

AYF - Summary of discussion topic on the Next Big Question

Australia in the world

- Australia's role in the global context
- How can we prepare Australia for the 2010 Millennium Development Goals?

Education and students

- Improve our treatment of international students
- An independent inquiry into HECS fees and consideration of fee eradication for students
- Niceness classes in school
- Reduce the cost of living for students
- Harassment policies in schools
- Decrease the cost of university degrees
- Support underperforming students in the 'education revolution'

Climate change/energy

- Stop approving new coal mines and require carbon capture and storage facilities
- How do we reduce the impact of a shortage of resources for future generations?
- Turn the green energy market into a competitive, commercialised sector
- The elephant in the room in respect to climate change is population policy
- We should all do what we can do to reduce carbon emissions
- What do government employees personally do to address global warming?
- What should the climate change plan involve?

Equity

- Increase taxes and invest more in community services
- Raise more awareness of the problems facing Indigenous Australians
- Fund interschool exchanges between Indigenous communities and major city schools

Australian Youth

- Helping young people to find jobs
- Youth need parental structure and consistency in preparation for the real world
- Skate park in Janebrook, Perth
- Youth allowance should be measured on personal finances not parental finances

Refugees

- Support networks for recently migrated and refugee youth
- How can Australia improve the current asylum-seeking process?

Health

- Obesity awareness, prevention and early intervention
- Separate health classes for girls and boys
- Take a deeper look into youth mental health and suicide
- Address bullying
- Fund more drug and alcohol rehabilitation services rather than education
- Youth mental health support group accessibility and confidentiality

Democracy and the Government

- Is censoring the internet the best way to protect youth?
- Increase youth involvement in the development of Australia
- Political correctness has gone too far
- Will the future of Australia's media continue to be relevant, diverse and accessible?
- Our current parliamentary system is centuries old and needs to be moved forward
- Re-engineer our society focussing on personal freedom and responsibility
- Reform taxes to reduce the cost of housing

Justice System

- Problems with our current justice system mean that we need something in place for our troubled youth
- The juvenile justice system is not working in the best interest for the victims or accused