



for  
**youth**  
by youth



YOUTH STRATEGY  
2019 - 2024

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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We acknowledge the Traditional owners of the land on which we live and pay our respects to elders past and present.

We acknowledge our Indigenous young people as our future leaders, as they will keep our stories and history alive.



## WHO ARE YOUNG PEOPLE?

Central Coast Council defines young people as those aged 12-24 years of age who live, work, study or play in the Central Coast Region.

## THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CENTRAL COAST'S FIRST EVER YOUTH STRATEGY.

Central Coast Council would like to thank every young person who contributed to the development of this Strategy. Your stories, thoughts, ideas, suggestions and opinions are important and valued and have directly inputted into the Strategy.

A special thanks to Council's first ever Y4Y (Youth Action Team) team members: Maia Ambridge, Tamsin Caldwell, Ruby Ingels, Corey Lees, Makali McEvoy-Folland, Ashley McEvoy-Folland, Christine Nou, Kieran Peters, Isabella Reading, Crystal Russom and Hannah Lyn Walker who helped to develop and design the Strategy from the first day they were on-board.

Council would also like to thank the local youth sector, who work hard to support young people on the Central Coast every day. We value your experience, knowledge, ideas and opinions and Council is excited to continue the strong partnerships to make the Central Coast an even better place for young people.



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## WHY A YOUTH STRATEGY?

There are more than 50,000 young people aged 12-24 years living in the Central Coast Region, representing around 14.9% of our total population.

Young people and their thoughts, attitudes, opinions and ideas are vital to the future of our Region. They are valuable members of society and the way we include, reflect and recognise their contribution will influence the future direction of the Central Coast.

As we prepare for the future and implement the Community's vision through our Community Strategic Plan 'One Central Coast' (2018-2028) and this first ever Central Coast Youth Strategy, we've asked and listened to young people about what's great, what's not so good, and what can make it an even better place?

The response has been amazing with over 1,600 young people, youth services and interested residents contributing over 8,000 thoughts, ideas and opinions. This feedback has directly inputted into the development of this Strategy.

This Strategy provides the strategic direction over the next 5 years for the delivery of contemporary youth services, programs, activities and events that meet the needs of a diverse population.

It's a plan for Council to work alongside the local youth sector, schools, young people and the community to make the Central Coast an even better place.

## HOW DOES THE YOUTH STRATEGY FIT?

This Strategy is part of a broader planning framework called 'One Central Coast' which sets the direction for our community over the next 10 years. The Youth Strategy aligns with the broad themes of 'One Central Coast' which are: Belonging, Smart, Green, Responsible and Liveable. There are close links between the six themes of this Strategy and the five themes of One Central Coast.

For example, key objectives in the Community Strategic Plan that relate to young people include:

- Work within our communities to connect people, build capacity and create local solutions and initiatives.
- Celebrate and continue to create opportunities for inclusion where all people feel welcome and participate in community life.

- Work together to solve a range of social and health issues that may impact community wellbeing and vulnerable people.
- Enhance community safety within neighbourhoods, public places and spaces.
- Invest in broadening local education and learning pathways.
- Support businesses and local leaders to mentor young people in skill development through traineeships, apprenticeships and volunteering.
- Educate the community on the value and importance of natural areas and encourage community involvement in the caring of our natural environment.

# FAST FACTS - YOUNG PEOPLE



**14.9%**

of the people living in the Central Coast Region are aged 12-24 years.

**50,141**

total number of young people aged between 12 - 24 that live on the Coast.

## THE FUTURE

Projected growth of young population: increase of **24.2%** between **2016** and **2035**.

**2025:** 56,530

**2030:** 59,477

**2035:** 62,282

## DIVERSITY

**6.7%** identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

**5.6%** born overseas.

**3.6%** spoke a language other than English at home (top 3: Mandarin, Spanish and Cantonese).

**6.1%** identified the need for assistance with core activities.

## EDUCATION

**21.2%** of young people attended an educational institution.

**3.7%** were at primary school.

**40.7%** were attending secondary school.

**5.8%** were at TAFE.

**10.6%** were at University.

## QUALIFICATION

**7%** hold a tertiary qualification.

**15.8%** hold a vocational qualification.

## EMPLOYMENT

**87.3%** were employed (41.3% were working full time and 56.2% part time).

**12.7%** were unemployed.

**5.3%** provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age.

## INCOME

**30.9%** of people aged 12 to 24 years were living in high income households (over \$2,500 per week).

**7.0%** were living in low income households (under \$650 per week).

## FAMILIES

**59.3%** of young people were living in couples with children households.

**25.3%** were one parent families.

## HOUSING

**62.8%** of young people were in households who were purchasing or fully owned their home, 28.5% were renting privately, and 2.8% were in social housing.

## INTERNET CONNECTION

**90.4%** of young people had access to an internet connection at their house.

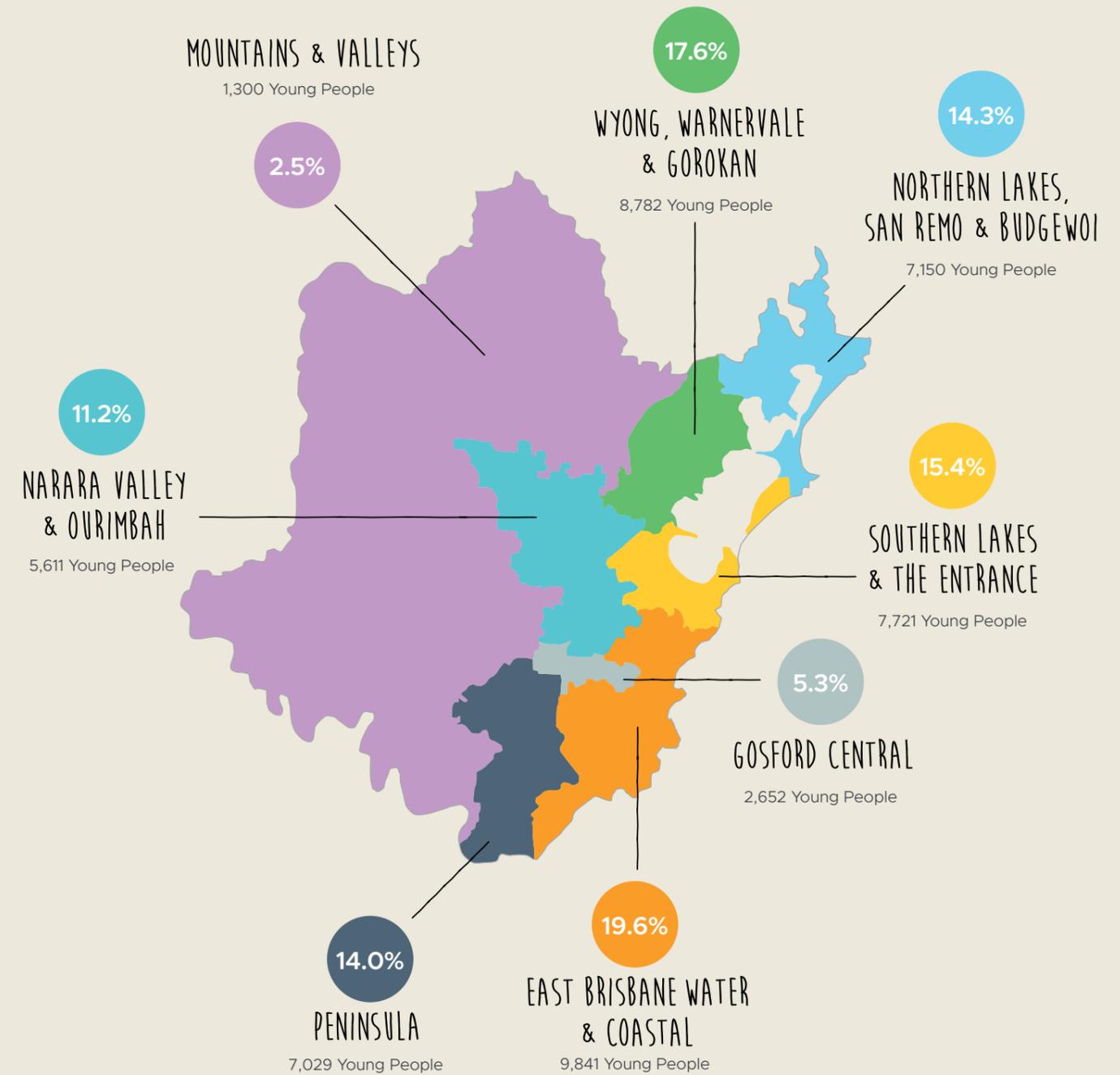
**4.3%** still had no internet connection.



