

2022 Volunteer Role Descriptions

Committee Facilitator

Committee facilitators take a primary educational role at Aotearoa Youth Declaration, they are the volunteers that differentiate AYD from other UNYouth events. Committee facilitators take a leadership role within rōpū using their comprehensive knowledge of the respective rōpū topics, as well as being able to facilitate an engaging and safe environment for everyone at the conference. Rōpū facilitators must balance their role as an educator while emphasizing the participants' autonomy over the declaration and providing an impartial perspective. There are 2 facilitators in each rōpū, with a varying participant size in each rōpū. Some pre-conference preparation is required, such as the creation of briefing papers for the participants.

Rōpū in this year's event include:

Hauora: Hauora encompasses the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual well-being of an individual. The Hauora rōpū will explore how COVID-19 has accentuated existing pressures on well-being, such as mental health concerns and delayed operations. It will also challenge participants to consider ways to improve our healthcare structures and systems, with a view to healthier and happier communities in 2050. In doing so, the rōpū will consider questions like: Do we have the health infrastructure to support our growing population? How can we improve health education in schools? What are the ethical implications of medical technologies? And what would an effective public health response look like if COVID-19 were to occur in 2050?

Climate Change: Like a large, runaway tram, climate change is the issue of the century. With the tram gathering speed through the school strikes for climate, the Zero Carbon bill, and more eco-consciousness in the public conscience, climate change remains the greatest environmental threat humanity has ever faced. Further, climate action has been heavily influenced by industry and Government actions. This rōpū will discuss actions that both the private and public sector can take and what those are.

Education: Our education systems today are central to shaping the Aotearoa of 2050. As our education system becomes increasingly tailored towards individuals and their diverse needs, new demands are being placed upon teachers and students alike. This rōpū looks across the education sector, from early childhood to post-secondary education and will ask questions like: how has COVID-19 permanently affected our education systems? How might we increase the accessibility of education in Aotearoa? Do modern learning environments have a place in our 2050 education system? And how can we improve the quality of support areas such as school counsellors and career advisors?

Justice and Governance: With the second highest incarceration rate in the OECD, fervent debate on the voting age and a lack of civics education in the NZ curriculum, Justice and Governance is a hot topic. This rōpū will focus more on how youth engage with New Zealand's justice system through many different facets and will ask whether New Zealand's justice and governance system is fair and equitable for all social groups. How do we sincerely honour Te Tiriti through all three government branches? Are our MPs representative of the population who votes for them? How do we ensure all voices are heard when access to justice is difficult for some?

Science and Technology: Even as a small country, New Zealand's Number 8 Wire mentality has provided a unique ecosystem supporting the growth of science and technology. However, rapidly

evolving technologies such as artificial intelligence and automation of the workforce pose societal concerns ranging from privacy to physical health. The COVID-19 pandemic has also spotlighted the importance of science education and communication in the community. How can we support clear communication of scientific findings? How can we improve STEM education with a view to growing our science and innovation culture?

Social Development: Social development initiatives ensure healthy communities and a healthy country. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the cracks in our social development initiatives such as increasing poverty, unaffordable housing, the inaccessibility of funding for community projects. Social development involves the ways our communities can be safe and inclusive. The rōpū boils down to this: what is one thing that the government can do that would improve our communities?

International Relations / Foreign Affairs: New Zealand's diplomatic position in the world is unique in that we are a small country, yet we can have a big voice when we want to. Participants in this rōpū will look at New Zealand's role on the international stage, including our involvement in humanitarian efforts and foreign aid. How should New Zealand balance protecting itself and its allies against standing up for international justice and human rights? Where can we have the most influence? Could we play a larger role in the current refugee crisis or as a leader in the Pacific region?

Arts and Culture: "He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata." What is the greatest thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people. The people of this land have built a rich history and culture that continues to grow as Aotearoa becomes more enriched by numerous cultures. However, will an increase in diversity come with an increase in discrimination and prejudice. Issues that will be discussed in this rōpū include how to grow our unique multi-cultural pride, how to develop social cohesion between groups in times of anxiety and the funding and accessibility of vibrant community arts initiatives.

Youth Development: Young people are always told we are the future, but we are also the present. Rangatahi deserves to grow up in a happy, safe and healthy environment. In previous years, this rōpū has covered participation in local affairs and empowerment, strategies to aid disadvantaged youth and further issues in youth welfare such as bullying and treatment of youth offenders.

Transport: This rōpū will discuss issues such as the development of our urban centres, transport, provision of utilities and crisis response. Infrastructure and transport impact employment, poverty and wealth, education and healthcare and are, therefore, vital for the prosperity of Aotearoa. How does transport and infrastructure affect different groups? What are some transport solutions that can make places accessible for everyone?

Diversity and Accessibility: How we physically and spiritually live in the world is something we all experience differently. This rōpū will explore the varied issues faced by people in Aotearoa as a result of their identities, including institutional sexism, racism, and ableism. How can we improve physical infrastructure and the attitudes in society to pave the way for a more inclusive 2050 community?

