

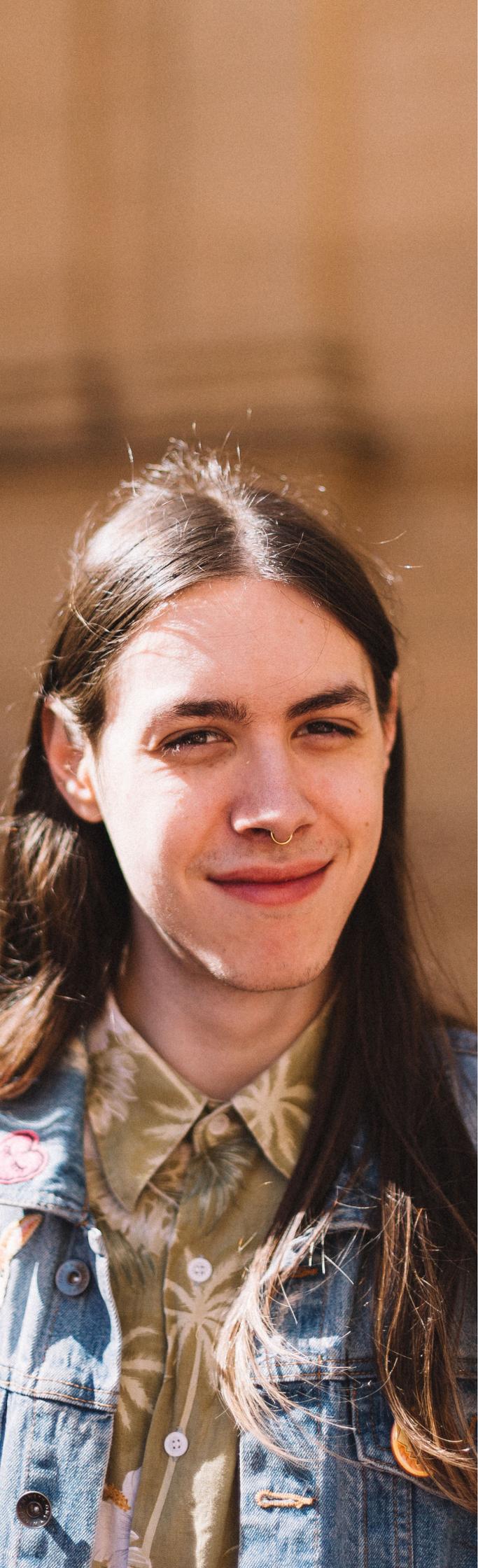
YOUTH INC // 2021

# TEAM 4 CASE STORIES



**Youth  
Inc.** A new  
way  
to learn

Student journeys and reflections.  
Compiled by the Youth Voice Team.



# JAYDEN

Before Youth Inc., Jayden worked at the Priceline Netball Stadium and had a lot of free time. Jayden lost his job at the start of COVID. He found out about Youth Inc. through a Facebook Ad and thought it looked interesting and like it might be a good fit for him. Jayden also knew students in Team 3 and believed that enrolling at Youth Inc. would serve as a good opportunity "to get out of the house".

Jayden wasn't sure what he wanted to learn. He thought Youth Inc. would be just like regular school. He was under the impression he would be learning general studies. After a while at Youth Inc., Jayden found out it was completely different than he expected.

Jayden discovered that Youth Inc. was extremely dissimilar to mainstream schooling. He found a sense of community at Youth Inc. Here (at Youth Inc.), Jayden felt more involved, like the staff cared and as though they weren't just about fulfilling their job for money.

Jayden enjoyed creating the "Grow Free Cart" as part of the Co-Lab Project. The project gave he and his partner, Brad a chance to get involved in the community.

During his time in the Marketing and Media Team in the Work Ventures program, Jayden has learned how to work effectively in a team and to "get tasks done". He's also learned how to communicate in group environment.

Jayden thinks Youth Inc. has helped him identify his strengths (instead of focusing on his weaknesses) and he believes that the school has encouraged him to develop a growth mindset.

After Youth Inc., Jayden wants to begin a Foundation Studies course at Flinders Uni. He would then like to study fashion design.

# JASON

Jason came to Youth Inc. to both finish off his SACE and get some work experience. He expected Youth Inc. to be more like a mainstream school. Prior to Youth Inc., Jason was with a job provider at Anglicare.

Jason was keen to see if Youth Inc. could help him learn about what his passion might be. He came to the school looking for other areas of life he might be interested in but feels his priorities (friends and social life) have remained the same all throughout the entirety of Youth Inc.

Even though he prioritises his social life, Jason initially found the social side of Youth Inc. rather difficult. He struggled to interact and be around people constantly and found it hard to talk to people.

Some of the key things Jason has learned at Youth Inc. are: communication skills, avoiding those he may not want to be around, and key photography techniques.

Jason has also learned that professional work can be stressful. He has found working long shifts (that range between 4 to 5 hours) rather taxing. Even though sometimes it's difficult for Jason to persist with professional work, he's learned lots about photography and sees it as one of his passions. Working a paid job at Youth Inc. has taught Jason how to use a camera and also to take different types of photos.