## WHERE DO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE?

# 50,141

This is the number of young people living in the Central Coast Region. This map shows where they live.



The majority of young people live in the East Brisbane Water & Coastal District (19.6%) followed by the Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan District (17.5%) and the Southern Lakes and The Entrance District (15.4%).

The smallest populations of young people live in the Mountains and Valleys District (2.5%) and the Gosford Central District (5.3%).

# HOW WE ENGAGED WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

We engaged with young people from October to mid-December 2018. This is how they participated:

## ONLINE YOUTH SURVEY

863

young people got online and completed a survey. This was advertised widely through social media, local schools and local youth services.

## YOUTH INTERCEPT SURVEYS

350

young people were interviewed during the October school holidays, at programs events and activities around the Coast and at places young people like to hang out (the beach, shopping centres, skate parks). Staff also attended the Margaret Merritt Cup and Indigenous Talent selection day where over 100 Indigenous young people were interviewed.

## SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS

180

Six interactive workshops were conducted at Lake Munmorah, Wyong, Niagara Park, Gosford, and Terrigal High Schools. A total of 180 young people participated in these workshops.

## INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

200

young people were involved in the interactive workshops sessions which were held at Lakes Festival events (Canton Beach and Budgewoi).

## Y4Y

12

The newly selected Y4Y members participated in an interactive workshop at their first meeting in December.

## YOUTH SERVICES

67

Youth Services were also engaged through a workshop at the November meeting of the Central Coast Youth Interagency and through the online youth services survey.

## WHO PARTICIPATED?

# 1,600+

young people participated in engagement activities. This included over

# 745

young people participating in face to face activities and

# 863

young people completing online surveys

# 67

Youth Services involved through face to face and online.

## HOW DID WE TELL YOUNG PEOPLE WHAT WAS HAPPENING?

To raise awareness of the project and to get young people involved, Council mainly used social and print media.

Young people were called upon to 'get involved', 'have your say' and 'tell us what matters'. Social media was the most successful method, with

# 32,285

people reached and

# 1,572

people engaging directly with the social media posts.



# WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID: YOUTH SURVEY

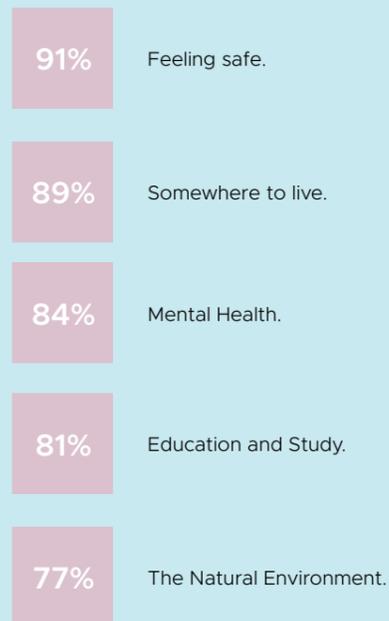
## WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT THE CENTRAL COAST?



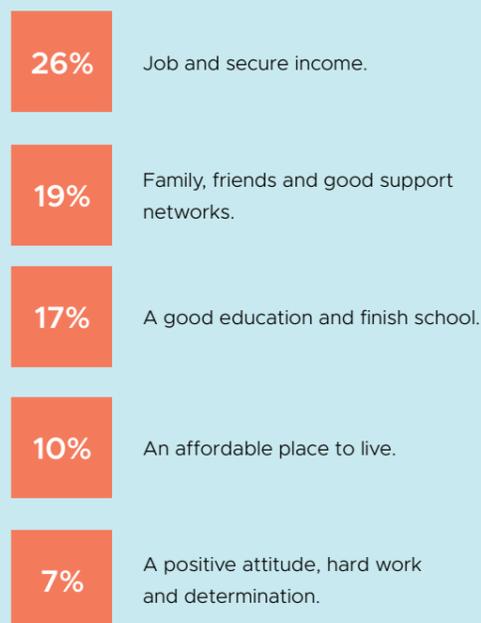
## WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE?



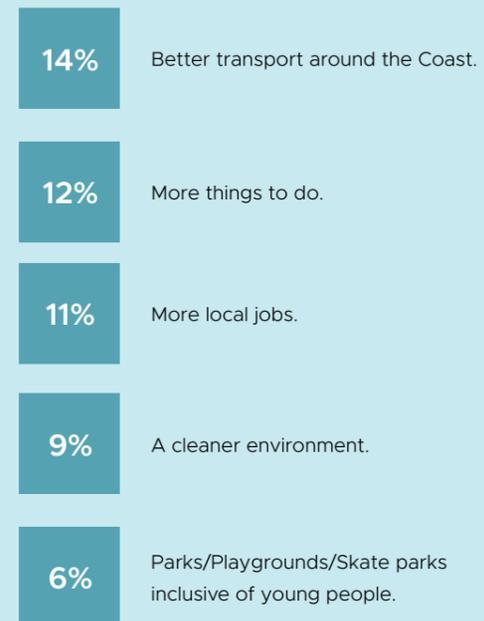
## WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?



