Jury Process Co-Ordinator / Stakeholder Media & Communications liaison.

The Jurors

Casey Beazley.
Ahmad Gourbandy.
Jacine Eid.
Michelle El-Hage.
Marsha El-Khoury.
Lauren Estabillo.
Emma Gordon.
Julia Hu.
Jennea McWilliams.
Casli Mehmed.
Vishal Sood.
Hannah Schokman.
Armina Soemino.
Veronica Wong.
Michael Yuen.

Appendix 2

INFORMED PRESENTERS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Panel Session 1 – Cultural & Ethnic Organisations

Warren Duncan – Media Officer
Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW.

Thao Nguyen – Youth Representative
Ethnic Communities Council of NSW.

Panel Session 2 – Media Organisations

Liz Skelton – General Manager
Streetwise Communications.

Miranda Wood – Health Writer
Sun Herald.

Roger Coombs – Editor-in-Chief
Daily and Sunday Telegraph.

Panel Session 3 – Academic Institutions

Dr Wendy Bacon – Associate Professor in Journalism and Director
Australian Centre for Independent Journalism
University of Technology, Sydney.

Dr Melissa Butcher – Researcher
Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific
University of Sydney.

Dr Susan Thompson – Senior Lecturer
Faculty of the Built Environment
University of New South Wales.