



Reframing the youth bulge: From problem to solution

Friday 3 May 2013 8.30am – 5.30pm

Springbank Room Level 1, JG Crawford Building 132, Lennox Crossing, ANU



One of the biggest issues facing international development today is the youth bulge. Nearly 50 per cent of the developing world population is youth and children. There are 1.2 billion 15 to 24 year olds in the world and one billion live in developing countries. If the sector fails to effectively involve youth in aspects of development, sustainability becomes an issue. Usually the youth bulge is couched in negative terms; it looms on the horizon as a problem no one quite knows how to deal with.

This one day conference seeks to reframe this question and instead ask what potential the youth bulge presents to further development goals and to increase innovation within the sector. In a combination of plenary sessions, displays and

parallel workshops, the conference will provide space to explore what specific issues youth face in the context of international development and what solutions can be found to address these. It will also explore the potential youth have to be part of the solutions, not only for their own issues, but for broader development realities as well. The conference aims to bring together a range of different people within Australia to explore development issues related to youth, in a collaborative environment that emphasises the ‘cross-fertilisation’ of ideas and solutions.

Speakers include:

- > **Sharon Bessell** Director, Children’s Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy
- > **Marc Purcell** Executive Director, Australian Council for International Development
- > **Kaye Schofield** Principal Sector Specialist, Education, AusAID
- > **Ian Wishart** CEO, Plan International Australia
- > **James McDougall** Child Rights Advocate, Independent
- > **Chris Varney** Youth Advocate, Independent
- > **Natasha Butorac** Delegate to the 2013 High Level Youth Summit on the Millennium Development Goals
- > **Lauren Burke** Youth Delegate to the 2012 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

This conference is presented by the Children’s Policy Centre at Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU in partnership with the **Australian Council for International Development’s (ACFID)** multi-agency Child Rights Working Group.



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Presented by

Children’s Policy Centre

Crawford School of Public Policy

ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

Registration required by Tuesday 23 April

Registration

This event is free and open to the public

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Further information crawford.anu.edu.au/events/content/more.php?id=8671

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