

Mid-Year Update from CEO Sarah Ramantanis

The first half of 2025 has been a transformative period for Young Australians in International Affairs (YAIA), as we continue advancing our mission to elevate the voices of young Australians in shaping a globally connected future. Guided by our [2024–2027 Strategic Plan](#), we've made bold progress towards strengthening our leadership pipeline, broadening our reach and reinforcing the organisational foundations needed for long-term impact. Central to this progress is our ongoing commitment to accessibility, equity and creating opportunities for young Australians to engage meaningfully in international affairs.

One of the most significant milestones has been the formal establishment of YAIA's inaugural [Advisory Board](#), bringing together respected leaders in foreign policy, philanthropy, youth affairs and academia. The Advisory Board is playing a vital role in steering our strategic direction, enhancing governance, and ensuring we remain future-focused and impact-driven.

In June, we were honoured to welcome Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, to serve as [Patron of YAIA](#). This patronage recognises the important role that YAIA plays in fostering the next generation of Australian leaders in foreign policy and international affairs. We also marked a major moment in YAIA's history with the celebration of our [10-year anniversary](#). In partnership with the National Security College at The Australian National University, this event brought together community members, partners and sector leaders to reflect on a decade of impact.

If you haven't already heard an episode, we launched the YAIA Podcast, which has quickly become a dynamic platform for sharing insights across diplomacy, defence, development, and foreign policy. Through thought-provoking conversations with emerging and established voices, the podcast has opened up new spaces for young Australians to explore and engage with global challenges. [Take a listen here](#). I could go on and on, but you get the gist - there's lots to be proud of!

As we look to the remainder of the year, we are focused on expanding our flagship programs and digital offerings, with our National Conference 2025 planning underway taking place in November. Plus, our [upcoming policy pitch competition on August 26](#).

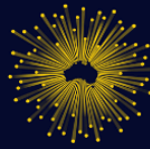
We're incredibly proud of the momentum we've built in these first six months and deeply grateful to our volunteers, partners, and community for your continued support in making 2025 one of our most significant years yet. We have lots in store for the remainder of the year, we can't wait to show you what we have been working on - keep your eyes peeled!

Warm regards,

Sarah Ramantanis

Chief Executive Officer

Young Australians in International Affairs



ENDS —Learn more about the Young Australians in International Affairs:

<https://www.youngausint.org.au>

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