



Together
For Humanity

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC) 2024

What is Together for Humanity?

[Together For Humanity](#) is an inclusive educational organisation that works with school communities to foster intercultural understanding and help students learn how to deal with differences. We stand for acceptance of every person regardless of ethnicity or faith and have teams located all over Australia.

We offer a range of face-to-face and online school programs linked to the Australian curriculum that help cultivate greater connection and inclusion among students, as well as Professional Development courses for teachers. The work we do with school communities contributes towards a more socially cohesive Australian society.

Our Mission

Together For Humanity fosters school students' interfaith and intercultural understanding and, in doing so, brings communities together.

Our Purpose

1. To help people develop cultural awareness and confidence to be their whole selves
2. To equip them with the knowledge and skills to respectfully navigate diversity and cultivate a stronger sense of belonging together
3. To bring together diverse communities in a spirit of solidarity and goodwill, thereby giving rise to a more cohesive Australia.

What is the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)?

The TFH Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is a group of 12 young people aged between 12 – 22 years whose purpose is to bring issues of importance to the TFH leadership team and board. The YAC works together with TFH to ensure young people's intercultural struggles and issues are met and addressed within our programs and services within school communities. It also provides young people with a voice and enables them to make a valuable contribution to the decision making processes within the organisation.

Benefits of the YAC

The Youth Advisory Committee is a great volunteering opportunity for young people to build their confidence, gain new skills and experience in working with a not-for-profit organisation as they advocate for critical issues facing youth in Australian schools and communities.

Participants in the YAC will receive a certificate of participation at the end of their year of contribution.

What issues will the YAC be working on?

The YAC will provide youth perspectives on issues related to intercultural understanding, racism, prejudice, inclusion, belonging and related topics. The members of the YAC will have the scope to identify and discuss the key areas of importance to focus on during meetings.

The YAC will also be asked to provide advice to the Leadership Team and Board on key policies, strategies and initiatives that impact young people. The YAC Coordinator will provide support to ensure YAC members have access to up-to-date and relevant information, to ensure YAC members are able to make recommendations that are purposeful and achievable.

The key roles of the Youth Advisory Committee are:

- Offer advice and advocate to the Leadership Team and Board on current issues and emerging trends for young people and the implications these might have for how young people connect with our services as well as to provide insight that will influence the content of our education programs.
- Provide feedback and input to the Leadership Team and Board on relevant policies, strategies and key developments as determined by the committee members (some of these discussion areas may not be within the direct control of TFH, however TFH will seek to support the committee's broader advocacy goals).
- Consult and connect with other young people for the purpose of providing an avenue for young people to connect and consult with TFH.

Will there be an orientation and planning session before the first YAC meeting?

Yes. YAC members will be required to be available for an online orientation and planning meeting on Tuesday evening of May 7th 2024.

The orientation and planning meeting will include an introduction to committee processes and the YAC Terms of Reference (the Terms of Reference is a document that outlines how the YAC works and what it can and can't do) as well as an introduction to TFH, the TFH Leadership

Team and Board and how TFH operates.

How often will the YAC meet?

The YAC will meet once a term between March 2024 – November 2024. Meetings will be held online via Zoom from 6:30pm - 8pm. YAC members may be provided with the opportunity to engage in TFH events or other community forums as relevant to YAC members' interests.

YAC Meeting schedule:

School Term	Meeting Date (Tuesdays)	Meeting Time
Term 1	May 7th 2024 (Orientation)	6:30pm
Term 2	June 4th 2024	6:30pm
Term 3	August 27th 2024	6:30pm
Term 4	November 18th 2024	6:30pm

What if I can't attend a full YAC meeting?

We understand that sometimes some YAC members won't be able to attend a meeting. We request that you aim to attend all meetings, however, if something unexpected happens, or during school/uni exam times, if you need to miss a meeting, that is okay. We ask YAC members to notify the YAC Coordinator.

We do ask YAC members to commit to 75% attendance (minimum three out of the four annual meetings). If something unforeseeable occurs, YAC members are able to ask to take a period of absence.

If YAC members miss two consecutive full YAC meetings without any communication, the YAC Coordinator will make contact to see what support they can offer to address any barriers to attendance. Our aim and hope is to have twelve fully active and engaged advisory group members.

I have a disability, what support will be provided to enable me to participate in the YAC?

TFH encourages the involvement of young people with disabilities and is keen to provide support to address any participation barriers.

The YAC members who require a support person to enable participation, are able to register support people for attendance at online meetings.

TFH is able to provide AUSLAN interpreters at YAC meetings for YAC members whose primary language is AUSLAN.

Do my parents/guardians have to give consent for me to participate?

If you are aged under 18 years of age we do require parent/guardian consent for you to participate in the YAC. We also welcome the participation of young people who are living in out-of-home care. [HERE](#) is our consent form.

I'm over 18 years of age, do I need to supply a Working with Children's Check?

Yes, all YAC members who are 18 years or over have to provide a current Working With Children's Check (WWCC) – volunteer minimum. Information about how to apply for a WWCC can be found [HERE](#).

How will the Leadership Team and Board act on advice from the YAC?

The TFH Leadership Team and Board are keen to hear from and engage with young people and to genuinely address their concerns. Any actions will depend on what the advice relates to, and whether the Leadership Team and Board have the capacity to address the recommendations. Some recommendations from the YAC may require the Leadership Team and Board to advocate to other bodies and organisations on behalf of young people.

Who should apply?

Any young person aged 12-22 years with an interest in intercultural understanding, interfaith dialogue or building social cohesion for the next generation of young Australians. Applications are sought from diverse locations, backgrounds and life experiences. The 12 member YAC provides a direct avenue of communication between young people and the Board and Leadership team of TFH.

Application Process

The application process for TFH's Youth Advisory Committee is through applications submitted from all states and territories across Australia. Applicants are interviewed and after carefully reviewing the large number of candidates, 12 applicants will be offered a position on the 2024 TFH Youth Advisory Committee. The appointed members of the Youth Advisory Committee will reflect the incredible diversity of the Australian population as well as the differing school sectors. Members will range in age from 12-22 and represent youth from every corner of Australia.

How to apply

If you would like to apply to be part of the TFH Youth Advisory Committee please complete the [application](#) and/or [consent](#) forms attached and email to calisha@togetherforhumanity.org.au