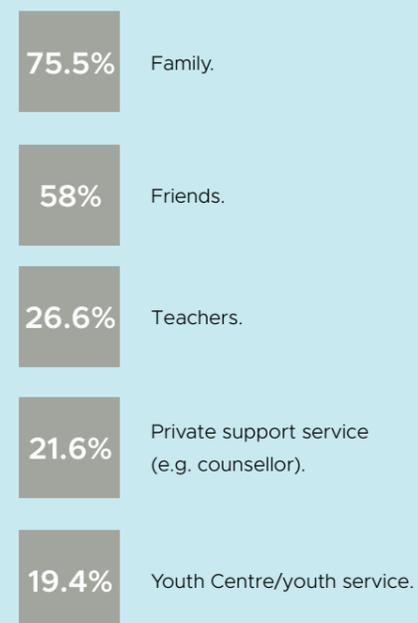
## WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE NEED FOR THE FUTURE & A GOOD LIFE?



## WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD CHANGE TO MAKE THE CENTRAL COAST A BETTER PLACE? NOW:



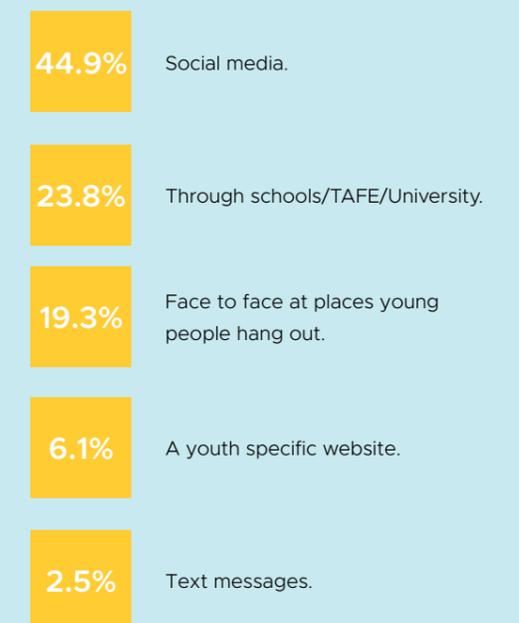
## WHO WOULD YOUNG PEOPLE GO TO FOR HELP?



## WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD CHANGE TO MAKE THE CENTRAL COAST A BETTER PLACE? IN THE FUTURE:



## HOW YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD LIKE COUNCIL TO LISTEN/ENGAGE WITH THEM?



# WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID: FACE TO FACE

## WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT THE CENTRAL COAST:

- 30.3% The natural environment, especially the beaches, lakes and bushland.
- 18.5% The great sporting and recreation facilities/clubs/programs/activities.
- 11.4% The great range of things to do for the whole community e.g. events, activities.
- 10.1% The people and the sense of community.
- 7.6% The range of different shops.

## THE MAIN ISSUES OR CHALLENGES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:

- 22.5% Transport.
- 18.3% Mental health.
- 12.7% Lack of things to do for young people.
- 11.7% Lack of local job options.
- 9.6% Lack of higher education options.
- 8.1% Affordable housing.

## IF THEY WERE THE BOSS, YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE BY:

- 15.6% Upgrading recreation facilities e.g. skate parks, installing shade options where young people hang out, include elements for young people in parks and playgrounds.
- 15.4% Providing more free and low cost entertainment options e.g. outdoor cinemas, music festivals, light festivals like Vivid.
- 15.3% Make it easier to get around the Coast.
- 10.8% Clean up the natural environment.
- 7.5% Make it a more affordable place for people to live e.g. more affordable housing and lower the cost of living.

## IDEAS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HERE:

- 24.2% Water park like Townsville, Parramatta, Cairns.
- 22.1% Recreation facilities such as Bato Yard in the North and South of the Region and parks/playgrounds that are inclusive of young people e.g. Speers Point Park, Fingal Bay Park, Hills District Park, Bondi Fitness Park.
- 18.9% Entertainment options such as outdoor cinemas, events in local suburbs, music festivals, light festival like Vivid.
- 11% Help with school stuff like workload/pressure/studying e.g. free tutoring, homework help, mentoring programs.
- 10.3% Better transport options e.g. free public transport for young people.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

### The Youth Sector

– means any group or organisation that provides services for young people.

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## MAIN ISSUES/CHALLENGES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:

### EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

- Lack of local employment opportunities for young people and school leavers specifically.
- Lack of alternative education for years 7 and 8 and Department of Education alternative BD/ED classes are full.
- Basic life/living skills that aren't taught in school.

### INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE

- Inclusive - Events, shopping centres. Services providing interactive young spaces.
- Lack of positive opportunities for young people (e.g. gaming forums, physical activities).

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Mental health: anxiety.
- Consistent staffing of mental health services.
- Not enough mental health services.
- Access to health care. Young, friendly appropriate doctors.

### ACCESS/TRANSPORT

- Social isolation, caused by lack of transport options and affordability.

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## MAIN ISSUES/CHALLENGES FOR THE YOUTH SECTOR:

### EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

- Linking young people to jobs/study after school. (Working with businesses to see what they can offer).
- Employment - not enough suitable and local employment.
- Linking with organisations/companies/businesses to take on young people - young people often need support to get into employment/training.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCE

- Geographical size and distance across the Coast to travel – causes time restraints.
- Driving so far and lack of awareness of services on a regional scale.
- Need more community transport that is youth specific and affordable.
- Geographical distance - time spent travelling versus providing services. E.g. NDIS charging increased amount for travel.

### FUNDING

- Lack of funding e.g. short contracts, tight criteria.
- Services at maximum capacity due to funding.
- Competitive tender processes - harder to collaborate when competing for the same funding.
- Funding can be taken/changed very easy - hard for the young clients.
- Funding not best practice approach - not linked to regional youth plan.

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## POSITIVE THINGS HAPPENING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:

### LIFESTYLE

- Beaches and skate parks - free activities.
- Safe environment, young people feel safe.
- Friendly atmosphere.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

- Programs available on the Central Coast for young people are diverse e.g. living skills at RYSS/Young parents hub - North Wyoong.
- Alternative schooling options on the Coast – there is over 3 options which is a lot for our Region.
- There are a lot of services on the Central Coast that all want the best for young people. E.g. RTO's with disability, mental health etc. support.
- Free wellbeing programs in local schools run across most high schools on the Central Coast.

### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- The natural environment on the Coast allows for opportunities for young people to be out and about and exploring in ways that are beneficial to many things, such as mental and physical health.
- Geographical positives, many options of different landscapes (beaches, country lifestyle, shops).

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## PRACTICAL ACTIONS/ STRATEGIES/IDEAS THAT COULD ADDRESS THE ISSUES/CHALLENGES:

### FUNDING

- More funding and longer contracts.
- More funding: groups of young people get missed/fall between the gaps – i.e. young people on the spectrum.
- Longer funding terms not linked to election cycles – takes a longer period of time to establish service and build rapport.

### PROGRAMS BY YOUNG PEOPLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Programs led by young people for young people. They know what they want and what they will attend.
- Peer based programs – an example of this is looking at the issues around sexual health – in the past this has worked well.
- Get young people to consult on the development of any new programs/initiatives coming to the Coast so that the service is actually giving the community what they want and need.

