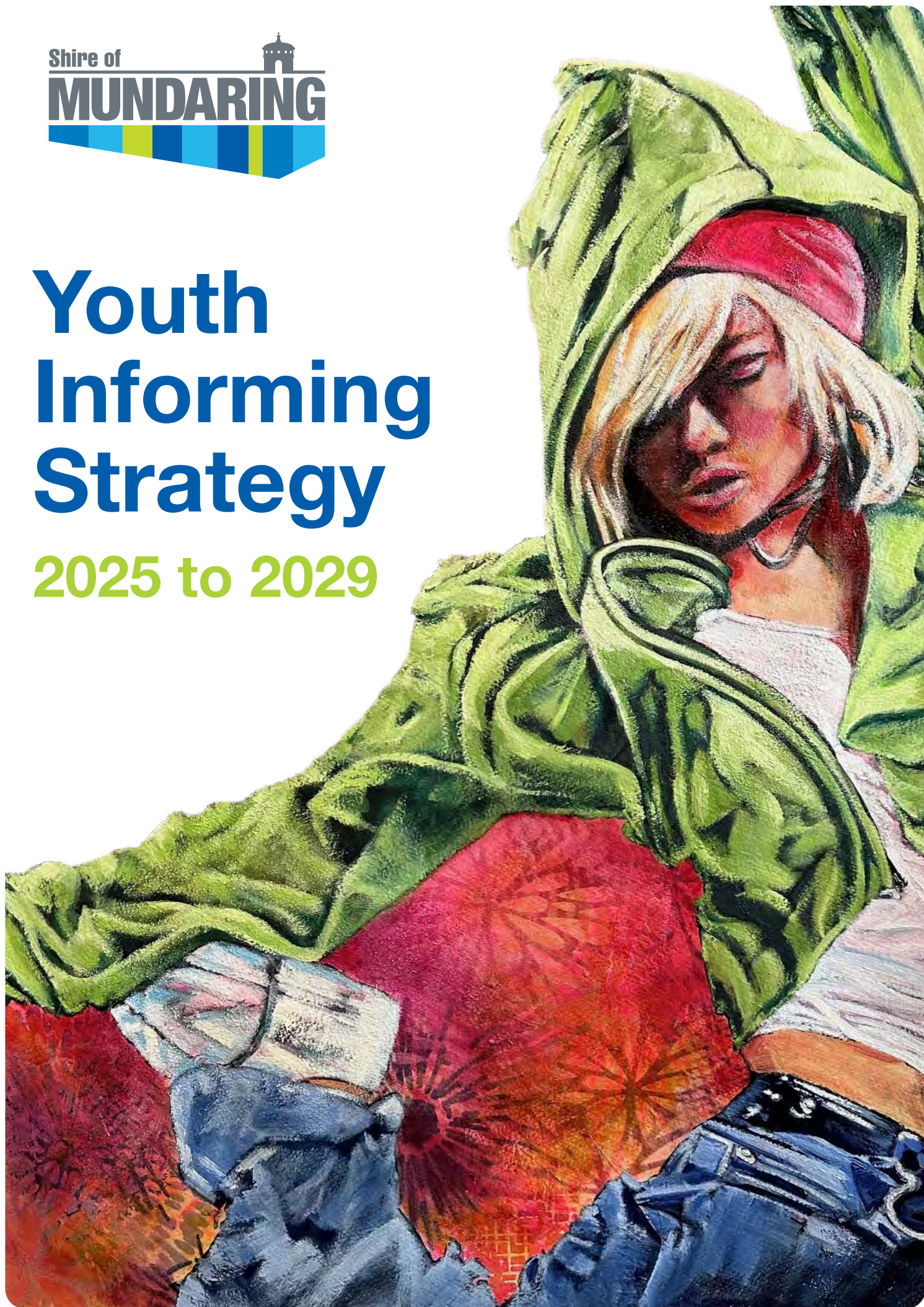


Youth Informing Strategy

2025 to 2029



CONTENTS

02	Acknowledgement of Country
03	Thank you to contributors
04	Message from the Shire President
05	Executive Summary
06	Why we developed a Youth Strategy
08	Consultation
10	Enablers and threats
11	The Youth Informing Strategy 2025 - 2029
	Focus area 1 14
	Engagement and Communication
	Focus area 2 18
	Places and Activities
	Focus area 3 22
	Health and Wellbeing
	Focus area 4 26
	Connection and Belonging
28	Evaluating and Resourcing the Strategy

Acknowledgement of Country



Mundaring Weir by Rohin Kickett

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

Mundadjalina-k ngala kadij Noongar moort nidja Wadjak boodjar-ak kalyakool moondang-ak kaaradj-midi. Ngala Noongar Moort wer baalabang moorditj kaadidjiny koota-djinanginy. Ngala Noongar wer Torres Strait Moort-al dandjoo koorliny kwaba-djinanginy. Koora, yeyi wer kalyakool, ngalak Aboriginal wer Torres Strait birdiya wer moort koota-djinanginy.





