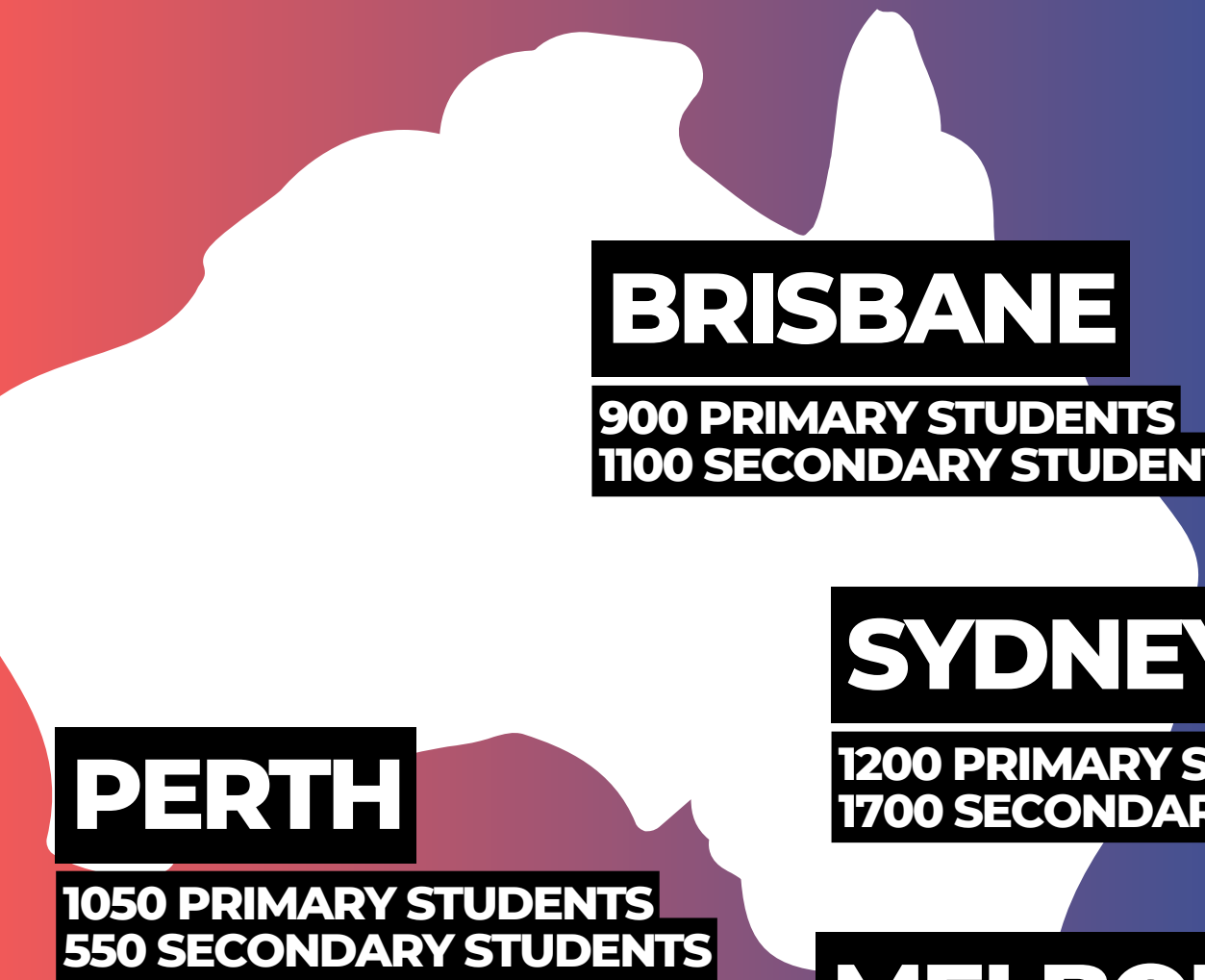
YOUTH LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY AUSTRALIA
INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS, IGNITING CHANGE



YLAA 2025
National Tour Report

Attendees.

