

The Australian Youth Representative to the UN Program

Consultation Information

An opportunity to empower youth



UN
youth
australia



About the program

The Australian Youth Representative to the UN is the only role of its kind in Australia. It is annually appointed by UN Youth Australia in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Since 1999, the Youth Representative has been tasked with representing the views of young Australians both domestically and abroad as well as leading the largest annual face-to-face consultation of young people in the country.

Each year, the Youth Representative leads an extensive, nationwide consultative tour to engage with and discover the issues that are most important to young Australians. Known as the 'Listening Tour', this 6-month journey typically sees the Youth Representative travel to every State and Territory, engaging with young people in urban, regional and rural areas.

Over the course of this consultation, the Youth Representative will hear a wide variety of youth opinions on issues at the local, national and international level. Alongside the consultation, the Youth Representative will meet with prominent members of the Australian community including MPs, NGO heads, business leaders, young leaders and key players in the youth and education sectors.

Reporting to the United Nations

In September/October, the Youth Representative travels to New York to represent Australia's young people at the United Nations as a member of the Australian Permanent Mission to the UN. While in New York, the Youth Representative will represent the views of both the Australian Mission and Australia's young people to the international community.

Culminating in a speech to the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Youth Representative's stay in New York will involve negotiating with Youth Representatives from other countries, and helping to inform the debate around topical issues from the youth perspective.



About the Youth Representative

In 2021, the Youth Representative consultation will attempt to answer the question, **“What would Australia look like if young people were the key drivers of decision making?”**.

Lucy is determined to increase the reach of the Program to engage with a more diverse range of young Australians than ever before. She’s also committed to identifying the solutions young people wish to see implemented to the issues we face by exploring evidence-based practice and policy.

“Young people represent some of the most engaged and educated voices in the world and I have never seen such passion for change as I do right now. Now is the time that we can make massive, tangible change to the systems that govern our lives”

- Lucy Stronach, 2021 Youth Representative Introduction Video

Lucy grew up in Perth and has worked almost exclusively with marginalised and vulnerable young people across Australia and the world. Her experiences within the field of criminology have taken her to the streets of Mumbai to fight for the empowerment of sex workers, to juvenile prisons in San Diego to assist with literacy skills in young offenders, to Vietnam to assist with the rehabilitation of street children and victims of human trafficking, and to the UNDP in Bangkok to work with youth leaders in the promotion of human rights and justice. Lucy’s experiences with the Parliament of Western Australia, Western Australian Police Force, and the Department of Corrective Services have equipped her with the knowledge and tools to work towards evidence-based practices that ensure the solutions offered by young people are taken seriously by our policy-makers.

Lucy and UN Youth’s Chief Youth Representative Officer, Emma Salmon, can be contacted via email at youthrep@unyouth.org.au and cyro@unyouth.org.au



Frequently asked questions

What does a consultation involve?

This depends! Typically, Lucy will deliver a short presentation on the Youth Rep Program, then run a workshop that explores the Program question for 2021: **What would Australia look like if young people were the key drivers of decision making?**

This will involve interactive activities and group discussion, which will be included in the formal data collection for the Listening Tour. The topics we discuss will be determined by the students in the consultation.

The consultation process is flexible and creative ways of involving different groups of young people are always welcomed. If you have an idea for a consultation that deviates from this typical outline, please let us know!

How long is a consultation?

A consultation can last anywhere from 45 minutes upwards. Typically, a traditional consultation will last for 120 minutes to ensure enough time for Lucy and the participants to really explore key issues and themes raised. The timing of a consultation is flexible and can be discussed further with Lucy and her team.

How many people can participate?

We are happy to engage with any number of young people at a time. Whilst a group of 15–40 means that we can be more interactive and participatory, Lucy is also happy to work with larger groups if this is what you would prefer.

Are consultations only available for schools?

No! Youth Rep consultations are open to any NGOs, schools, universities or other groups that work with young people. As long as the participants are under the age of 25, we can organise a consultation.

Who can participate?

Sometimes, schools and organisations have a specific group of students in mind for our consultations, such as an SRC or youth group. However, we believe that all young people should be able to access our consultations, regardless of their previous exposure to the kinds of topics we discuss in the consultation. As such, we are happy to work with any young people under the age of 25.

Our primary target in the Youth Rep Program is young people aged between 12 and 25. Let us know if you have younger students who may like to also participate.

How much does it cost?

There is no fee attached to the Youth Rep Program and consultations. As the entire Program is grassroots and funded by the community, financial or in-kind donations are always greatly appreciated to ensure Lucy can reach as many diverse young people possible.

Are there other ways to get involved?

Absolutely! Young people can complete the Youth Rep survey online, to be released at the start of Lucy's Listening Tour in February 2021. Time permitting, students will complete this survey during the consultations. In 2020, Lucy and the Youth Rep team also launched a new podcast series, For the Future, which features the stories of young Australians. The team are constantly working to identify young people who can feature on the show.

Who can I contact about the Program?

Urgent inquiries

Lucy, Youth Representative, at youthrep@unyouth.org.au. or
Emma, Chief Youth Representative Officer, at cyro@unyouth.org.au.

Non-urgent inquiries

Neeharika, Executive Assistant to Lucy, at youthrepea@unyouth.org.au.

Media / Communications inquiries

Igor Andonov, Chief Communications Officer, at communications@unyouth.org.au or 0478 668 018.

For the Future Podcast Team

Producers at forthefuture@unyouth.org.au.



Opening young eyes to the world

unyouth.org.au/ausyouthrep

Please note that all photos featured on this document were either captured prior to COVID-19 or in a COVID safe manner. UN Youth Australia and the Youth Representative Program are ensuring all health and safety regulations are implemented to keep our participants safe and healthy.