Thank you to contributors

Shire of Mundaring thanks all of the young people who contributed to the Youth Informing Strategy 2025-2029 by sharing their thoughts and ideas at workshops, via surveys, interviews and postcards.

A special thanks goes to Abi, Calum, Max, Owen, Reece and Xander who worked with the Shire as peer researchers, speaking with their friends and networks to ensure that young people's voices were heard throughout the consultation process.

We also thank all of the services and organisations who gave their time so freely in meetings and workshops to talk about issues of importance to young people in the Shire.

Original artwork by Daleen Engelbrecht (front and back covers).



Message from the Shire President

On behalf of Council, I'm pleased to introduce our Youth Informing Strategy which aims to support and empower our community's young people.

This strategy articulates Council's commitment to create opportunities for connection, growth and to encourage our young people to engage in decision-making that impacts future generations.

Our young people bring energy, fresh ideas and a unique perspective of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Our responsibility as a Shire is to harness and nurture this potential, ensuring that contributions from our young people help shape a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community for all.

This strategy outlines our vision and the practical steps we will take to create an environment where our youth are listened to, supported and valued.

From educational initiatives to recreational opportunities, every aspect of this strategy has been designed with the aim of making our Shire a place where young people can connect and thrive.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the development of this strategy, particularly our young people and their family members who took the time to share their experiences, concerns and insights. Our community's input has been instrumental in shaping a new way forward, and our young voices will continue to guide us as we review and refine how we support our young people.

Together, we aim to create a future that is inclusive and full of opportunity.

Sincerely,

Paige McNeil

Shire President



Executive Summary

Shire of Mundaring is delighted to deliver the Youth Informing Strategy 2025-2029 (Strategy).

This five-year Strategy identifies key priorities, future services, aspirations and community activities that support and enhance the health and wellbeing of young people living, working or studying in the Shire of Mundaring.

To inform this Strategy we consulted with a range of stakeholders over several months. We spoke with:

- 264 young people aged 12 to 25
- 51 parents and caregivers
- 10 organisations and key stakeholders
- Council members and Shire employees
- Broader community members



The development of the Strategy involved a review of the services, spaces, programs and events for young people, as well as an analysis of the strategic context, upcoming opportunities and an exploration of broad youth issues and trends.

The key findings have been grouped into four focus areas with goals and actions outlined under each:

1. Engagement and communication
2. Places and activities
3. Health and wellbeing
4. Connection and belonging

Why we developed a Youth Strategy

A youth strategy is an important document for a local government authority. It identifies key priorities, future services and community activities that support and enhance the health and wellbeing of young people.

This Strategy is a tangible document that should be used by Council, Shire employees across the whole organisation and community stakeholders to inform them of what is important to young people and help them deliver outcomes that supports young people's wellbeing and access to community resources.

The Shire's Council Plan 2024-2034 places our young people at the heart of building sustainable communities, recognising them as vital within this key performance area.

This Strategy supports key outcomes from the Council Plan, specifically Outcome 4: A safe and healthy community, and Outcome 5: An inclusive, engaged, and supportive community.

This Strategy specifically delivers on the priority project 5.1.4: Implement the Youth Strategy, ensuring our youth are empowered and engaged in shaping a vibrant, resilient future for all.

In the Shire's 2024 Community Scorecard, completed by over 3000 residents, youth services and facilities were rated as performing poorer than industry average.

Youth services and facilities were identified as being in the 'prioritise zone'; that is a lower performing service where the community would like the Shire to focus its attention.



