



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL Thursday 13 August 2020**

### **Young women have a unique opportunity to act on gender equality**

National feminist organisation YWCA Australia is calling on young women across the country to put their hand up and act on gender equality. Applications to join their Young Women's Council have now opened.

YWCA Australia's Young Women's Development Manager Sarah Hill said that the Young Women's Council was a great development opportunity for young women passionate about gender equality, feminism and creating a better society.

"Our Young Women's Council members have done public advocacy like appearing on ABC's Q&A, on the front pages of newspapers discussing key advocacy issues and presented or spoken at large events," she said.

"Week to week, Council members also have the opportunity to contribute to what YWCA does as a young women's organisation. Our Council members advise us on our feminist policy, advocacy, communications, events, and help to shape new programs, services and initiatives."

First formed in 2018 after the national merger of eight member associations into one national YWCA Australia, the Young Women's Council is made up of eighteen young women and girls aged between 12 and 30 years old. They represent all states and territories and bring their own unique lived experiences to their time on the Council.

"Half of our current cohort on the Council will complete their term in November. We're now seeking nine new members to join the Council for a two-year term," says Ms. Hill.

"It's an exciting opportunity. In 2021, we expect that our Young Women's Council members will have many opportunities to contribute to national advocacy campaigns which will affect the lives of millions of women and young women across Australia. One example of this is our continued advocacy for a gender-responsive approach to pandemic policy."

Importantly, Ms. Hill stresses that young women with diverse lived experiences, identities and backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply, including those who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, living with a disability, LGBTIQ+ or from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

"We want our Young Women's Council to be truly representative of young women across Australia – and that means ensuring that young women from communities who often don't have access to opportunities and platforms take up roles as leaders in our feminist movement."

Applications to join the Young Women's Council are open now and close at 5pm on 3 September. To find out more, visit [ywca.org.au/opportunities](https://ywca.org.au/opportunities).

**Media Contact – Amanda Chan, YWCA Australia, 0433 843 643**

## **About YWCA Australia**

YWCA Australia is an evolving intersectional feminist organisation focused on improving gender equality for women, young women and girls. For 140 years, we have challenged the systems, structures and policies that act as barriers to women, especially young women, achieving their full potential.

We provide housing services through our subsidiaries which are registered community housing providers, collectively known as YWCA National Housing. YWCA is the only national women's community housing provider in Australia.

Our high-impact evidence-based programs and services are inclusive of women in all their diversity and offer support with housing, homelessness, safety, wellbeing and leadership. We aim to positively impact the lives of more than two million women, young women and girls by the end of 2023.

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## **PHONE INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY**

Sarah Hill, Young Women's Development Manager, YWCA Australia

*To organise an interview, please contact Amanda Chan on 0433 843 643.*

## **ATTACHED IMAGERY**

- **Headshot** – Sarah Hill
- **Photo** – 2020 Young Women's Council