



## YOUTH VOICE ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT WORKSHOP

An initiative of UNAA QLD, Just Peace and ICAN (2017 Nobel Laureate) and UN Global Citizens Leadership Schools



On the morning of the 16th August, four students took the stage of Molly and Len Draney theatre at Marist College. They were welcoming 40 high-school fellow students from regional Brisbane, gathered together to learn, debate and express their opinions on the topic of nuclear disarmament.

Joel Lindsey, president of United Nations Young Professionals Qld addressed the threat of nuclear weapons from the Australian government perspective.

He outlined the argument that nuclear-armed states and the strategic security alliance provided security for Australia.

In response, Dr. Sue Wareham, one of the founding members of ICAN (International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons), spoke on the importance of the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) brought into effect at the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 as a tool with which to exert pressure on countries with nuclear weapons or countries that might be thinking of acquiring them. She also emphasised the value and power of both individual and collective action.

The morning session wrapped up with a Q&A session followed by students moving into one of the workshops where a wide variety of experts were involved to offer students creative means to raise their voices. Each student was engaged in one of six available workshops, which were: dance & theatre, game development, street art, video editing, words & rhythm and special effects. The closing ceremony was crowned by a two-minute presentation of the ideas created on the day. The messages of “we are stronger together” and a collective advocacy for nuclear disarmament and for Australia to sign the TPNW were embedded in all the closing presentations.

Hanna Briones, from Girls Grammar high school reflected that if we are to achieve a more peaceful world we must “continue programs like this, so younger voices get the idea of what peace is and how can we maintain it, because if we don’t have programs like this, we don’t know what to do” she said.

A detailed report and a professionally filmed video will be available in the near future. This would not have been possible without the support of the Qld Teachers Union, the Independent Education Union, United Nations Association of Australia Qld Division, ICAN, Just Peace Qld, IPAN, Earth Charter, Qld Quakers, Individual donations Workshop artists and experts and many hours of volunteer labour.