A snapshot of young people in the shire



Approximately 5 821 young people aged 12 to 24 live in the shire

Young people make up 14.8% of the Shire's population which is lower than the Greater Perth average of 16%



Parkerville, Stoneville and Hovea have the highest number and proportion of young residents



4% to 8% of young people are likely to have a disability

Six schools, two public and four private, cater for secondary school aged students



Two providers deliver options for students who are disengaged from mainstream education



7% of 15 to 24 year old's are disengaged from study or work; this rises to 20.4% in the Midvale and Bellevue areas

Consultation

How we talked with the community

Community consultation to develop the Strategy was delivered between November 2023 and February 2024 and included:

- A print and online survey for young people
- One on one interviews with young people
- Five youth workshops
- An online survey for parents and caregivers
- One on one conversations with organisations and service providers
- One Shire employee workshop
- One solution-focused roundtable with services, employees and council members
- A postcard campaign for the broader community

Information about development of the Strategy, including the opportunity to participate, was delivered to the community through the Shire's website, Facebook and Instagram pages, direct engagement with local schools and key stakeholders, and social media promotion in local community Facebook groups.

About the young people we talked with

To develop the Strategy, we talked with 264 young people. This included 189 through surveys, 63 at workshops, and 12 one on one interviews. The survey data showed that:

- 85% were aged 12 to 17 and 15% were aged 18 to 25
- 54% female, 45% male, 1% non-binary or other
- 4% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 16% identified as LGBTIQ+
- 16% identified as neurodivergent
- 15% identified as living with a mental health difficulty
- 4% said they were living with a disability
- 4% said they were young carers or young parents
- 74% lived in the shire
- 65% reported using facilities in the shire
- 40% said that they worked in the shire
- 39% used groups or services in the shire
- 20% volunteered in the shire

How we developed the strategy



To develop the Strategy, we analysed the consultation data and reviewed this alongside the desktop research of existing youth trends, local issues and current provision for young people.

October 2023 to Feburary 2024	November 2023 to February 2024	March 2024 to September 2024	October 2024
Planning & desktop research	Community consultation	Draft Strategy developed	Strategy endorsed by Council



Enablers and threats

Enablers are factors which are out of scope for this Strategy, but nevertheless will have a positive influence on the successful delivery of the actions. Threats are factors which are out of scope of this Strategy to address, but which need the consideration of the Shire and key partners, or they will impede the successful delivery of the actions.

Enablers	Threats
Natural environment and spaces The Shire of Mundaring is on the fringe of the metropolitan area and has a distinct semi-rural feel. The accessibility and uniqueness of the natural surroundings are a particular asset to the community.	Population size The Shire covers a large geographic area and has a relatively small population. The Shire's low population density makes it difficult for many services to be viable and well used, such a public transport.
Sense of community The Shire has a relatively small population that mostly centres around tight-knit communities across the suburbs. The residents feel safe and well connected within their local communities.	Insularity and lack of diversity Many of the areas within the Shire are isolated and have lower than average cultural diversity. This lack of diversity can impact young people's exposure to new ideas and sense of self, especially those from minority groups.
Existing Infrastructure The Shire is well resourced in terms of existing public infrastructure, with many sporting and leisure grounds, the Mundaring Arena, two swimming pools, multiple skate and bike facilities, two libraries, community centres and a relatively new purpose built Youth Centre.	Cost-of-living WA is experiencing a significant cost-of-living crisis, with the cost of housing, everyday items, services and leisure activities rising faster than wages.
	Access to healthcare While GPs are relatively accessible in the Shire, access to healthcare is hampered by long wait times, cost and difficulty accessing specialists.

The Youth Informing Strategy 2025 – 2029

The approach

There are four key principles which underpin the Strategy's approach. These principles should be used when making decisions about how to approach the goals and actions.

#	Principles	What this means
1	Community development	• A strength of the Shire is its close-knit community and care that community members have for the wellbeing of each other. • The Shire should aim to build the capability of young people, parent/caregivers, community groups, organisations and the broader community to improve the lives of young people.
2	Collaboration and partnerships	• The Shire is large in geographic area, but low in population density. It has a low-rate base and limited funding to achieve everything the community desires. • The Shire should continue to explore collaboration opportunities with other neighbouring local governments where mutually beneficial. • The Shire should continue to prioritise working with groups and organisations that are well placed to serve young people's needs.
3	Evidence Based	• This Strategy is supported by an extensive background paper. This document should be used, alongside best practice evidence over the duration of the Strategy to ensure that decisions are informed by the data.
4	Accountability	• This Strategy will be supported by annual operational plans inclusive of assigned roles and responsibilities and clear measures of success. • An assessment of progress toward the actions outlined in this Strategy will be conducted annually.

Role of the Shire

The Shire has four critical roles to play in the delivery of the Strategy.

Each action in the Strategy has the Shire's role identified. Sometimes the Shire has more than one role to play.

