



[*Psychologists for Peace*](#) (PfP) are excited to announce the 2018 Youth for Peace Project Award. It is for projects undertaken by groups of young people aged 12-18 that seek to build peace – at school, in their families or communities, or globally. Young people who are interested in applying will have access to a range of [resources](#) including those produced by PfP and other Australian Psychological Society (APS) groups, and are encouraged to be creative. The award will be given annually. The closing date for 2018 is 30th October.

Please follow this [link](#) for further details, including the application form.

We would greatly appreciate your help in publicising this Award through your newsletters or other communications.

Here is some information for young people:

The Australian Psychological Society's Psychologists for Peace Interest Group seeks to promote peace at all levels. Some people think of peace as simply the absence of war or violent conflict, and some think of it as tranquility (like "peace and quiet"), but it is more than these. It includes: being at peace with yourself ('inner peace'); having peaceful families and relationships (where everyone's rights are respected and problems are resolved effectively); building peaceful communities (where people with different backgrounds and characteristics are respected and people work together for the community); and creating a peaceful world (where all people can live healthy peaceful lives in a healthy sustainable environment).

Some broad themes where more work needs to be done to build a more peaceful world include:

- Culture – e.g. how people from different cultural and faith backgrounds understand each other; why discrimination and racism occur and how they affect those who experience them.
- Gender – e.g. how women and girls can still be discriminated against in their families, schools, work and communities; prejudice towards those with different sexual orientations and how it affects them.
- Environment – e.g. whether our natural environment can continue to meet our basic needs for clean water, food and air; how climate change is leading to natural disasters like floods, droughts, bushfires and cyclones.

There are many ways in which young people can contribute to building peace in all of these areas, and more.

Projects can focus at a range of **levels**. Your project might be focused on local issues, perhaps in your school, sports club or community; at the national level, like refugee or environment policies; or at a global level, like international conflicts, climate change and sustainable development. Or it might involve more



than one of these levels (e.g. learning about a global issue, and organising local activities to address it).

Projects can also use a wide range of **formats**. Some examples are: writing and performing songs, poems or plays; developing a website; writing letters to important people or the media; organising speakers; developing petitions; surveying students' opinions and feelings about a topic; working with people in need; restoring a natural environment; raising funds for peace-promoting programs. Again, a project might involve a number of activities with different formats.

It is also important that projects that are seeking to promote peace are themselves run in peaceful ways. This means that all members of the group are respected and heard and that problems are resolved peacefully. Research shows that one way to build peace is for people from different backgrounds to work together.

There are many useful resources available which young people can use to help develop their projects. Some of these are available [here](#). You are also welcome to find your own. You can also see the [winners from 2017](#) for ideas and inspiration.

All projects which fit the selection criteria will be considered. **Be creative!**