11200 Students. 841 Schools



BRISBANE

900 PRIMARY STUDENTS
1100 SECONDARY STUDENTS

SYDNEY

1200 PRIMARY STUDENTS
1700 SECONDARY STUDENTS

PERTH

1050 PRIMARY STUDENTS
550 SECONDARY STUDENTS

MELBOURNE

1950 PRIMARY STUDENTS
1750 SECONDARY STUDENTS

ADELAIDE

500 PRIMARY STUDENTS
500 SECONDARY STUDENTS

STUDENT FEEDBACK

95.7% OF STUDENTS FELT MORE EQUIPPED TO CREATE CHANGE IN THEIR LIFE, SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY.



95.7% OF STUDENTS FELT MORE CONFIDENT TO LEAD THEIR SCHOOL.



92.5% OF STUDENTS FELT MORE PREPARED FOR THEIR FUTURE.



OVERALL EXPERIENCE



OVERALL CONTENT



YLAA FACILITATORS



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



YLAA WORKSHOP



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STUDENT RESPONSES TO...

WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST PERSONAL LEARNING?

CHANGE

Students learned that they have the power to create change in themselves, their schools, and their communities.

SELF-AWARENESS / IDENTITY

Students focused on understanding their true self, personal growth, and inner strength.

OVERCOMING FEAR

A common takeaway was about pushing past fear and stepping outside of their comfort zones.

LEADERSHIP

Many reflected on what leadership truly means , often noting it's about influence, not titles.

BELIEF IN ONESELF – (VIA "MYSELF")

Empowerment to believe in themselves and their abilities came through strongly.

AUTHENTICITY & UNIQUENESS

Students appreciated the value of being authentic and embracing what makes them different.

DIRECT QUOTES

"I learned that you don't have to have a badge or title at school to be a leader, you can show leadership by helping others and setting a good example in class."

"That leadership in school is about teamwork and supporting your classmates, not just being in charge of things."

"I now see that being a leader at school means encouraging others to try and helping everyone feel welcome."

"You don't need to be the school captain to make an impact. Little things like being kind and helping others count as leadership too."

"At school, I can be a leader by listening to other people's ideas and helping my friends when they need support."

"I realised that sometimes just asking someone if they're okay or inviting them to join in at lunchtime is a form of leadership."

"A leader doesn't need a badge or a cap. It's the actions that make someone a real leader."

"I learned that leadership is not about having a title, but about how you treat people and include others."

"I realised that anyone can be a leader if they have the confidence to step up and help others."

"That I can make a difference even if I'm not the loudest person in the room."

"Leadership is more about supporting and encouraging others than being the boss."

"You don't have to be the most confident person, just willing to try and care about others."

"I learned that teamwork is really important and that sharing ideas with others makes everyone stronger."

"I now understand that it's okay to be myself, and that leaders come in all shapes and sizes."

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

THAT STUDENTS MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS THE MOST VALUABLE ASPECTS OF THE EVENT

ENGAGING EXPERIENCE SPEAKERS FUN ATMOSPHERE
INSPIRING CONTENT HIGH ENERGY EVERYTHING
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES INTERACTIVE FORMAT
ACTIVITIES PERSONAL STORIES CONNECTION NETWORKING

DIRECT QUOTES

"The way the presentation was laid out to keep us engaged. The activities broke up the day and helped me actually remember what was being said, instead of just listening all day."

"The opportunities to work with other students from different schools. It made me realise how much you can learn from people who have different ideas and experiences."

"I really appreciated how the presenters included everyone and made sure that even the quiet students got to participate."

"Getting to hear real stories from the speakers and from other students helped me see that leadership isn't just about being the loudest in the room, but about listening and supporting others."

"The way the hosts engaged the audience, and shared their stories was so inspiring."

"Inspiring stories of guest speakers, they made me feel like I can do something important too."

"Very well run and some very valuable points discussed that I'll take back to school."

"The real-life examples from the speakers, they showed that it's possible to come from nothing and achieve something."

"The interactive activities and the way the team made us feel seen."



TEACHER FEEDBACK

92.1% OF TEACHERS FELT MORE CONFIDENT IN THEIR STUDENTS' LEADERSHIP AFTER THE EVENT.



90.1% OF TEACHERS FELT THEIR STUDENTS ARE MORE EQUIPPED TO MAKE CHANGE AFTER THE EVENT.



