YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY AUSTRALIA
INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS, IGNITING CHANGE

SYDNEY SECONDARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2027

INFORMATION PACK

ICC SYDNEY, DARLING HARBOUR THEATRE

TUESDAY 16TH MARCH 2027

THE EVENT

The Secondary Youth Leadership Conference is YLAA's flagship one-day event, inspiring students in Years 7–12 to lead, and equipping them with the skills and tools to do it well.

Across the day, students step into real leadership challenges that build confidence, communication and the ability to work through change. Every session is led by internationally-trained young facilitators, so students learn from people who have walked the path just ahead of them. They hear from student speakers, connect with young leaders from other schools, and leave with a practical toolkit they can put to work in their school and community straight away.

ABOUT YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY AUSTRALIA (YLAA)

Since 2018, we've positively impacted **65,000 young people** and supported **1,500 primary and secondary schools** across Australia.

YLAA is Australia's for-youth, by-youth school leadership provider. We're a youth-led, registered not-for-profit and DGR-registered charity. We deliver national conferences, tailor-made in-school programs, and youth work with councils and government.

Our approach is simple. We design *with* young people, not just for them. And we build change that lasts, well after the day ends.

THE PROGRAM

8:45 am **Doors Open**

9:15 am **Event Begins**

YLAA facilitators welcome the room and open with interactive, for-youth by-youth networking that establishes and builds new peer connections.

Defining Leadership

Facilitators share YLAA's mission and their own leadership journeys, unpacking what leadership looks like in action, service, character and contribution, not just a title.

Keynote 1: Self Leadership

The opening keynote focuses on leading yourself before you lead others, the foundation of effective leadership, and exploring the importance of character and integrity, before concluding with an open Q&A.

10:50 am **Break 1**

11:30 am **Skills for Success**

Students build practical and transferable skills, and apply them in real time through engaging, hands-on experiences that grow confidence and leadership.

Student Speaker Panel

A panel of student leaders share their real experiences, challenges and wins, with an audience Q&A that puts student voice at the center of the room.

Leading Forward

We explore what it means to lead through service to your school and community, making a purposeful and positive contribution. And then introduce LeaderUp, our post-event leadership program.

THE PROGRAM CONT.

Keynote 2: Service-Leadership
An inspiring guest keynote shares a powerful story of service leadership, inspiring participants to create a positive impact in the lives of others.

12:40 pm **Break 2**

1:20 pm **Student Voice**
Selected school leadership teams take the stage to share their ideas, what agency means to them, and how they'll contribute as responsible leaders back at school.

Final Keynote
A closing keynote brings the day's biggest ideas together and sends students back to school inspired and ready to act.

Event Wrap Up
We recap the day's tools and strategies, connect them to the character and contribution your school already champions.

2:30 pm **Event Concludes**

RESULTS & FEEDBACK

More than 96% of students left feeling **more prepared**, **more capable** and more ready to lead.

STUDENT REPORT

97.4%
OF STUDENTS FELT MORE PREPARED TO LEAD.

96.2%
OF STUDENTS FELT MORE ABLE TO CREATE CHANGE.

96.3%
OF STUDENTS FELT MORE PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE.

OVERALL EXPERIENCE
4.45/5

OVERALL CONTENT
4.36/5

YLAA WORKSHOPS & FACILIATION
4.78/5

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
4.25/5

TEACHER FEEDBACK INSIGHTS

94.0%
OF TEACHERS FELT MORE CONFIDENT IN STUDENTS' LEADERSHIP.

94.4%
SAID THEIR STUDENTS ARE MORE EQUIPPED TO CREATED CHANGE.

EXPERAINCE RATINGS - OUT OF 5

OVERALL CONTENT	**4.44**/5
OVERALL EXPERIENCE	**4.53**/5
EVENT MANAGEMENT	**4.74**/5

> My students have left *feeling inspired*. The day provided them with **practical ideas** and a renewed sense of purpose. We look forward to next year.

TEACHER, 2026 NATIONAL TOUR

FULL NATIONAL REPORT AVAILABLE HERE.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Agency to Act

Students leave believing they can make change happen, with the drive to step up and lead in their own lives, schools and communities.

Theory of Change: Self-efficacy and agency

Leadership Skills

From leadership styles to communication, collaboration and problem-solving, students build the core socio-emotional and leadership skills they can use straight away.

Theory of Change: Enhanced leadership and socioemotional skills

Servant Leadership

Students learn to lead by example, show empathy, and lift the people around them, growing the prosocial mindset that turns leadership into real contribution to their community.

Theory of Change: Enhanced leadership and socioemotional skills

Resilience

We strengthen adaptability and the confidence to work through challenges, building the foundations for wellbeing that help students thrive long after the day.

Theory of Change: Foundations for mental health and wellbeing

Self Leadership

We help students grow self-awareness and personal responsibility, understanding their own leadership potential and that leadership has no single fixed definition.

Theory of Change: Self-awareness and personal responsibility

Connection

We create an inclusive space where students form new peer relationships and feel they belong, building the social connectedness that underpins every other outcome.

Theory of Change: Increased social connectedness

LEADERUP

LeaderUp, your included post-event program.

Every ticket to the 2027 YLAA National Tour includes access to **LeaderUp**, our 10-week post-event program, at no extra cost.

Launching **Term 2, 2027**, LeaderUp turns the energy of the day into a real project. Student teams design an initiative from concept to delivery, then submit it for the chance to win $2,000 towards their idea.

