

2020-21 Regional Youth Taskforce Yearbook Video Transcript

Imogen McDonald – Inverell

Well I think this morning has just made us all feel very motivated and feel more connected within each other because we understand that these are issues that every region in New South Wales is facing. So I'm more inspired.

Francois van Kempen - Tintenbar

I want to get a way to make my voice heard and the voices in my community, especially the ones who I don't have the adequate support to really succeed and to try and help them to find better ways to get forward in life.

Paris Brailsford - Yamba

I think that it's such an awesome opportunity because, you know, youth are often dismissed as being, you know, naive or not having enough lived experience to make valid contributions to political arenas and policy making. So I think this is a super awesome chance to change that.

Katelyn Whyman – Wilcannia

Good to connect with all the other people and find out what other problems are in their community. And ways help.

Samuel Pevere - Cooma

All these young people that are from around everywhere in New South Wales. And they're all just lovely. They're all kind. They all have their passions. And it's so good to see this.

Lola Stravoskoufis - Exeter

Well, I was really proud to come here today and be able to represent my area because I'm from quite a small area. And it was really good to be able to meet with people who are a lot like me, think a lot like me, and we all have very similar but also quite different interests as well.

Bihozagara Ndabagaza – Lavington

In my community, there are some lot of youth who are not able to access services because of their level of English So my willing was like to be the advocator. And then look, if the government can look some ways where they can support them. Any country without youth, it's like they don't have a future.

Adrian Le - Mollymook

My experience of being a part of the Regional Youth Taskforce is that I've made so many new friends, met so many new people and got to be in so many new places.

Phoebe Sheridan – Terrigal

My experience as part of the Regional Taskforce has been life changing, like a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet so many other people from regional areas who have so many other ideas that can either be so similar to me and we're advocating for the same issues or challenge me and make me want to go back and make more change in my community. So honestly, I owe so much to this opportunity.

Isaac Ford – Bourke

I'm a big advocate for the fact the bush is being left behind. And I think it's great that we have a task force that can pretty much acknowledge that and address the issues that we face as regional communities.

Ben Caughey - Hay

Especially this year, I've grown a great passion for trying to change mental health and trying to advocate for what needs to be done in rural areas to increase the awareness of mental health and try to solve the solution of how to help young people going through depression.

Samantha Dunn – Cambewarra

For myself, I think probably mental health and youth involvement, they're both two pretty major, they're major subjects that I think need to be changed in every community.

Elka Devney - Moree

Well, today specifically, I was fighting for regional journalism and to have the implementation of digital literacy in our communities I know for my community, especially youth involvement services, mental health, education, I believe that every facet of life in regional and rural New South Wales is so important and that needs to be something shared with not only our metro cousins, but also with our brothers and sisters from the regions.

Clodagh Falvey – Muswellbrook

It's been absolutely amazing. I feel like I've learned so much not only about government and how it works, but also about my community and about other communities around New South Wales. And I feel like I've really been able to meet some amazing people and made some really great friends and I'm really excited for what I can take away back to my community.

Jayden Redfern – Terrigal

I've had a great experience. I've met so many new people that have so many different life experiences, and I've been able to take what they've told me back to my community and really implement some good solutions into issues that I've seen present. It's been great to get to know everyone and it's really provided me with insight of what happens around New South Wales.

Lachlan Hicks – Clear Creek

Young people represent such a huge population in New South Wales, but we're also one of the most vulnerable. Giving that opinion to our state government representatives really cements our thoughts and our feelings in this decision making and problem solving process.

Isabella Metcalfe - Cessnock

My highlight from the Regional Youth Taskforce this year is having leadership development opportunities. I think it's really important that our youth can be in spaces where government can hear our voices.

Taje Fowler – Narromine

We know the answers to our own problems. So being able to voice that and have it heard is important.