OVERALL EXPERIENCE



OVERALL CONTENT



EVENT MANAGEMENT



LIKELIHOOD TO RECOMMEND THE YLAA EVENT TO OTHER SCHOOLS



9.02 / 10

TEACHER COMMENT

"I'M HOPING MY LEADERSHIP TEAM WILL CONTINUE ON WITH THEIR LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL GROWTH JOURNEY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INSPIRATION AND LEADERSHIP. THE DAY PROVIDED THEM WITH PRACTICAL IDEAS AND A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR."

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TEACHER RESPONSES TO...

WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST PERSONAL LEARNING?

ENERGY OF PRESENTERS

Teachers appreciated how upbeat and enthusiastic the speakers were, it really helped set the tone for the day and kept students engaged. That level of energy makes a big difference in maintaining attention and excitement throughout.

WELL-ORGANISED, WITH PRACTICAL TASKS

The structure of the day, especially activities that got students moving and talking with others, was a standout. These hands-on elements helped consolidate the learning in a way that was easy to take back to school.

AUTHENTIC AND INSPIRING STORIES

The real-world stories shared by speakers, particularly those who had walked similar paths to the students, left a lasting impression. Teachers noted how this approach helped students feel seen and encouraged them to think about their own journeys.

BELIEF IN ONESELF – (VIA "MYSELF")

Having moments where students could participate, not just listen, was highlighted as a major plus. It gave students ownership of their experience and helped build confidence.

DIRECT QUOTES

"The speakers were very engaging and included the audience. They showed great energy and were very passionate and uplifting. It was great that they incorporated lots of short activities – getting kids moving, talking, and encouraging engagement with strangers."

"Practical strategies for students to use including 'quick wins' they can begin immediately. Fluid changes and speakers who kept the audience engaged. Relatable examples. Identification of the issues young people are facing."

"The interactive style between each keynote speaker. The communication and interactive activities between students and schools. The relatable and approachable atmosphere created by the MCs and keynote speakers."

"A great in-depth guide to problem solve within local communities. After 7 years, YLAA have once again stepped up to the plate and encouraged thousands of students to become great leaders."

"The event was very engaging for the students who attended, the speakers were excellent. The energy in the room was contagious and all of my students left with ideas to bring back to school. The variety of presenters and the stories they shared really resonated."

"It was wonderful to see student engagement and leadership being developed in such a hands-on way. The structure of the day really helped them stay focused and involved."

"The format allowed students to interact with peers from other schools, which was incredibly valuable for building confidence and communication skills."

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

YLAA'S CORE BELIEF TO CONTINUE TO GROW OUR IMPACT WE LEARN THROUGH FEEDBACK.

ELEVATE STUDENT VOICE EVEN FURTHER

We're already giving students a platform, but there's room to open up more genuine leadership moments throughout the day. Think student emcees, panel responses, or even co-designed segments.

***Goal**: Make student contribution feel less like a "moment" and more like a movement.*

BEYOND THE ROOM

In 2025, we piloted our Leadership Trade Show for secondary events in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, and it landed. Students explored youth-led organisations, uni pathways, volunteering opportunities, and leadership initiatives in their own backyard. The response? Big yes.
Now it's time to go bigger.

SHARPEN THE RELEVANCE OF EVERY VOICE

This year, we spent time coaching and preparing 50% of our speakers, a deliberate move to lift quality and consistency across the board. Nationwide we saw stronger storytelling, more engaged audiences, and clearer takeaways.

While our speakers absolutely landed their message, feedback told us there's still a gap when it comes to relevance. Some students, particularly from regional, culturally diverse, and lower-SES communities, are hungry for speakers who reflect their own lived experience.

DIGITAL RESOURCE HUB

This year, both teachers and students highlighted a clear need for leadership learning to continue after the conference finishes. Many expressed that while the event was valuable, it can be difficult to keep the momentum going back at school without practical resources.

In response, our priority for 2026 is to introduce the YLAA Digital Resource Hub. This online platform will provide easy access to leadership activities, templates, videos, and tools that support students and teachers throughout the year. It will also offer a space for schools to share ideas and successes with each other.
By making practical support available year-round, we are committed to helping schools turn conference inspiration into consistent, everyday leadership growth.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP
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Our vision is to empower young people to drive meaningful change and build a more positive sustainable future.

We aim to achieve this through equipping young people with essential leadership skills through experiential learning, empowerment and education

Thank you.