Youth Inc. has influenced Jason to keep reaching for his goals and dreams. Jason is still worried that he will go back to "not doing too much with his life", but after Youth Inc. finishes Jason wants to continue to learn and grow with photography. Saying he "hopefully does something photography based" in the future.



# DARCIE

Darcie was "doing nothing" before she enrolled at Youth Inc. At the start of 2020, Darcie had major anxiety about her future and believed her life lacked clear direction. Darcie came to Youth Inc. to explore a meaningful pathway for her future and also to gain her SACE. The opportunities on offer at the school also aligned with a career path in environmentalism. Combining a study pathway with the options of travel and adventure really appealed to Darcie.

Darcie found the work at Youth Inc. sometimes did not make sense but when combined with offsite learning opportunities, the projects came together and "made sense".

Darcie believes that In order for good to happen, you also have to face the bad. Mental challenges with peer drama and friendship downfalls initially somewhat hindered Darcie's experiences at Youth Inc. but over time she has learned to focus on her goals and to put the "drama" behind her. Darcie has made so many friends at Youth Inc. and her "confidence has improved massively."

Darcie's highlights of Youth Inc. have been the Unearthed Trip which consisted of a 77km hike across Kangaroo Island over 5 days. The experience challenged Darcie's physical and mental determination in a safe practical manner. During the trip she drew on the support of her peers and focussed on immersing herself in an environment "she felt at peace with."

Youth Inc. has helped Darcie gain so many professional skills. Her time in the Youth Voice team had helped her gain skills in communication and professional work behaviours and mannerisms.

Darcie's goal once she leaves Youth Inc. is to work at Levis, get a van and travel. During her travels, she plans on developing her photography skills, doing creative writing and working on connecting her work with environmentalism.





# ASTON

Aston felt lost at the start of 2020. He didn't know where he was going in life. He felt as though he was beginning to follow the conventional path of working "a shitty 9 to 5 job that he hated". Aston believed that he was living the same day over and over again. This was depressing for him and he knew something had to change. It was around this time that he received a call from a friend who encouraged him to look into studying at Youth Inc. That night, Aston put in his application. It was a huge risk for him at the time, he knew he would lose a considerable amount of income, but he felt that what he could potentially get out of Youth Inc. was worth more to him than money.

Aston came to Youth Inc. with high expectations, but also a great deal of hesitancy. He had heard so many amazing things about Youth Inc. however the only thing that was certain for him before he started was that he would be getting his Cert III in Business.

In his prior experience with conventional education, there were a lot of empty promises. Schools would propose grand ideas and never actually follow through, so he thought Youth Inc. might be too good to be true, but Aston soon found that he was wrong, believing that Youth Inc. was better than he could have ever imagined.

Aston really enjoyed the outdoor adventures offered at Youth Inc. He saw them as a great opportunity for him to get to know the team better and also have new experiences he would have never thought about prior to coming to Youth Inc. Unf\*ck The World and Unearthed were also both amazing as the experiences pushed Aston "way outside the comfort zone" and helped him better understand what he wanted out of his journey both at Youth Inc. and in life!

Aston has had the opportunity to connect with so many inspirational, incredibly talented and focused change-makers through Youth Inc. These incredible experiences have shown him that he can do literally anything that he puts his mind to. Nothing is off limits. If he wants something bad enough, he can make it happen!

# ZOE

As she was in a rough spot and wanted some stability, Zoe came to Youth Inc. in order to organise her life. She initially attended one of the intro sessions and thought Youth Inc. would might be a helpful place get some guidance and order back in her life. She expected the school to be more of an alternative schooling environment and it didn't let her down. She initially liked that the place was youth-orientated and that it deviated from the standard style of schooling.

When she enrolled, Zoe was keen to learn how to function as an adult and sort her life out. She thought the school would help her to understand how to do taxes, take care of bills, vote, and work out living arrangements. The first 6 months at Youth Inc. were good for Zoe. She enjoyed the Team Trip, made solid connections and got to hang out with people who were all "at different chapters in their lives". It was great that she got to make long lasting connections as in her previous school Zoe felt like she was alone. Before Youth Inc., it was very much just about survival for Zoe.

Zoe found some areas of Youth Inc. difficult. Things like "issues between young adults, feeling like some sessions lacked direction" and at times she couldn't figure out how some things applied to her life. She found interpersonal relationships hard and also found it difficult to focus on tasks for too long. Zoe has learned a lot about letting others take the lead in any given situation.

In a professional sense she has learned how to work for a boss and that "you should just focus on the work". During her time in the Media and Marketing Work Venture Team, Zoe has also discovered how to work with clients, "making sure to work towards what the client wants" and always remembering the clients are always right.

Zoe believed that Youth Inc. has made her more confident to embrace opportunities and not be afraid to conquering her goals. The school has taught her how to be more decisive and to think about what she really wants to do with her life. After Youth Inc., Zoe wants to give "some uni courses a go".