### REDUCE OR NO COST PROGRAMS

- Soft entry points - 'drop in' no longer exists but it's about being creative with entry into programs having low/no cost as an incentive for young people to attend and therefore open up about what they need and gain access to services.
- Social connections after school – extra-curricular activities that are free or low cost. Not necessarily a structured activity - gaming groups.
- Programs/activities/events in December and January for young people that are low or no cost. This is the time of year that young people are most isolated, in particular if they don't have funds to participate in activities through shopping centres etc.
- Run more expos/info days for young people to gain information about what's out there.

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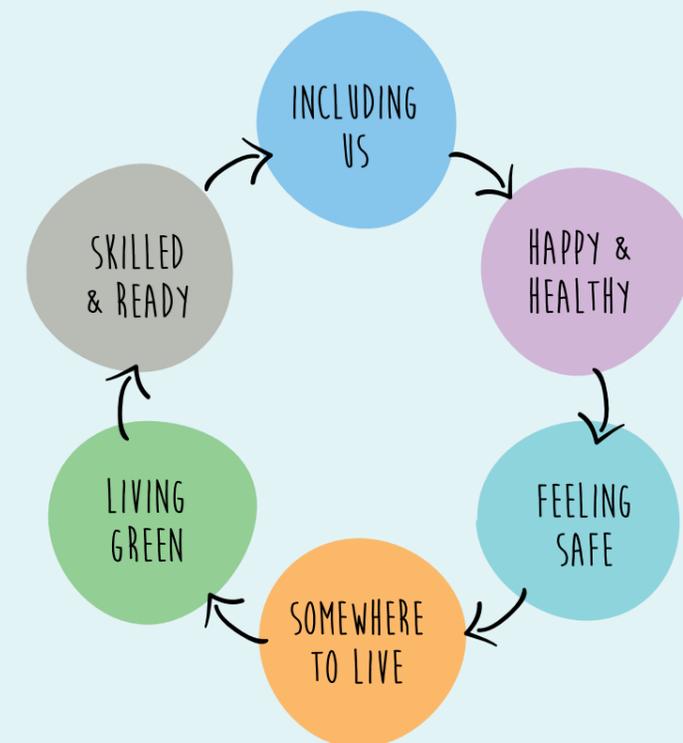


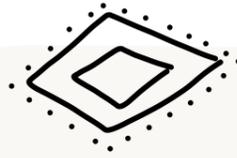
# WE HEARD WHAT - YOUNG PEOPLE - SAID

## SO HOW DOES THIS TRANSLATE TO A YOUTH STRATEGY?

Listening to young people – their opinions, thoughts, experiences, stories and knowledge has been the basis on which the Strategy has been developed. Over 1600 young people told us about living here on the Central Coast – the good, the bad and what we can be doing better. We had over 8000 thoughts, opinions and ideas – which is a huge amount of information!

With the help of Council's Y4Y Team, we analysed the data and some common themes began to emerge. Six key themes were identified:





# WHAT ARE THESE THEMES ABOUT?

## INCLUDING US

– is all about including young people in community life. This means:

- Providing opportunities for young people to have their say.
- Respecting, appreciating and including young people from diverse backgrounds and abilities in community life.
- Providing free and low cost place based programs/activities/events for young people.
- Reaching isolated young people.
- Celebrating young people.
- Providing funding for programs, activities, events and resources.
- Building and strengthening collaboration, skills and knowledge within and outside of the youth sector to support young people.

## HAPPY AND HEALTHY

– is all about young people feeling physically and mentally well. This means:

- Raising awareness of all aspects of youth health.
- Supporting and connecting young people to improve their health and wellbeing.
- Young people are active, healthy and thriving.

## FEELING SAFE

– is all about young people feeling emotionally and physically safe – both in their own places and out and about in public places and spaces. This means:

- Creating safe and welcoming places and spaces for young people.
- Providing options for young people to get around the region safely.

## SOMEWHERE TO LIVE

– is all about having somewhere affordable and safe to live – both now and in the future. This means:

- Making sure that there are a range of appropriate housing options for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- Making sure that there is a range of affordable housing choices for young people and their families.

## LIVING GREEN

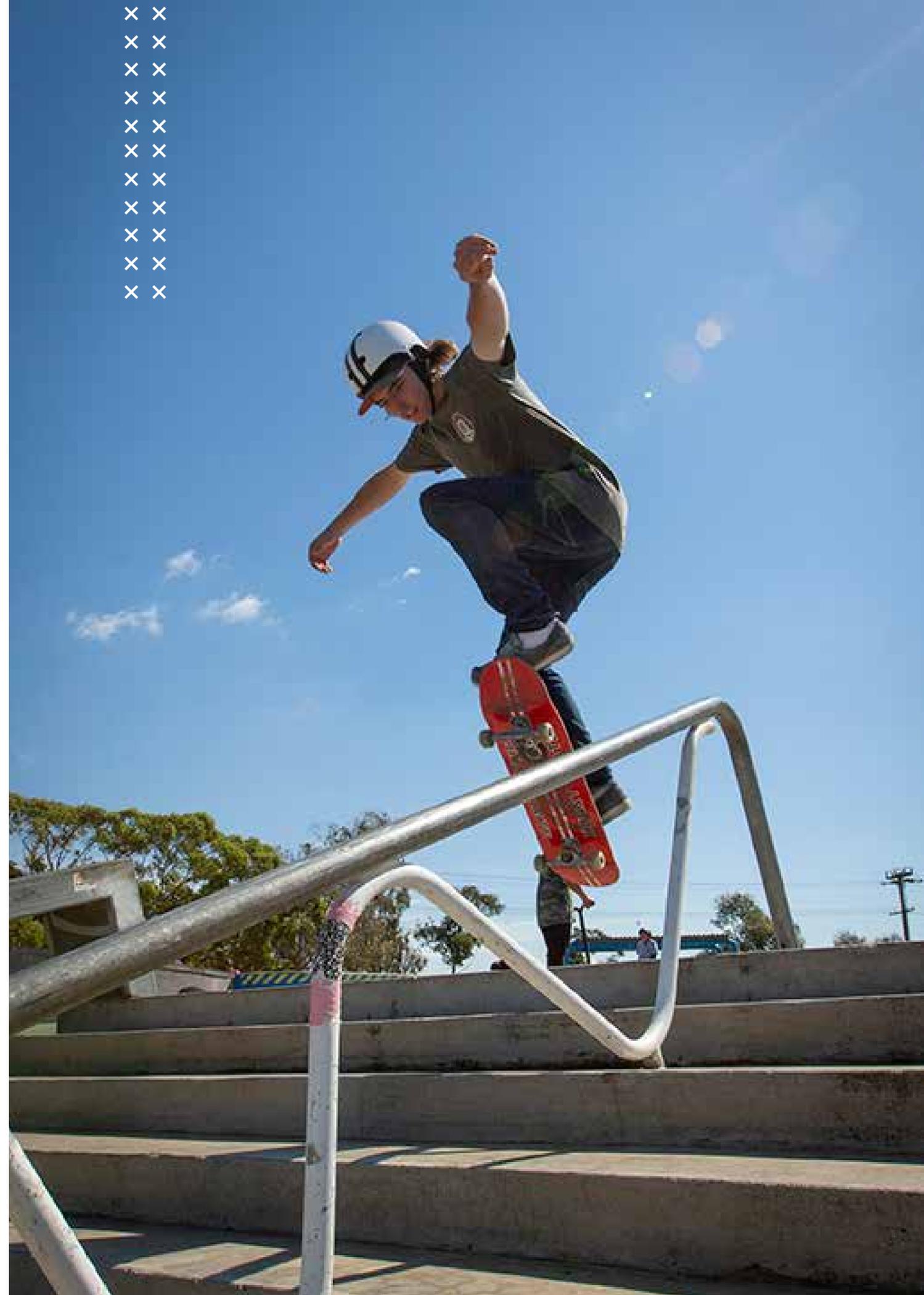
– is all about the beautiful natural environment on the Central Coast and what we as a community can do to look after it and ensure its existence for future generations. This means:

- Educating young people about our natural environment.
- Taking action on environmental issues/challenges.
- Connecting young people with the natural environment.