#	Role	Outline
1	Provider	Delivers the initiative, activity, service, or facility
2	Partner	Collaborates or is part of making the action happen
3	Advocate	Talks about or promotes the issue to people who need to listen
4	Funder	Provides money or resources to support the action



Prioritisation

There are three levels of prioritisation attached to each action within the Strategy.

#	Priority	What this means
1	High	We will initiate this within the first two years of delivering Strategy outcomes. The action is important, and/or has minimal resources involved. It may also be an action we already deliverer and will continue to do so.
2	Medium	We will initiate this within two to three years of delivering Strategy outcomes. The action has medium level of importance, and/or needs resources, or partnerships that need planning to deliver.
3	Low	We will initiate this in the final two years of delivering the Strategy outcomes. This action is a 'stretch goal' and may take significant exploratory work and/or resources.

Our Vision

Our vision is that young people feel connected with their community and access the places and activities that support their wellbeing and future aspirations.

Our focus areas and goals

The Strategy has four focus areas and eight goals. To achieve these goals, 26 actions have been identified to be delivered over the next five years.activities that support their wellbeing and future aspirations.

#	Strategy Focus Area	#	Goals
1	Engagement and communication	1.1	Young people connect with the Shire and are involved in plans and decisions that impact them
		1.2	The community are aware of initiatives and opportunities for young people in the Shire
2	Places and activities	2.1	Young people have access to places they can connect with their peers and community
		2.2	Young people attend and participate in activities and events that support and nurture their interests
3	Health and wellbeing	3.1	Young people have increased access to health and wellbeing support
		3.2	The community is better able to respond to young people's health and wellbeing needs
4	Places and activities	4.1	Young people are included, respected and feel safe in their communities
		4.2	Community groups and organisations support young people to contribute to their community and achieve their goals

Focus area 1: Engagement and Communication

What we heard

The Shire currently has low engagement with young people. Young people felt disconnected from the Shire and its processes of decision making and felt unrepresented by the Council. The current approach to youth services is through provision of a Community Engagement Facilitator - Youth, with community groups supported to deliver youth programs supported by funding from the Youth Engagement Partnership Fund (YEPF) which has a budget of \$35,000 per annum. Whilst the YEPF has been fully expended, this model has not provided a pathway or connection for young people that participated in these programs to the Shire itself.

The Youth C.R.E.W., which was established as Youth Advisory Group (YAG) when youth services were internalised, had dwindling numbers, and no active members when engagement for this Strategy started. When the Shire developed the Strategic Community Plan (SCP) in 2020, there was extremely limited engagement with young people. Re-focusing on ways to reconnect and build engagement with young people needs to be a priority of the new Strategy. Young people identified bringing their issues to Council felt daunting and felt that they wouldn't be taken seriously.

Youth engagement should start off small and tangible with activities such as feedback on school holiday programming, library book selections, contributing to murals/public art, or feedback on new lighting installation locations. Young people should be informed of the outcome of their feedback.

There were gaps in the engagement for this Strategy with young people aged 18 to 25 and there is a need to do additional engagement work with this demographic.

In addition to low youth engagement, there is also a need to strengthen understanding of youth needs by the community and connect the services landscape. Despite some highly passionate individuals, with a couple of exceptions, minimal networking or sharing of information between organisations was identified.

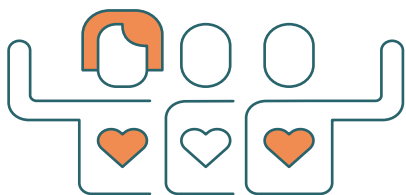
There was a lack of viable communication and connection channels between young people, their parents, and the wider community and many young people, parents, and stakeholders reported that not knowing what activities and events were on was a challenge. Recognising the Shire has a close-knit community, this provides an opportunity to identify and incentivise local young people, parents/caregivers, and stakeholders, to spread information by word of mouth.

There was relatively lower use of social media by young people to find out what's going on than typically seen, however Instagram was most utilised.

Typically marketing to young people is most successful when driven by the target audience being young people themselves. Facebook was highly used as a social media tool by parents/caregivers and a high proportion of young people found out about things through family members.