# KINGSLEY

Kingsley came to Youth Inc. looking to find himself and to change his direction in life. He didn't have too many expectations, he just wanted to discover his passions and learn how he could follow his dreams.

Kingsley spent the first six months of his time at the school getting involved in the community. He had no issues getting along with everyone at Youth Inc. and he enjoyed being around like-minded people who were all on their own path. Being a part of this type of environment really helped Kingsley come out of shell and learn how to believe in himself.

Initially Kingsley wasn't sure if he could focus on Youth Inc. and still afford the cost of living. Kingsley's priorities slowly changed from worrying about things like social constructs and money to learning to focus on what "makes him happy".

For Kingsley, the Co-Lab Project was difficult because he realised that working with people with different ideas and priorities can be challenging. At times, he also found it hard to find common ground with his peers.

Kingsley learned that school life should be a time of encouragement, a time where you help one another to focus on personal aspirations and interests. Kingsley encourages everyone to make the most of Youth Inc.

Kingsley feels like his world outlook has shifted after being at Youth Inc. He's discovered how to believe in himself and that life "is too short to not do what you love."

For Kingsley, the Work Ventures opportunity has taught him how to work within a group, collaborate and develop projects.

Kingsley isn't sure about what he wants to do next. His time at Youth Inc. has allowed him to explore many aspirations and passions. He has an interest in photography and wants to see where it may lead him. He doesn't think that media is where he will end up but he's now excited to see where life takes him.

# CASS

Cass was introduced to Youth Inc. by her job provider at Anglicare. She was at a point in her life where she wasn't sure what she wanted to do or where she was going. So she thought she'd try Youth Inc. while she continued looking for a job.

Cass expected Youth Inc. to be more like a mainstream school "with writing, typical schoolwork and meeting deadlines". Cass was surprised by the amount of hands-on learning available at Youth Inc. She found the school's style of learning, the different layout of building, and the constant opportunities to create things really refreshing "compared to staring at a piece of paper or a computer."

Cass came to Youth Inc. wanting to learn social skills and how she could go about completing her SACE. As she was homeschooled for a number of years before "dropping out", Cass came to Youth Inc. She eager to develop her communication skills and the ability to be around a larger number of people.

Cass has enjoyed her time at Youth Inc., she's particularly appreciated being able to connect with like-minded people on similar missions to "reclaim their future". She has also developed some "lifelong friendships" at the school.

During her time at Youth Inc., her priorities shifted from feeling like she needed to get a job immediately, to finishing her SACE and building working on the steps towards creating a meaningful life and a future.

One of the key things Cass has learned during her time at Youth Inc. is "there are a lot of different people in our world and that it's important to understand someone as an individual". She has developed an appreciation of "how nice it's been to see how many different people can be in one environment."

Cass has learned that with professional work she has to control her emotions and the way she speaks. During her time in the Sustainability Team, Cass has also found a passion for making badges and jewellery.

Youth Inc. has influenced Cass to grow and expand her social skills and gain the confidence to start up a small business. She also has plans to start some entrepreneurial work. In the future, Cass wants to start a 3D printing business and take custom orders to create table top characters and other creative objects.



# REARNA

Rearna came to Youth Inc. wanting to build on her existing skillsets, learn more about enterprise and just do something outside of her comfort zone.

Rearna didn't have any specific expectations, she just wanted to learn more about herself and discover what she is capable of. She wanted to do something that would help change her pathway as prior to Youth Inc. she was working dissatisfied with her job working in a call centre. Rearna saw Youth Inc. as an opportunity to change the way her life was heading.

Rearna has learned so much during her time at the school. She has learned more about herself, what she is capable of, and that she can do so many things that she didn't think she could ever do. Thanks to Youth Inc., Rearna is so much more comfortable with speaking about things she cares about. She has also learned a lot of business techniques, developed an understanding of the way things work and discovered many ways "to make change in the world". Rearna has also come to realise that it's okay to make mistakes as "there's always other avenues that you can take, you don't have to be the best at everything, you just have to give it a go".

Rearna thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Unfuck The World program. She also appreciated the camps she was able to go on. Youth Inc. has enabled Rearna to do things she never thought she would be able to do (like go-karting and quad biking). Over her eighteen months in the program. Rearna doesn't think that her priorities have specifically changed. Rearna always knew she wanted to start a social enterprise but she feels Youth Inc. has helped her to "know how to do it". Because of Youth Inc., Rearna sees her future as having "so many awesome opportunities".

Because Youth Inc. is vastly different to conventional school, Rearna's outlook on school has changed. In school she felt left out. At Youth Inc. she feels like she belongs. She feels like she has a more positive outlook on the way she can make a change in my world and the community. Youth Inc. has allowed Rearna to realise that you shouldn't be scared to say yes to opportunities. Before Youth Inc. she was afraid that she would fail, but she now understands "that you lose all the opportunities you don't take".

Youth Inc. has enabled Rearna to be more comfortable with taking opportunities and taking on different projects. After Youth Inc. she knows she is going to own a social enterprise!

