

## Former Tasmanian Shadow Minister for Youth, Joanna Siejka Rostami, Named New CEO of AYAC

**MELBOURNE, Victoria September 29 2023** – The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is delighted to announce the appointment of Joanna Siejka Rostami as its new Chief Executive Officer. With a rich history of youth advocacy and policy change across Australia, Joanna is well-equipped to lead AYAC into an exciting new chapter.

As the former Shadow Minister for Youth (Communities and Veterans Affairs) in Tasmania, Joanna Rostami brings extensive experience and a deep understanding of developing, influencing and effecting policy change. This builds on more than 13 years of experience in the youth sector, with eight of those years spent in key leadership positions within both state and national youth sector peak advocacy bodies.

Joanna has expressed her enthusiasm for joining AYAC, stating, "The work and aspirations of AYAC align deeply with my own personal values, and I am honoured to lead AYAC as CEO. I look forward to advancing our efforts in policy and advocacy to create meaningful and lasting impact with and for young people."

AYAC Co-Chairperson, Sarah Ramantanis, expressed her confidence in Mrs Rostami's appointment, saying, "Joanna brings a unique combination of leadership experience to AYAC. Her demonstrated commitment to youth empowerment and social change makes her the ideal candidate to further AYAC's mission, and we believe under her guidance, the organisation will thrive and continue to effect positive change in the lives of young Australians."

Joanna Siejka Rostami will officially assume the role of CEO on October 9, 2023. AYAC looks forward to the future under her leadership and the continued pursuit of its vision to create a nation where young people are respected and have the power to lead change for a better world.

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### **About AYAC:**

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is the national peak body for young people (12–25). AYAC provides a powerful voice to the Commonwealth, ensuring that the needs of young people are on the national agenda. To learn more about our initiatives and advocacy efforts, visit

[ayac.org.au](http://ayac.org.au)