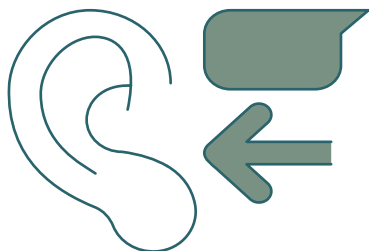
Data and information



- 68% of young people said they were interested, or maybe interested in having a voice within their community on topics that matter to them and other young people
- The top three ways young people said that they wanted to have their say were via online surveys (73%), social media polls (44%), feedback at schools/TAFE (30%)



- 50% of young people said a barrier for them attending/enjoying activities, places or events was not being aware of them; this rose to 67% of 18 to 25 year olds



- The top five ways young people find out about what is happening in the community are: family (75%); friends (72%); school (42%); posters/flyers (31%); Instagram (28%)
- The top five ways parents/caregivers find out about what is happening in the community are: local community Facebook (62%), Shire Facebook (60%); school newsletters (28%), posters/flyers (26%); Shire website (26%)

Our actions

1.1	Young people are connected with the Shire and involved in plans and decisions that impact them			
#	Action	Shire role	Priority	Measures of success
1.1.1	Identify and deliver project-based opportunities for young people to share their ideas.	Provider	High	• Deliver two project-based opportunities per year for young people to share their thoughts. • School holiday activity program delivered over the four school holiday periods and feedback sourced from participants to inform future activities.



1.1	Young people are connected with the Shire and involved in plans and decisions that impact them			
#	Action	Shire role	Priority	Measures of success
1.1.2	Build relationships with schools, sports and other youth focused providers to identify and deliver opportunities for collaboration and communication with young people including celebrating and recognising School Citizenship Award recipients.	Provider Partner	High	• Number of relationships established and maintained. • Number of activities delivered that celebrate and recognise School Citizenship Award recipients.
1.1.3	Explore ways to connect and engage with young people aged 18 and over.	Provider Partner	Medium	• Deliver minimum of one connection/engagement opportunity per year. • Number of and reach of methods used to engage with young people through promotional campaigns (digital, print).
1.1.4	Work towards re-establishment of a diverse Shire Youth Advisory Group (YAG).	Provider	Low	• Models for delivery of a YAG explored by 2028. • YAG re-established by 2029.
1.2	The community are aware of initiatives and opportunities for young people in the shire			
#	Action	Shire role	Priority	Measures of success
1.2.1	Identify youth and community champions and support them to connect with and promote opportunities for young people.	Provider	High	• Identify and support ten youth and community champions to act as conduits for information from the Shire to other young people.



1.2	The community are aware of initiatives and opportunities for young people in the shire			
#	Action	Shire role	Priority	Measures of success
1.2.2	Establish an online presence for young people using youth-friendly modes of delivery.	Provider	Medium	• New online platforms developed following feedback from young people on how they want to be communicated with. • 25% increase of engagement on online Shire social media pages from young people.
1.2.3	Map hotspots where young people gather and use those to target placement of event and informational posters.	Provider	High	• Map of hotspots developed. • Hotspot map reviewed and updated annually.
1.2.4	Promote youth-focussed activities and events using a range of mediums appropriate to differing target audiences such as young people, parents/ caregivers and the wider-community.	Provider	High	• Range of mediums used. • Social media reports. • Event evaluation reports.

Focus area 2: Places and Activities

What we heard

The Mundaring Arena is very well used and has become a hub for young people participating in organised sport. The Shire's aquatic centres are also well used, but some shared negative views around opening hours and cleanliness. Boya Library was well used by young people for studying, though opportunities were identified to activate libraries as there are few programs for young people aged 12 and above. The natural spaces and bike trails in the shire were reported as a big positive. Some young people talked about festivals and markets but said that there often wasn't much for young people at those events.



I like living in bushland so that I can see the local animals on a daily basis. My family and I go on regular walks on the local trails to get fresh air and some exercise

The community thought there was a lack of places for young people to hang out. The Swan View Youth Centre was not operating as a typical youth centre at the time of engagement and was hired by external groups most of whom deliver programs and activities for children and young people.

This was generally perceived as a missed opportunity for the Shire to run a youth focused facility with programs for young people, provide a base for services to offer support and be a place for young people to hang out.

Even if activated, the Youth Centre is on the edge of the Shire's borders, and not well located for young people who live up the hill. The proposed Mundaring Multi-Purpose Community Facility was identified as a big opportunity to better provide for young people in a central and relatively accessible Shire location.