## SKILLED AND READY

– is all about improving young people's education and career opportunities and pathways. This means:

- Providing young people with skills for life.
- Linking young people with local business.
- Kick-starting young people's business ideas.
- Upskilling young people and providing pathways to employment.
- Supporting creative pathways.
- Embracing lifelong learning opportunities.



“ I want to grow up in a community that includes, encourages and engages with young people so that we can speak up honestly, carry the future on our shoulders and continue to progress in a positive way. ”

## ( INCLUDING US )



Young people enrich the life of our community. Making sure they are included in community life and local decision-making creates a more vibrant Central Coast – socially, culturally and economically.

It's important that young people from all backgrounds, talents and abilities are provided with the opportunity to participate. This means in local decision-making, in social opportunities, in sporting and cultural pursuits, in activities, programs and events that are aligned with the interests of young people.

Being included as a young person is associated with a range of interpersonal and developmental benefits. These include improving communication and social skills, building resilience and coping mechanisms, gaining early leadership experiences and establishing new social networks. Participating in local decision making where young people can express themselves and have their opinions taken seriously, builds self-confidence, leadership, negotiation and other transferable skills. When young people are encouraged to come up with their own ideas and solutions, they're often inspired to take action themselves.

## WHAT WE HEARD FROM

### YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people expressed that most people living on the Central Coast are friendly, kind and caring. They identified that there is a real sense of community and that the community really pulls together in times of need.

They feel that sporting activities, sporting clubs and recreation facilities on the Central Coast are fantastic and are very well catered to and inclusive of young people.

Young people identified that there are a great range of programs, events and activities on the Central Coast, delivered by a range of community-based and private providers, but the downside is that they aren't regular enough, don't particularly include young people or they aren't aware of what's going on.

Young people reported a lack of entertainment opportunities across the whole Central Coast. This is further exacerbated by the isolation of some of the smaller communities and an inadequate transport system, restricting young people's ability to get around easily.

Young people described the limited opportunities where they can access safe and affordable venues to socialise, meet their friends and hang out. Young people frequent public places and placed a high value on facilities such as shopping centres because these social areas are free to access and a safe place to hang out.

Young people voiced the need for upgrades or improvements in places where young people hang out. There were recurring comments about facilities, public spaces and youth specific places feeling unsafe, poorly maintained and not having facilities such as rubbish bins, shade, seating, lighting etc.

There was a desire for more youth centres/spaces, cultural facilities (dance, arts, and theatre) and skate parks - that are well designed, vibrant and linked to other services and multipurpose places.

Young people want their voices to be heard and have their say. Many feel they are not listened to or they are let down when they are involved. They highly valued social media and face-to-face communication methods.

## YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY ARE INCLUDED WHEN:

- ☐ **Their voices are heard.**
- ☐ **They are provided with opportunities to participate.**
- ☐ **They feel a sense of belonging.**
- ☐ **They have things to do.**
- ☐ **They have a positive image in the community.**
- ☐ **They are celebrated.**

“ To make the Central Coast a better place, I want Young People to be able to freely speak their opinions on certain topics and also to come up with creative ideas and hold youth events, programs and activities that include young people like we are a part of the community. ”

“ It would be great to see Council involving young people in strategic planning, policy and decision making (like you are now) but more actively through working parties etc. ”

“ Hold larger youth appropriate events that are entertaining and could ultimately give back to the community and environment such as concerts, clean up days, fundraisers, etc. ”

“ To build and have an inclusive community with more awareness of disabilities young people face and less discrimination against young people in general. ”

“ Thank you for making an effort in asking young people about the Central Coast. ”

“ In the future the Central Coast could create multiple youth spaces in which young people can be encouraged to meet and have planned events that gather a variety of different young personalities from suburbs all across the coast and bring them together to help increase each other's confidence, abilities and give the opportunity to make new friendships. ”

“ Having regular safe, supervised events catered to each targeted audience, i.e. 18+ events, more youth focused activities for 13-18. ”

“ I am a queer person in my 20s and I sometimes do not feel safe expressing myself in public. ”

## DID YOU KNOW?

20%

of young people said that the people and sense of community makes the Central Coast a great place to live.

7.4%

of young people who responded to the survey were Indigenous.

4.4%

of young people who responded to the survey were not born in Australia and 1.2% of young people spoke a language other than English at home (Japanese, German, Bosnian, Serbian, Hindi, Mandarin, and Afrikaans).

6%

of young people who completed the survey identified as having a disability.



Council has a Y4Y Team who are elected every year to act, advocate and advise on youth related issues.



Council has a Youth Services Team who provide a range of programs, activities, events for young people across the Central Coast.

“ More free, fun, interactive activities would be good! And during those activities it would be a good place to raise awareness about topical issues like environmental concerns and mental health. ”

“ I'd love to be able to go to a place my friends and I can hang out at after school. We could "hang", be safe, get advice or support about life, issues, jobs etc. It needs to be close to school, home & public transport. ”

“ I struggle to find things here to do with my friends on the weekend - especially in the colder months, other than the movies there's not much around the Northern end of the Coast. ”

“ Council should focus on the delivery of better youth engagement through activities and events, social media campaigns and pop-up community consultations to speak to the youth which who aren't aware of these surveys and strategies being undertaken. ”

