

youthlaw

**STRATEGY:
2021 - 26**

OUR VISION

A just and equitable society for and shaped by young people.

OUR PURPOSE

To provide accessible legal services to young people under the age of 25 and their advocates, focusing on unmet legal need and addressing systemic legal and social justice issues.

THE OUTCOMES WE ARE SEEKING

Young people, especially those most vulnerable are equipped with the skills, and are supported to assert and protect their legal rights.

Our justice system and community empowers young people, and our laws protect and support them to live healthy, safe lives.

A collaborative and effective youth sector, with Youthlaw playing a critical role in enabling partners to support young people.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

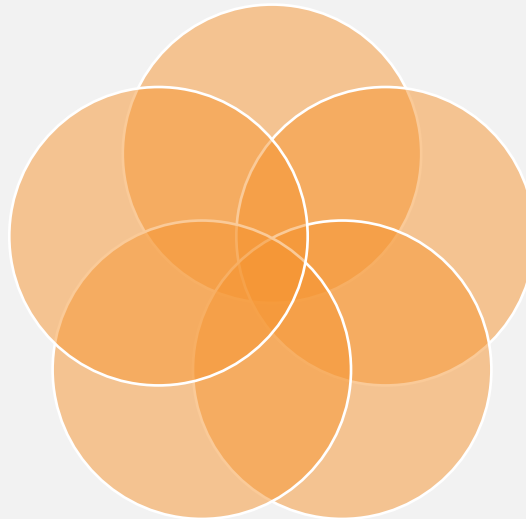
Championing multidisciplinary, holistic and accessible legal services and education

Positioning ourselves as a leader, innovator and critical partner

Agitating for law reform that amplifies the voice of young people for equity and justice

Espousing social justice and human rights through an exceptional team and culture

Ensuring our ongoing organisational and financial sustainability



OUR ENABLERS

Meaningful youth engagement that supports youth voice and influence

Partnerships that enable us to reach and holistically support young people

Data and evaluation that identifies need, improves processes and supports our advocacy efforts

Awareness and profile that builds trust across our sector, community and government

OUR VALUES



We are fearless advocates for young people



We believe respect for human rights is essential to achieve a fair and equal society



We are committed to collaborating with all who share our vision



We believe young people should be heard and participate in determining their future

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN DETAIL

Championing multidisciplinary, holistic and accessible legal services and education

Our services are relevant to the areas of law that have the highest negative impact on young people and are responsive to the other issues that often accompany legal challenges. Young people experiencing legal challenges often face other challenges such as homelessness, family violence and substance misuse which must be addressed simultaneously to impact lasting change. This is about having mechanisms that enable us to connect and support young people to these service providers. Within this, it is imperative that our services are accessible for those most disadvantaged or vulnerable.

To achieve this priority, we will:

- Continue to invest in co-location and outreach activities as well as two-way referrals that enable us to connect with young people.
- Strengthen and expand our partnerships with other youth service organisations (e.g. family violence organisations) to help us provide an integrated and holistic service to young people.
- Explore new ways to connect with and provide services to young people, including through the use of social media that increases awareness and confidence to understand, engage with and apply the law.
- Continue to scale up our integrated models of practice (e.g. in the family violence space)
- Reviewing and enhancing the accessibility of our services and community legal education and information.

Agitating for law reform that amplifies the voice of young people for equity and justice

We are an influential voice and critical driver in creating systemic change that creates a fairer, equitable society for young people. Our advocacy efforts prioritise issues that reduce the over-representation of youth in the criminal justice system as well as support early intervention and prevention approaches. Our efforts are supported by robust data; joint advocacy activities and submissions; and strong relationships with key decision makers.

To achieve this priority, we will:

- Engage with young people to better understand their needs and include them as part of our advocacy efforts.
- Develop an impact evaluation framework that helps us effectively measure and advocate.
- Explore joint advocacy partnerships with organisations that intersect with the key issues that face young people (e.g. partnerships with family violence organisations).
- Develop an advocacy strategy that identify our key areas of focus over the coming years (e.g. justice re-investment, early intervention and prevention initiatives etc.).

Ensuring our ongoing organisational and financial sustainability

We have the financial, technological and workforce resources to enable us to meet existing need and grow and scale our impact. This is about enabling us to be flexible and responsive in our approach as well as helping expand our services to support more young people.

To achieve this priority, we will:

- Measure and articulate the value of our services to key funders.
- Develop a financial sustainability strategy to help us identify and prioritise opportunities to increase our funding.
- Explore opportunities to invest in new technology and digital services to help us reduce costs whilst enabling us to connect with and support more young people.
- Explore opportunities to formalise partnerships with private law firms to increase in-kind contributions.
- Review and enhance our environmental sustainability practices.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN DETAIL

Esponsing social justice and human rights through an exceptional team and culture

We have a skilled, supported and empowered team driven by a culture that guides and reflects our collective ethics and organisational values. We invest in building the skills and capabilities of all our staff and volunteers. Our workplace is inclusive and diverse and our people are supported through flexible arrangements that maximise health and wellbeing. Our team is multidisciplinary, with knowledge and experience of specific areas of youth law and we are able to retain our talented staff.

To achieve this priority, we will:

- Embed and foster a workplace culture built around our collective ethics.
- Champion and model trauma-informed and client-centred practices for engaging young people.
- Provide ongoing training and career development opportunities for staff and volunteers within and outside our organisation.
- Review and enhance our workplace practices to ensure they are fit for purpose in a hybrid setting.
- Continue to explore opportunities to provide volunteer opportunities to students from disciplines outside of the legal sector to strengthen our multidisciplinary skillset.

Positioning ourselves as a leader, innovator and critical partner

We are sought after critical partner by organisations that support young people; government recognises and consults us on law matters concerning young people; and community is aware of and engaging with us. This is about building our profile by communicating our value with key stakeholders and proactively participating in networks and forums focused on improving the lives of young people. It is also about expanding and deepening our relationships with our key stakeholders and partners, sharing and enhancing our partners and stakeholders ability to engage with us.

To achieve this priority, we will:

- Develop and implement a communication strategy that conveys our value to funders, investors and community.
- Explore new opportunities (e.g. theory of change) to better articulate and tell our story.
- Build the capacity of our critical partners to better understand our services and how we can help the young people they serve.
- Audit our existing partnerships; continue with ones that are mutually beneficial; and look at opportunities to new partnerships that will advance our priorities.
- Participate in networks and groups focused on improving the lives of young people.