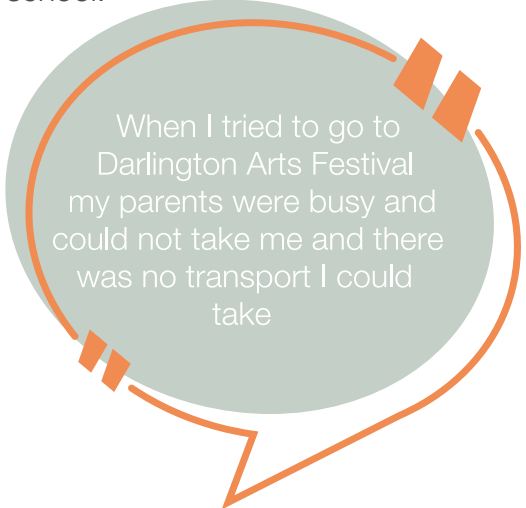
Whilst formal sport was generally well covered, with a lot of community groups and clubs across the Shire offering opportunities, a lack of casual options for young people, e.g. to have a game of basketball or to try sports out without signing up to a team was identified. Casual access to places like Mundaring Arena, libraries, community halls and the Swan View Youth Centre should be explored. Parents and caregivers identified that there was low accessibility of gym options for young people.

Majority of the stakeholders wanted to see more options for young people who are not interested in sport. There are a number of arts and culture focused organisations and spaces in the shire, but their ability to offer free or low-cost options for young people is funding dependent. There are no life skill or career development programs regularly on offer.

Inadequate internet and mobile access were a theme for the Shire. Many Shire facilities provide free Wi-Fi, which offers an opportunity to draw young people to venues, such as libraries where programs could be delivered.

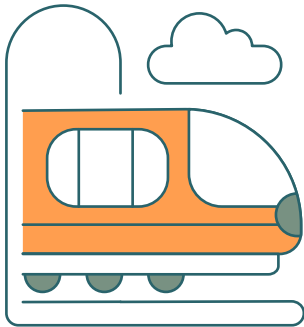
Transport access to get to places and activities that young people want to be was

raised as an issue by the majority during the consultation, with some stakeholders suggesting that they would be interested in using a community bus if available. Some stakeholders suggested that the Mundaring Seniors Inc. bus could be used for young people afterschool.



When I tried to go to Darlington Arts Festival my parents were busy and could not take me and there was no transport I could take

Data and information



- 57% of young people reported transport as a barrier to attending/enjoying activities, places or events; this was the most commonly reported barrier
- 48% of parents/caregivers reported transport as a barrier for their young people
- 49% of parents/caregivers said transport was something that should be addressed by the Shire
- 37% of parents/caregivers said not enough places to hang out and 33% said not enough activities/events was an issue for their young people
- Not enough places to hang out, and not enough activities and events was the top issue (65%) that parents/caregivers wanted the Shire to address

Our actions

2.1 Young people have access to places they can connect with their peers and community				
#	Action	Shire role	Priority	Measures of success
2.1.1	Include young people's ideas and needs within major Shire facility and service delivery projects, plans and decisions that impact them, i.e. Mundaring Cultural Hub, community safety, facility design and lighting.	Provider	High	• Specific needs and ideas of young people are considered when planning, developing and implementing projects. • Number of engagement opportunities provided to young people.
2.1.2	Provide increased opportunities for casual and unstructured sport or other recreational activities in parks and open spaces.	Provider Partner	Medium	• Partnerships developed to activate Shire spaces. • School holiday activity program delivered over the four school holiday periods.
2.1.3	Review accessibility of youth service provision in the Shire's current spaces and activate where possible.	Provider	High	• Number of youth services providers attracted to operate in Shire spaces. • Number of partners identified to deliver Youth Informing Strategy outcomes.
2.1.4	Explore and advocate for the use of a Shire community bus to transport young people after hours and in school holidays.	Partner Funder Advocate	Low	• Exploration of options and feasibility study undertaken.
2.1.5	Investigate the feasibility of a centrally located youth hub with gym options in the Shire.	Partner Funder Advocate	Medium	• Exploration of options and feasibility study undertaken.
2.1.6	Develop and implement a Communication Plan outlining an annual campaign to promote youth places and activities delivered across the shire.	Provider Partner	Medium	• Communication Plan developed. • Campaign implementation evaluation report.



2.2	Young people attend and participate in activities and events that support and nurture their interests			
#	Action	Shire role	Priority	Measures of success
2.2.1	Deliver come and try sessions or other youth activities in local parks and community spaces where young people hang out.	Partner Funder	High	Two sessions delivered per year incorporated into the school holiday activity program.
2.2.2	Develop and promote youth activities and spaces at Shire and community events.	Provider Funder	Medium	- Promotion of youth activities at Shire events. - Development of resources to support community event providers to create youth friendly initiatives.
2.2.3	Support groups and organisations to deliver arts, culture and life-skills programs and opportunities for young people.	Partner Funder	Medium	Number of targetted partnerships developed to support delivery of youth focussed initiatives and Youth Informing Strategy outcomes.
2.2.4	Continue to deliver the Youth Grant for young people selected to represent their club or institution at events or activities.	Provider	High	Number of Youth Grant applications approved.