INCLUDING US - WHAT WE'LL DO

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION
<b>Provide opportunities for young people to have their say.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Establish and support the Youth Action Team (Y4Y) to be the voice of, and represent young people and youth related issues on the Central Coast.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Run annual 'Thinking Out Loud' Y4Y Youth Forum to discuss issues facing young people on the Central Coast.
	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Run targeted engagement with young people for major Council projects. Engagement activities should consider different ways to engage with young people.
	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Close the feedback loop - get back to young people on the outcome of the engagement process, acknowledging their contribution and how that has informed decision-making.
	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Establish and maintain a youth focused and run online presence through campaigns designed to promote, raise awareness of upcoming events, programs, services and opportunities for young people.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
Y4Y team is established and serve 15 month terms. Y4Y team develop and implement 3 Actions per year. A direct link is established between Council and young people on the Central Coast, providing a youth perspective on Councils' policies, planning, programs and projects. 10-12 young people per year develop leadership skills.	Youth Services Team.	Young people, Youth Sector, Y4Y members.
1 youth forum is held per year based on current/topical issues. Feedback is provided to Council and external stakeholders by the Y4Y members on any relevant information to ensure that Council, schools and local services have an understanding of emerging priorities for local young people.	Youth Services Team.	Y4Y members, young people, schools, Youth Sector.
Major projects are identified. Youth Services Team is consulted regarding involvement from young people. Engagement options are identified in consultation with Youth Services Team and Y4Y. More young people are engaged.	Community Engagement Team Youth Services Team.	Communications Team, Marketing Team, relevant Council Units, Y4Y members, young people.
Outcomes of participation are communicated to young people (both those involved and wider community). Young people are aware of how their input has impacted.	Community Engagement Team Youth Services Team.	Communications Team, Marketing Team, relevant Council Units, Y4Y members, young people.
Online presence established. Media is designed specifically for young people with input from Y4Y. More young people are connected to Council's youth social media outlets. Young people are informed about youth-related programs/events activities/opportunities. More young people attend programs/events activities/opportunities.	Communications Team.	Youth Services Team, Y4Y members.

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION
<b>Respect, appreciate and include young people from diverse backgrounds and abilities in community life.</b>	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Partner with and support key organisations and Council Units to deliver targeted programs, events and activities to young people from diverse backgrounds and abilities (e.g. the ultimate gamer program, wheelchair motor cross, idea to screen, sister city youth programs) providing young people with opportunity to connect, participate and learn in a safe, social and supportive environment.
	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 2 - ONGOING</b>	Create places and spaces that are more welcoming of diverse young people by displaying markers of respect and appreciation for diversity (e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island rainbow icons) on display at places where programs are run for young people.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Develop and deliver Cultural Awareness programs, events and activities that connect young people to Place e.g. NGURA, Indigenous Surf Camp, Maliga, Refugee week, Youth Exchange program.
<b>Build and strengthen collaboration, skills and knowledge within and outside of the youth sector to support young people.</b>	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Engage in youth sector networking opportunities to build connections, skills, knowledge and best practice approaches to working with young people.
	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Develop a communications/ awareness raising plan for the Youth Services Team to encourage all Council staff to consult the Youth Services Team as population group experts when designing projects that impact young people to ensure best practice approaches are implemented.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
Programs, events, activities developed and delivered. Increased numbers of young people from diverse backgrounds and abilities participating in programs/activities/events. Utilising feedback from participants to create future programming.	Dependant on project.	Youth Services Team, relevant Council Units, Youth Sector, local businesses, non-profit organisations.
Relevant places and spaces are identified. Approval sought and given for display of icons. Icons are installed.	Community Infrastructure Team Place Management Team.	Youth Services Team, Y4Y members, Local Youth Sector, local businesses, schools.
Increased numbers of young people from Indigenous heritage participating in cultural awareness programs, events and activities. Cultural awareness is increased Young Indigenous people feel more connected to Country and Place.	Community and Cultural Programs Team.	Local Indigenous organisations, Community Elders, schools, local businesses, Youth Services Team, relevant Council Units.
Youth Services Team participate in sector networking. New connections and linkages made. Youth Services Team gain updated knowledge/skills. Best practice approaches implemented.	Youth Services Team.	Youth Sector, peak bodies, schools.
Marketing/Comms campaign developed and implemented for Council's Youth Services Team. Other sections/units/departments are aware of the role of the Youth Services Team. Youth Services Team is consulted by other sections/units/departments of Council on youth matters/issues/engagement. Best-practice approaches are implemented when working with young people.	Communications Team.	Youth Services Team, Y4Y members.

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION
(CONTINUED...) <b>Build and strengthen collaboration, skills and knowledge within and outside of the youth sector to support young people.</b>	ONGOING	Continue to support the Central Coast Youth Interagency.
	ONGOING	Support professional development training opportunities to the youth sector.
<b>Provide funding for programs, activities, events and resources.</b>	ONGOING	Promote Council's community grants program to provide funding to support projects activities and programs that link to the priorities of the Youth Strategy and provide opportunities for initiatives led and run by young people.
	ONGOING	Coordinate annual grant funding for youth week programs/activities/events/resources.
<b>Provide free and low cost Place based programs/activities/events for young people.</b>	ONGOING	Transition away from a centre-based youth services model to an outreach model to allow greater participation from a broader range of young people in activities, programs, events, skills development.
	NEW YEAR 1 - ONGOING	Develop and facilitate a program/activity for young people based at Lake Haven Youth Space.
	NEW YEAR 1 - ONGOING	Work with Y4Y and Youth Services Team to provide youth specific activities at key community events so that young people are welcome and included.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
11 Central Coast Youth Interagency Meetings are held per year. Council Youth Services Team representative attends meetings. Sector is connected and informed on current issues/trends.	Youth Services Team.	Youth Sector, Government and non-Government Organisations.
Minimum of 1 training opportunity per year for the Youth Sector. Participants are upskilled on relevant topic.	Youth Services Team.	Government and non-Government Organisations, Youth Sector, Education, Employment and Training providers.
Grants opportunities advertised to young people and Youth Sector. Innovative and relevant training provided to young people in grant applications. Y4Y involved in assessing grant applications. Projects funded and implemented and acquitted.	Grants and Funding Team.	Youth Services Team, Y4Y members.
Grant rounds advertised, applications received and assessed. Projects funded and implemented and acquitted.	Youth Services Team.	Y4Y members, Youth Sector, FACS.
Free and affordable programs developed and implemented across locations on the Central Coast. Increased number of young people access programs. Different locations targeted – young people provide input into future programming and locations.	Youth Services Team.	Community and Cultural Programs Team, Events Team, Enterprise and Activation Team, Libraries, Open Space and Recreation, local schools.
Program developed and implemented at Lake Haven Youth Space. Young people access programs and activities. Young people provide input into future programming.	Youth Services Team.	YMCA Lake Haven, local schools, Young people.
Youth Services Team and Events Team work together to identify potential events. Youth specific activities are provided. More young people attending community events.	Events Team.	Youth Services Team, Y4Y, Youth Sector, local businesses, schools.