Economic Development: Spates of lockdowns have left some New Zealand businesses struggling to stay afloat, others thriving more than ever. Furthermore, what are some steps the government can take so that the debt we undertook during the pandemic doesn't create worse repercussions? This rōpū looks at New Zealand's economic future. Examples include structural factors and policies that guide development right across our economy, whether that be tax policy, unemployment, regional development, industry diversification, or workers rights. How do we want our economy to grow? What do we want that growth to look like (i.e. inclusive growth)?

Welfare Officers

Welfare officers are the first point of contact for any participant or volunteer. Whether you want to talk to someone about your physical, mental or spiritual well-being, welfare officers

are the go-to person. Welfare officers are vital to the function of AYD and help create a safe and positive environment for everyone at the event. The welfare team is first aid certified and come from a variety of professional and personal backgrounds. Most importantly, welfare officers are mature, caring and able to put themselves into the shoes of the people around them. Welfare officers report to the Head of Welfare, as well as working closely amongst liaison officers and the Regional Delegation.

Head of Welfare

The Head of Welfare is tasked with the training and leading of the welfare team throughout the conference. This role requires preparation before the event to liaise with the organizing committee to ensure the best possible environment for the participants and volunteers. Ideal candidates for this role will have had previous welfare experience with UNYouth.

Logistics Officer

Logistics officers are the volunteers that hold the whole conference together. They are those working behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the conference. A logistics officer's role is multifaceted and is vital to the operation of the event. Logistics officers can think on their feet to tackle ever-changing challenges. The ability to follow precise instructions and multitask under stress are essential to a logistics officer. A background/familiarity of Auckland or the University of Auckland is particularly helpful. Tasks will vary depending on how the conference runs and can vary from tasks such as setting up rooms, organizing catering, helping with registrations etc.

Media Officer

Media officers capture and document memories and moments at the conference. From snapping candid shots during a heated discussion to editing footage for the closing ceremony, media officers are crucial to our promotion effort.

We are seeking photographers and videographers and everything in between. Media officers will need access to, and experience with, their preferred tools, typically a DSLR camera or equivalent. Editing skills are also essential. This role may be less demanding during the conference but may require a lot of time spent afterwards for editing of photos and videos.

MPI Liaison

Aotearoa Youth Declaration values inclusion and diversity. Unfortunately, representation is still something we need to work on. Check-in with underrepresented youth, including those from Kura Kaupapa Māori, get to know them and help make their time at the conference as enjoyable as possible. As this is a relatively new role, MPI Liaisons will have greater leeway and freedom to explore and discover best practices. Nevertheless, qualities like empathy, openness, cultural sensitivity, and a warm personality are still vital to the role. You'll work closely with Welfare Officers and get to know a lot of the participants in close interactions.

LGBTQ+ Liaison

The role of the LGBTQ+ Liaison is to provide dedicated and specific support to LGBTQ+ rangitahi attending Aotearoa Youth Declaration. As we are trying to make AYD more inclusive, we felt it was important to include a position specifically to support LGBTQ youth at the conference so that these students have a point of contact for any concerns and issues they encounter. LGBTQ+ liaison will typically be working on a more individual basis, as an ally and safe space as required. By having liaisons whose main role is to provide the support to LGBTQ+ rangitahi we hope this will help to create a safe and comfortable atmosphere for rangitahi to engage and get the most out of the conference. We are looking for people who have experience with leadership and mentoring youth, who are open and welcoming to all forms of gender and sexuality expression, and who have a connection to the LGBTQ+ community. Having experience or training in youth work or mental health issues is a benefit.

Regional Delegation Team

Regional Delegation allows Aotearoa Youth Declaration to become a more accessible event. Due to the conference being held in Auckland, students have to travel from all over the country and some choose to stay with the Regional Delegation. All meals, accommodation, and transportation is arranged by UNYouth, giving the participants a safe way to experience and explore a new city.

As a member of the Regional Delegation Team, you take care of the delegates from the end of the day until they head back to the event the next morning and so you will also stay in the same accommodation as the delegates. Participants in an unfamiliar city can face a range of problems, from homesickness and feeling lonely to dietary or medical issues, as a member of the Regional Delegation team you are the first point of contact for these delegates and are vital to their well-being. Applicants interested in this role would need a great deal of maturity, a sense of responsibility, excellent communication skills, and most of all, be approachable. An ability to work calmly under stressful situations is fundamental to this role. As this role is closely related to welfare, holding a current first-aid certificate is desired. As the regional delegation team would be ultimately responsible for the wellbeing and welfare of everyone under their care, this is a 24hour role throughout the conference, but without much time commitment outside event dates.

Regional Delegation Director

As Director, you will carry out all the similar roles and duties while leading other members of your team during the conference, and with added responsibilities before the conference to liaise with the AYD committee. There will be 2 Regional Delegation Co-Directors. Being a Regional Delegation Co-Director is one of the most challenging roles but also the most rewarding roles that AYD offers.

If you have any questions regarding the conference or any specific role, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer, the Registrations Officer at jennifer.newcomer@unyouth.org.nz

We look forward to receiving your application!