**WHO'S INVOLVED?**

The YLR is comprised of 13 young leaders, aged 16 – 25 years. It is an inspiring group of Australian, Aboriginal Australia and CaLD young people with incredible stories of struggle, hope and resilience who are all now doing exceptionally well for themselves as university students, passionate activists, community leaders, positive role models for their peers, and young parents. The YPP team facilitate the YLR, and the input of the YLR into the YPP.

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

The YLR is the ‘youth voice’ of the YPP, providing clear direction, advice and support to the YPP to ensure it is in line with the priorities and needs of young people in the region. The YLR is represented on the YPP’s Executive Committee (the governing body overseeing and managing the project’s direction), and at the Collaborative Action Networks. In this way, young people are involved in decision making throughout all levels of the project, and the voices and needs of young people remain the key focus.

The YLR members take part in ongoing personal and professional development opportunities (e.g. workshop facilitation, child-safe consultation, teambuilding and leadership activities) to foster and grow their skills and networks as young leaders in Perth today, and successful leaders for WA tomorrow. They have the scope, and are supported, to undertake activities to address pertinent youth issues within Perth, and in particular, the South East Corridor, which are aligned with the vision and goals of the YPP.

The YLR typically meets at weekends for planning meetings, workshops and determining the direction of the group. The ease of having weekend meetings means that its members are able to meet all of their commitments such as school, TAFE, university, parenthood and other employment.
WHY DOES IT WORK?

One key aspect which made the YLR successful was that all YLR members were employed by Save the Children as paid casual staff. By employing the YLR members, the specialised contribution of their lived experience and unique knowledge of what it means to be a young person today was acknowledged and valued. Additionally, as they were renumerated for their involvement at meetings, trainings and events, the YLR were able to provide greater commitment to the project, and took their responsibilities more professionally.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CHALLENGES?

A key challenge of the YLR has been the coordination of activities with various members having competing priorities and schedules and management of communication. This was overcome through taking a flexible and adaptive approach where practicable.

The YLR is a diverse group of young people who are learning and developing as young leaders. At times the diverse experiences and opinions caused conflict within the group, but this was also used as unique opportunity to mentor the YLR around conflict resolution, negotiations and diplomacy. When asked what they learnt most from participating in the YLR, members unanimously felt that they had learnt how to effectively work with a group diverse group of people.

Whilst trying to maintain and respect the groups freedom to coordinate and manage meetings with stakeholders, genuine youth voices meant that at times the meetings were not as structured as they could have been and meetings with key decision makers did not always result in clear actions.

HOW IS IT RESOURCED?

The YLR was resourced through the YPP social innovation grant. However, the extension of the grant did not provide adequate resources to fund the work of the YLR. The funding situation is of concern to Save the Children, who is seeking further support to continue the YLR and YPP.

WHAT’S BEEN THE SUCCESS?

The YLR has ensured that the work of the YPP has been youth-focused and informed directly by young people from the region. Further, the YLR have been able to drive agendas of their own, which means young people in the South East Corridor are, in effect, advocating for themselves, and influencing other young people to step up and have their voices heard. The YLR was a finalist in the 2015 WA Youth Awards.

The YLR has been invited to, and involved in, a number of key government and community committees and consultations. These events have provided the opportunity to present what the YLR do as part of the YPP, to emphasise the group’s youth-led direction, and to give the young people of the South East Corridor a larger voice. They have also built the member's professional communication skills, which will be useful throughout their careers.

The members themselves recognise that the extensive personal and professional development obtained through the YRL has enabled them to:

- Conquer fears of public speaking;
- Learn time management skills;
- Overcome cultural barriers;
- Lead by example;
- Coordinate events; and

Represent and give a voice to young people.