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION
<b>(CONTINUED...)</b>  <b>Provide free and low cost Place based programs/activities /events for young people.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Partner with Council Units, local Youth Sector and schools to provide recreation activities, events and programs to young people across the Central Coast.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Run skills development programs for young people to explore a broad range of disciplines across wellbeing, fitness and the arts e.g. animation, DJ, engineering and production, graphic design, guitar, MMA based at The Hub Erina.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Promote affordable events and activities for young people.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Partner with key stakeholders to provide in-school programs for young people focused on a range of hot topic issues/key concerns e.g. Anger management, domestic violence, bullying, social isolation, social media, mental health.
<b>Reach isolated young people.</b>	<b>NEW YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Purchase and fit-out a fully equipped van (with music/DJ, sporting, arts equipment) to provide outreach programs/activities and events for young people in isolated communities.
<b>Celebrate young people.</b>	<b>NEW YEAR 2 - ONGOING</b>	Promote the contribution young people make to our community through local media and Council publications e.g. minimum of 6 positive stories per year and explore other third party media outlets to speak positively about young people.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Showcase the creative and artistic works of young people in Council's exhibition, galleries, venues and public spaces.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Recognise and celebrate the contribution of young people through various channels e.g. Central Coast Australia Day Awards - Youth of the Year, RYDON Youth Awards.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
Free and affordable programs developed and implemented across locations on the Central Coast. Increased number of young people access programs. Different locations targeted.	Dependant on project.	Young people, Youth Services Team, Youth Sector, relevant Council Units, schools, businesses.
Free and affordable programs developed and implemented. Increased number of young people access programs. Young people provide input into future programming.	Dependant on project.	Youth Services Team, Young people, Industry Sector Professionals, local businesses.
Develop and deliver Central Coast wide youth week calendar of events. Promote all youth inclusive events to young people. Young people are informed and attend events/activities.	Youth Services Team.	Communications and Marketing Teams, Young people, Youth Sector.
Hot topic/ key concerns identified by Council and stakeholders. Programs developed and implemented. Young people increase skills and knowledge to address issues/ challenges.	Youth Services Team.	Youth Sector, schools, local businesses.
Free and affordable programs developed and implemented. Increased number of young people access programs/activities provided from Youth Van. Isolated locations targeted.	Youth Services Team.	Young people, Youth Sector, local businesses, schools.
Increase in number of positive stories on young people in Council publications. % of stories to focus on young people. Increase in number of positive stories on young people in local media.	Communications Team.	Youth Services Team, local media outlets, Schools, Youth Sector.
Exhibition, gallery, community and public spaces identified for exhibition of young people's artistic works.	Dependant on project.	Youth Services Team, Arts and Culture Section, Youth Sector, schools, businesses, young people.
More young people are nominated for awards. Award winners are recognised and celebrated. Award winners are recognised at annual Y4Y youth forum.	Dependant on project.	Youth Services Team, Youth Sector, Events Team.

“ Being physically and mentally healthy dictates much of how you live your life, like what job and education you will strive for. I rank this as the most important to me above all else. ”

## HAPPY AND HEALTHY

A young person's health and wellbeing is central to their ability to participate and engage in their community and society, their ability to successfully move through childhood into adolescence and adulthood, and their ability to live long healthy lives. Central Coast young people and the organisations that support them have identified that addressing issues of health and wellbeing is critical to ensure they are able to reach their life goals and aspirations.

Adolescence is a period of great change for all young people and this time can include a whole range of physical, social, emotional and academic challenges. It is a time when young people are seeking independence, finding out who they are, transitioning into adulthood and often facing pressures from school, social and online environments.

Young people are exposed to choices and behaviours that can significantly affect their current and future health. Educating, discussing and dealing with health concerns and choices when they arise, can really improve young people's quality of life and establish positive health and social behaviours.

### WHAT WE HEARD FROM - YOUNG PEOPLE -

Central Coast young people expressed their mental and physical health as being the top priority area for the Region. They want healthy relationships, good physical and mental health and strong connections with community.

Many are extremely concerned about their own and other young people's mental health. They are worried that they are seeing more and more young people struggling with their mental health and not knowing where to go to get support.

They're also concerned about their physical health and are worried about the increasing numbers of young people who are overweight and obese. Many young people mentioned the need to access healthier food choices, but were limited in terms of choice, education and affordability.

Schools are supportive but don't seem to have enough resources to cope with the huge issue of mental health. Young people felt that school staff should be more educated and aware of student's mental health and be more proactive in seeking appropriate help for students.

Young people continue to turn to their family and friends in a time of need.



## DID YOU KNOW?

- 84%** of young people who completed the survey rated mental health as very important.
- ✓** Almost 1 in 4 young people who completed the survey rated mental health as their top priority area.
- 75.6%** of young people who completed the survey rated their physical health as really important.
- 41%** of young people who completed the survey said they would utilise a youth service or private practice for assistance.
- X** In 2017, 16.3% of people aged 16+ experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress (HealthStats NSW).
- ✓** Numbers of intentional self harm hospitalisations of young people aged 15-24 decreased between 2015/16 and 2016/17 (HealthStats NSW).
- X** In 2016/17 only 29% of children and young people had adequate physical activity, and 45% had a sedentary lifestyle (HealthStats NSW).
- X** Only 7.4% of children and young people had an adequate consumption of vegetables, while 64.4% had an adequate consumption of fruit (HealthStats NSW).

“ I like to live a healthy life. ”

Albeit my physical health isn't perfect I like to try my best. I stay active playing sports and going to the gym. I only get one body so I have to look after it.

“ We need more awareness for ”

mental health in youth - it is becoming worse and therefore will affect us more in the future.

“ It would be a good idea to have more ”

programs to combat physical health issues in young people to help tackle the growing number of obese population.

“ Mental health in young people is ”

becoming a major problem today.

“ Suicide is one of the biggest reasons ”

of death for kids around my age and the numbers are still rising no one deserves to feel so hurt that their only escape is killing themselves.

“ We need to have some LGBT clubs ”

and talk about mental health more.

### YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL HAPPY AND HEALTHY WHEN:

- They aren't stressed and pressured.**
- They are supported and connected to services that can help.**
- They are aware, involved and connected with family, friends and the community.**
- They have opportunities to get out and about in the natural environment.**
- They are active, healthy and thriving.**

# HAPPY AND HEALTHY - WHAT WE'LL DO

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION
<b>Raise awareness of all aspects of youth health.</b>	<b>NEW YEAR 1</b>	Y4Y team hold a colour run event in late 2019 as part of the Central Coast Lakes Festival.
<b>Support and connect young people to improve their health and wellbeing.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Partner with key internal and external stakeholders to hold a youth employee expo focusing on health, wellbeing and support e.g. The Dash.
	<b>NEW YEAR 2 - ONGOING</b>	Explore avenues, programs and activities to further assist and support young employees with their mental health and wellbeing.
<b>Young people are active.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Hold skateboard skills development workshops (Bowl Groms) for young people with a component specifically targeting young females to address gender balance within the sport.
	<b>NEW YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	In 2 new playgrounds (one north and one south) develop a specific section for young people e.g. Speers Point Park, Rouse Hill Park.
	<b>NEW YEAR 2</b>	Promote existing and identify new trails/walks to young people to get out and active in the natural environment.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
Y4Y Team develop and run the event. Utilise the event and social media platforms to highlight and raise awareness of health challenges that young people face. Provide opportunities for artistic expression of youth health issues along the colour run course. Partner with Central Coast Youth and Health related services to provide information to young people.	Y4Y Team.	Youth Services Team, Events, Youth Sector, Youth Health, local businesses, community members.
Expo concept is developed in partnership with People and Culture. Young employees participate and connect with relevant services. Young employees are more supported and connected within the organisation. Young employees provide feedback regarding ongoing programs of interest and support needs.	Youth Services Team.	Workforce Development, libraries, Youth Sector, financial institutions.
Feedback from young employees reviewed. Programs developed to support identified needs. Young employees participate in program. Young employees' mental health and wellbeing improved.	Youth Services Team.	Workforce Development Headspace, Youth Health.
Workshops developed and run. Young people participate and learn new skills. Increased numbers of young women. Increased utilisation of skate parks.	Youth Services Team.	Open Space and Recreation Unit, Schools, young people, local businesses.
Locations identified. Young people involved in design and location selection. Plans developed. Equipment installed. Increased use of playgrounds by young people.	Open Space and Recreation Unit.	Youth Services Team, young people, local businesses.
Identify all existing trails / walks. Develop youth friendly promotions materials. Advertise trails / walks. Increased use of trails / walks.	Open Space and Recreation Unit.	Youth Services Team, Communications Team, young people.