10-Week Design Challenge.
Ten weeks of hands-on experience taking a project from idea to reality.

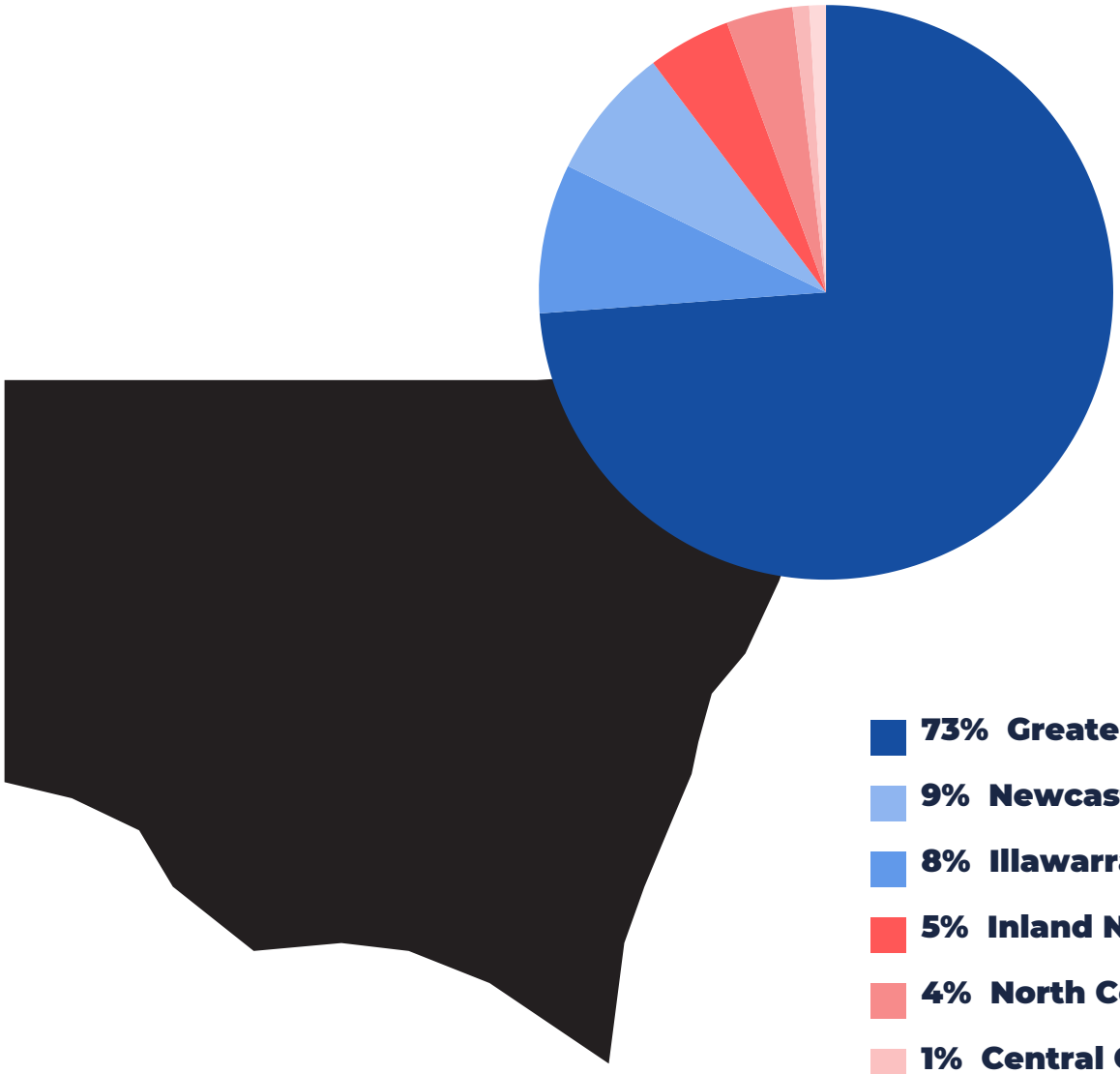
On-Demand Training and Support.
Expertly built modules led by YLAA facilitators, guiding students the whole way. (Designed for low teacher involvement.)

Real-World Impact.
Students tackle issues that matter to them, from wellbeing to school culture, to make a genuine difference.

Included, not extra.
LeaderUp is available only to schools who attend our National Tour, and it's built into every ticket. Students can take part with their school or on their own.

SUPPORTING NEW SOUTH WALES STUDENT LEADERS SINCE 2018

In 2026 we welcomed **2844 students and 201 schools** from right across New South Wales, here's where they come from...



- **73% Greater Sydney**
- **9% Newcastle & Hunter**
- **8% Illawarra & South Coast**
- **5% Inland NSW**
- **4% North Coast**
- **1% Central Coast**
- **<1% ACT**

REGISTER NOW

$49 **Per Student**

- General admission
- All course material
- 3-month post-event program
- LeaderUp access included

$25 **Per Teacher**

- General admission
- Post-event lesson plan
- Post-event report
- Barista coffee voucher

Book early.

For the past few years our events have sold out in Term 4. Secure your school's place and avoid disappointment.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW

HAVE QUESTIONS? CHAT TO OUR TEAM.

Via Phone	(02) 7252 5534
Via Email	info@ylaaus.com
Read our FAQ	www.ylaaus.com/faq