Focus area 3: Health and Wellbeing

What we heard

General perceptions of mental health support in the Shire across all groups was negative. Young people talked about the lack of mental health support, and many couldn't name any service that could help them. Young people talked about there being a negative stigma around mental health and talking about mental health, which is more typically seen in a regional area.

How services could be tempted to 'come up the hill' to better service the support needs of young people were discussed by stakeholders, with opportunities for the Shire to assist by providing spaces at events, drop in spaces and free venues, connection networks and promotion were identified.

There was mismatch between parent/caregiver's articulation of mental health rates in their children and what young people reported themselves. Young people mostly use friends and family for support, with low use of services, as such the poor understanding of the community about how to support young people's health and wellbeing was identified and raising community understanding of and skills in the mental health space is important to address.

School and study stress was also a significant issue for young people and is likely a driver of higher rates of mental health challenges.

Whilst education falls squarely in the remit of the State Government, there are opportunities for the Shire to collaboratively support this area for young people through provision of study spaces in the libraries, especially during exam time and using those spaces to signpost resources promoting good study habits and self-care, as well as education for parents/caregivers on this topic.



The cost of living is an ongoing challenge in Western Australia (WA) which disproportionately affects young people who have less access to income or work in more casual and lower paid roles, as well as those living in lower social economic areas. The Shire can support young people and families in this area by continuing to offer access to free and low-cost programs and spaces.



The challenges young people have getting around and/or travelling to and from the shire district impacts on young people's health and wellbeing. It impacts their ability to access health services, connect to peers and to access work and study. Young people said that the easiest place to get to was Midland. They were more positive around transport if they lived on a bus route or in places like Swan View but also often talked about feeling unsafe on public transport.

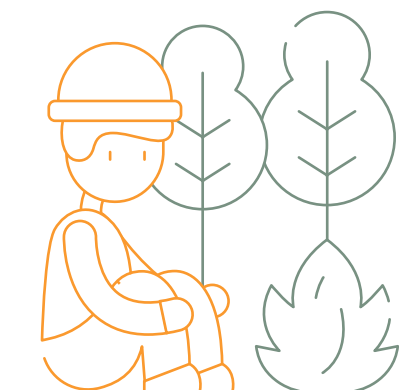
Young people said that getting their licence early was very important. Current Department of Transport (DoT) wait times for driver tests are extremely high, which is having a disproportionate impact on young people in the shire.

The Shire should have a sustained advocacy focus with the Department of Transport.



Hard to get to work by bus. It's almost 2.5 times the amount of time it would take by car

Data and information



- The top five issues (out of 26) identified by young people were mental health (46%), school and/or study stress (46%), transport (32%), drugs and alcohol (31%), and image and appearance (31%)
- 66% of young people go to friends and parents/caregivers when they need help and support
- 27% use the internet when they need help and support; 10% report they have nowhere to go for support
- 51% of young people said cost was a barrier to them accessing/enjoying activities, places or events

Our actions

3.1	Young people have increased access to health and wellbeing support			
#	Action	Shire role	Priority	Measures of success
3.1.1	Advocate for, and support, youth mental health and wellbeing service providers to deliver services in the shire district.	Advocate Partner Funder	High	• Mental health service providers report increased participation by Shire residents. • Number of targetted partnerships developed to support delivery of mental health and wellbeing services.
3.1.2	Continue to provide access to free or low-cost programs, events and spaces for young people and their families.	Provider	High	• School holiday activity program delivered over the four school holiday periods. • Number of youth-focused initiatives delivered by the Shire. • Number of youth-focused initiatives delivered through Shire funding agreements.
3.1.3	Advocate for better solutions for young people to get a driver's licence and access public transport to support their ability to access work, study and health service options.	Advocate	Medium	• Number of advocacy activities undertaken to improve access to transport.



3.2	The community is better able to respond to young people's health and wellbeing needs			
#	Action	Shire role	Priority	Measures of success
3.2.1	Explore opportunities to partner with mental health service providers to raise youth mental health awareness, support young people and build mental health skills across the community, i.e. mental health first aid courses.	Provider Partner	Medium	• Number of mental health first aid courses delivered across the shire. • Level of participation in mental health promotion activities. • Number of awareness raising activities undertaken.
3.2.2	Utilise Shire facilities, programs and communications to signpost mental health and self-care supports to young people and parents/ caregivers.	Provider Funder	High	• Number of mental health and self-care supports displayed in the community and online.

