



**Youth
Disability
Advocacy
Network
Experiential
Audit Brief**

Background

What is YDAN?

YDAN was established in late 2015 with the hopes of providing a forgotten, ignored and underrepresented demographic of the disability sector in WA with an opportunity to be included and consulted.

YDAN aims to encourage young people with a disability in Western Australia to feel that their opinions are not only important, but wanted and will be listened to when policies are being developed that target their demographic.

It is governed by an Executive Committee, which endeavours to have representatives from all types of disability, as well as various ages and demographics of young people – there is strength in diversity.

The Executive Committee networks with other peak and sector organisations to ensure a voice for youth is always present in deliberations and decision making, and sets the strategic direction for YDAN, its activities and advocacy efforts.

YDAN always seeks opportunities to advance the interests of its members, through systemic advocacy, and through both advocacy and social events. It also secures opportunities to deliver knowledge and skill development through a variety of presentations, workshops, events and services that ultimately benefit the overall community, delivered by members employed for this purpose.

To obtain more information about the work of YDAN visit www.ydan.com.au or email hello@ydan.com.au

About YDAN's Experiential Audits

YDAN provides experiential audits of events, services and venues from a unique youth perspective. The young people with disabilities carry out the audits themselves and record their experiences, pursuant to a guiding framework.

YDAN has worked with a variety of community organisations and private enterprises to provide insightful information that enable greater inclusion of young people with disabilities. These capacity building efforts led by young people with disabilities assist with increasing inclusion and awareness of their wants and needs.

From a market perspective, greater inclusion of young people with disabilities means a higher rate of participation and patronage of this key demographic – investing time and resources to be accessible and inclusive is always a worthy endeavour.

These experiential audits are based on the direct experiences of young people with disabilities interacting with the event, service or venue and therefore have a level of integrity no other sector organisation can provide.

Disclaimer: The experiential audits are not accredited compliance audits and should not be used to judge whether you have met legal access requirements.

How You Will Receive Feedback

Accessibility Standards

The young people with disabilities that carry out the experiential audits (the auditors) will assess a variety of relevant factors. These will be consistent with three overarching standards of accessibility which address a wide range of matters relevant for young people with disabilities:



1. Practical Accessibility – was the event, service or venue accessible in a way that met the needs of young people with disabilities in a practical way, such as ramps, lighting and doorways etc.



2. Cultural Accessibility – was the event, service or venue accessible in a way that was welcoming and inclusive of young people with disabilities.



3. Organisational Accessibility – was the event, service or venue guided by either a specific or an overarching accessibility plan/policy, and was that document easy to access by the auditor – along with other relevant factors of the organisation. Such as whether it seeks feedback, and whether that feedback mechanism offers to capture the respondents' disability status and age.

Note: The “Organisational Accessibility” aspect of the audit may be conducted before or after the actual visit/use of the event, service or venue. This will depend on internal resourcing requirements.

Evidence & Suggested Improvements

As stated, the three overarching standards address a wide range of matters relevant for young people with disabilities. These matters (the measures) are listed under each of the three sections and are looked at by the auditors.

The auditors will experience each of those aspects of the event, service or venue and will record what evidence they have of their experience e.g. they didn't enjoy it, or they couldn't use it.

They will then give specific comments about this particular measure. This may be positive or it may require the client's attention, in which case, the auditors will provide some suggestions for improvement.

Ratings

In addition to the recorded experiences and suggested improvements, the auditors will provide a **rating** for each listed matter under the standard. The ratings are:



Met – this means the auditor is satisfied that this matter is suitably accessible and while there might still be room for improvements, it is currently at an acceptable standard.



Partially Met – this means the auditor is not yet adequately satisfied that this matter is suitably accessible, and some improvements need to be made. It is close to being at an acceptable standard, and it addresses some needs of young people with disabilities.



Not Met – this means the auditor is not at all satisfied that this matter is suitably accessible, and improvements need to be made as soon as possible. It is not close to being at an acceptable standard, and it does not address enough of the needs of young people with disabilities.

Audit Report

Finally, a post-experience discussion will be held with the auditors and the responsible officer coordinating the audit to generate an Audit Report for the client.

This Audit Report will include:

- A **brief** about the overall experience;
- A **summary** of all the evidence against the measures;
- Specific **feedback** including the ratings; and
- Additional **referrals** for the client to learn more about the various areas of accessibility.

The Audit Report will be delivered to the client within 2 weeks of the audit being conducted.

Factoring in the overall feedback and the total ratings, the client may also be issued with a YDAN Stamp of Approval.

The client is welcome to advertise this YDAN Stamp of Approval on its material such as their website and/or flyers. This is on the proviso that it links to the YDAN website so interested traffic is directed to YDAN.





"Dedicated young people advocating for the rights and inclusion of all youth living with disabilities in WA"

We invite you to get in touch!

We provide obligation-free quotes for our services, and we also offer an exclusive 20% discount to organisations that are members of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA).

We are confident that our service is of benefit to your organisation, and we welcome any queries you may have.

You can lodge a query for our audits by clicking [here](#) or via email: hello@ydan.com.au