



Expressions of Interest for ERA's Young Women's Advisory Group (YWAG) 2020



Image: Five young femme-presenting people sit in different postures on a rainbow carpet.

YWAG

A Note on Terminology: YWAG has an inclusive definition of 'Women'. We aim to engage with and give voice to the diverse experience of those who may identify as women – including trans, cis and non-binary youth.

The Young Women's Advisory Group (YWAG) to the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) is a voluntary group of up to ten young women aged 16-30 from across Australia. YWAG values and amplifies young women's voices, experiences, and expertise; we aim to bring those voices to the national policy space.

YWAG constantly strives to be inclusive of a diverse range of experiences, including non-binary youth, trans and cis women.

ERA is Australia's largest network advocating for women's equality, leadership, and recognition of women's diversity. As one of six National Women's Alliances, ERA brings together over 60 organisations, and is auspiced by the YWCA Australia with funding from the Commonwealth Office for Women. YWAG works under this umbrella to inform ERA projects at a national level, and to direct our own projects. You can read about current YWAG members and projects [here](#).

Members of YWAG are appointed for a three-year term, operating on a financial year with a maximum of two terms.

The limited tenure is flexible to the need for knowledge transfer and sustainability.

Vision

We strive for a society in which all people have a voice into the decisions which affect them, regardless of their gender, sexuality, indigeneity, ability, or cultural or socioeconomic background. To this end, YWAG's vision is that:

- Young women's voices, agency and expertise are recognised by decision makers, researchers and the public;
- Young women lead, and are supported to work alongside others in providing solutions to issues which affect them.

Mission

YWAG values and works towards meaningful and genuine representation, participation and engagement of young women, and those who identify as femme, non-binary or with feminine experiences. We recognise, amplify, and value the work of young women, including supporting

young women to be represented in policy discussions and debates. We work to ensure that young women are in control of narratives and portrayal of young women. We act as a channel for advocacy on young women's issues and issues affecting young women.

YWAG builds and supports links between young women and politicians, policy makers, researchers, activists, and the women's movement. We build, strengthen and support movements of young women including to revitalise, transform and sustain the women's movement.

YWAG creates safe spaces for young women's advocacy, skill development, and growth. We embrace and advocate for strengths-based approaches, recognising the contribution that young people make to their communities.

YWAG conducts research led by and for young women.

Values

Our guiding values include:

- Feminist
- Collective and collaborative advocacy
- Diversity: acknowledging, valuing, allying, learning from and working with young people with different perspectives, lived experience and knowledge
- Excellence, quality, and evidence-based
- Intergenerational: Working with, learning from, and sharing knowledge with older women.

ERA is...

Equality Rights Alliance is Australia's largest network advocating for women's equality, women's leadership and recognition of women's diversity. We bring together over 60 organisations with an interest in advancing women's equality.

Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) is one of six National Women's Alliances, led by the [YWCA Australia](#) with funding from the Federal Office for Women. Our members are non-government organisations and social enterprises with a focus on the impact of policy or service delivery on women.

ERA's relationship with YWAG

- YWAG speaks as young women and people, not for them.
- ERA supports YWAG members to grow as activists and advocates through training, experience and connection to ERA's membership.
- YWAG is also a source of regeneration and sustainability for the women's movement.
- YWAG will be involved in ERA policy work groups (housing, gender equality machinery, health and international).

- YWAG will drive and lead certain ERA projects (sexuality and respectful relationships in schools project).
- YWAG members will be represented at broader ERA member meetings and events.
- ERA will support and provide secretariat assistance to YWAG.

Who are you?

- You are under 30.
- You will benefit from being a part of YWAG.
- You are keen, enthusiastic, work well in groups, a consistent communicator
- You can dedicate up to 3 hours a week to YWAG.

We strive for diverse and equal representation in YWAG. We strongly encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, women with disability and women living in remote, rural or regional areas to apply. YWAG is inclusive of cis, trans and non-binary experiences.

What is expected of you?

- A commitment to participate in YWAG-led projects.
- A commitment to participate in monthly teleconferences and a yearly face to face meeting.
- A commitment to active weekly communication in YWAG via Facebook and email.
- A commitment to involvement in one of ERA's policy working groups.

How can I get involved?

To apply, please answer the following questions in 150 words or less (for each question) and send to Romy Listo at era.projects@ywag.org.au.

- 1) Tell us a bit about yourself! Why do you want to join YWAG?
- 2) What skills would you bring to the role?
- 3) Please provide one example that demonstrates how you have shown innovation or creativity to bring the voices of young women to decision makers. (This could be in your school, workplace, with your family, with your friends....)
- 4) Please provide one example that demonstrates your ability to work in a team of diverse young women in a spirit of sharing, learning and collective advocacy.
- 5) Please confirm you are available for the commitment required of YWAG members until July 2022. Describe how you will incorporate and manage YWAG duties.

Process for applications

Applications will close on 22 October 2020. YWAG will then shortlist candidates for an interview to learn more about applicants. We aim to notify you on the outcome by mid-December. Applications will be considered by ERA's Steering Group and YWAG members.

Any queries about YWAG can be directed to ERA's Project Co-ordinator Romy Listo on 0435 919 077 or era.projects@ywca.org.au