Focus area 4: Connection and Belonging

What we heard

All stakeholder groups identified strong sense of community as a positive with the words 'close knit' and 'supportive' used often. A sense of belonging is important to young people, however, young people in particular areas within the shire reported negative perceptions of them, tied to the two public schools in the district, with some saying that this 'reputation' impacted their ability to gain work.

Those further up the hill also talked about negativity attached to young people who rode dirt bikes and other bike related activities in the natural environments. Some young people said that older people complained online about them motor biking, particularly on private bushland. Loneliness and isolation was a theme that was raised a number of times. Sometimes this was in relation to transport, but there were groups within the youth population, such as young people with disability, who rated loneliness as a significant issue for them. Stakeholders identified that there was an opportunity for intergenerational connection, learning and support.

A number of organisations were keen to better support young people into leadership roles. Across WA there is a shortage of volunteers, due to a number of factors such as a skills shortage and an ageing population. There was a good rate of self-reported youth volunteering in the Shire, supporting the fact the many young people want to give back to their community and build skills/networks for their careers.

The Shire has an opportunity to support organisations in this work, and then in turn promote some of the positive activities that young people are doing in the community in order to improve community perception. Whilst it was generally reported that it was achievable to get an entry level or casual job, young people said it was harder to start working in their field of interest. Statistics in the lower socioeconomic areas show that young people also find it difficult to get work.

Due to the close-knit nature of the community, the Shire could explore partnerships with local businesses such as cafes, bike shops and mechanics to deliver opportunities for young people.

Personal safety was somewhat of a concern for young people; however, it had a different focus depending on where young people lived. If they were 'up the hill', young people felt relatively safe in their community, but had a lot of concerns around road and driver safety. Around the Swan View area, young people's safety concerns related more to being harassed, impacts of drugs/alcohol use and homelessness. In addition, there were some general concerns around footpaths, poor street lighting.

These topics typically come up in youth consultation, as young people are starting to want to move around independently and are more likely than other age groups to walk, scoot or cycle. There is a real opportunity for the Shire to get young people involved in problem solving and planning outside of the traditional area of youth services. Young people are often keen to get involved around community safety and urban design, and this is an area that the Shire could explore.



Data and information

- 47% of young people agreed that they felt respected and included in their community
- 7% of 15 to 24 year olds are disengaged from study or work, this rises to 20.4% in the Midvale and Bellevue area
- 39% of young people said that they used groups and services in the shire
- Top issues varied across demographic groups, i.e. 57% of young people living with disability cited loneliness and isolation as an issue compared to 13% across all groups
- 20% of survey respondents said that they volunteered in the shire

Our actions

4.1	Young people are included, respected and feel safe in their communities			
#	Action	Shire role	Priority	Measures of success
4.1.1	Counter negative perception of young people by collaborating with schools to share positive stories.	Partner	High	• Four good news stories shared per year i.e. achievements of young people, events recap.
4.1.2	Collaborate with local WA Police to address local safety concerns and share safety information to young people and community.	Provider Partner	High	• Number of shared safety messages.
4.2	Community groups and organisations support young people to contribute to their community and achieve their goals			
4.2.1	Support groups and organisations to develop and enhance their capacity to recruit and retain youth volunteers and/or employees.	Provider Funder	Medium	• Number of supporting initiatives to promote youth volunteering and employment.
4.2.2	Explore partnerships with local business or community organisations to develop life skills and employment skills.	Provider Funder	Medium	• Two life/ employment skills sessions held per year. • Number of partners identified to deliver life skills and employment initiatives. • 75% of participants report a skill increase.



Evaluation and Resourcing of the Strategy

The Strategy is managed by the Shire of Mundaring's Community Engagement team and supported by service areas across the organisation.

The Strategy's actions and measures of success will be subject to an annual internal review to reflect current and emerging youth trends.

Results related to youth services as identified in the four yearly MARKYT scorecard will also be taken into account.

The deliverables will be adjusted in line with this review to ensure a proactive, community focussed approach. A formal review will be undertaken at the end of the five-year period as part of the process to develop a new strategy that will set the direction for the next five-year period.

Any financial requirements for implementing the Strategy will be sought through the Shire's annual operating budget process, with external funding from external stakeholders to be pursued.

More Information

To discuss the Strategy or provide feedback, please contact the Shire of Mundaring:

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