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION	WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
(Continued)...  Young people are active.	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 3 –</b> <b>ONGOING</b>	Promote the location of existing and develop new outdoor gyms that include equipment for young people e.g. Bondi Beach.	Identify all existing outdoor gyms. Develop youth friendly promotional materials. Advertise outdoor gyms. Increased use of outdoor gyms.	Open Space and Recreation Unit.	Youth Services Team, young people, local businesses.
	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 –</b> <b>ONGOING</b>	Maintain/upgrade existing and develop new skate parks as identified in the Skate Park Strategy e.g. Umina re-development and Lake Munmorah District Skate park.	Skate parks are identified for maintenance/upgrade. New Skate parks are developed.	Open Space and Recreation Unit.	Youth Services Team, Y4Y members, Youth Sector, local businesses, schools, young people.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Hold the annual Central Coast Series - Skate, Scoot and BMX competition. Locations decided by young people in the previous year.	Minimum 3 events held per year. Increased numbers of young people attend and compete in events. Following year locations decided by young people.	Youth Services Team.	Youth Services, local businesses.



“ Feeling safe is very important, it affects everything you do and say and think. Not feeling safe where you are can cause all sorts of things like paranoia and severe mental stress, and from stress can cause further problems. When you don't feel safe, the feeling prevents you from doing things that YOU want to do. Feeling safe is very important, it gives a chance for you and other people involved in your life to be happy. ”

## ◀◀ FEELING SAFE ▶▶

'Feeling Safe' is all about young people feeling physically and emotionally secure in their own places and when they're out and about in public spaces.

There are several important factors that contribute to young people's views of a safe community, including having somewhere safe to live, the physical environment; design of places and spaces; community spirit and connection with neighbours, family, friends and networks; and

access to support services when they need help.

For young people, qualities such as being friendly, welcoming, open, respectful and inclusive are important indicators of whether a place is safe or not. Issues for young people around public safety often result in increased law-enforcement measures (designed to push young people out) however, much can be done to make communities safer, by creating better

links between different groups in the community, community engagement activities that seek to include young people and connecting young people with place.

Young people who are more connected to their place often feel safer in their local area, feel more positive about their own wellbeing, have greater levels of personal resilience, and stronger social connections to others.

## WHAT WE HEARD FROM - YOUNG PEOPLE -

Most young people consulted reported feeling safe in their communities and think the Central Coast is a pretty safe place to live, however perceptions of safety were influenced by both experience (witnessing or experiencing violent behaviour) and what is reported in the media.

Safety was raised consistently; including the need for measures against violence, drug abuse and youth homelessness. There was significant concern that young people in trouble at home have nowhere to go and could end up homeless, alone and at risk.

Young people also described the physical environment as having an impact on their sense of safety. Many young people reported not having enough street lights, footpaths or safe public transport options in their suburbs.

Young people like to hang out with their friends - they aren't yet old enough to go to licensed venues, but they are too old for 'kid stuff'. They would like to see more 'safe and inclusive spaces' in their community. This includes youth-friendly places where they could access individual help and referrals from youth workers when needed, places to study and places to spend time with their friends, spaces

which are culturally appropriate and are safe for all groups of diverse young people.

In some of the places they can hang out, many young people don't feel safe and they feel these places look run-down and uncared for e.g. Gosford CBD. They also identified that in places where they hang out there aren't enough bins to throw their rubbish away which makes the place look unclean and uncared for.

Young people also feel that they are pigeon-holed or stereotyped and are often blamed for all anti-social behaviour in public places when they are simply hanging out with their friends. They would like to see more positive perceptions of young people portrayed.

“ Less violence and crime ”  
(particularly late at night), more lighting on beaches and parks later at night.

“ Feeling safe is a necessity for ”  
young people in the local community because if you do not feel safe then you inflict bad choices on yourself and others around you.



“ Increase safety in popular areas ”  
such as Kibble Park.

“ We need more pathways, ”  
pedestrian crossings and bike paths so that young people can get around in a safer and more independent way.

“ I struggle to feel safe out and about ”  
by myself on the coast in most areas.

## YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL SAFE WHEN:

- ❑ **They are not exposed to violence, bullying or harassment.**
- ❑ **Places and spaces are safe and welcoming.**
- ❑ **They can access help and support when needed.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

91%

of young people who completed the survey selected 'feeling safe' as really important

X

Children and young people on the Central Coast have a higher rate than NSW of being victims of domestic violence and also alcohol related domestic violence (Bureau of Crime Statistics BOCSAR).

✓

Drug offences committed by young people are much lower compared to NSW (BOCSAR).

7.5%

of young people who completed the survey would not tell anyone if they needed help.

## FEELING SAFE - WHAT WE'LL DO

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION
<b>Places and spaces are safe and welcoming.</b>	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Co-design with young people youth-friendly public spaces that address a range of age specific needs such as seating, hanging out safely with friends, youth friendly cafes, multipurpose courts, playground / parkour equipment, interactive and colourful public art, food trucks, events etc.
	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 2</b>	Investigate options to provide free Wi-Fi and advertise existing free Wi-Fi in parks, town centres, skate parks, community facilities and other places where young people gather.
	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Create safe public spaces through measures such as lighting, design, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles with a particular focus on creating safe places for all young people.
	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Design new and review existing (where appropriate) layout of community facilities including libraries to incorporate appropriate spaces for young people.
<b>Getting around safely.</b>	<b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Provide safe transport options (where appropriate) for young people to enable participation in Council services, programs, events and activities.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Connect existing and provide new accessible pathway/cycleway networks that attract young people and provide access to where they want to go.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Continue to provide existing and develop new road safety programs and initiatives designed to keep young people safe on our roads. e.g. the Blue Datto program, Supervising Learner Drivers - Graduated Licencing Scheme (GLS).

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
Young people are included as key stakeholders in the design of places and spaces to be more youth-friendly. Young people's input is reflected in design. Places and spaces are more youth friendly. Young people feel part of the community and are welcomed in public places and spaces.	Dependant on project.	Youth Services Team, Community and Cultural Programs Team, Place Management Team, Events Team, Strategic Planning, Open Space and Recreation, Community Planning, Y4Y members, young people.
Y4Y identify locations where Wi-Fi would be highly utilised by young people. Develop proposal for Wi-Fi locations. Wi-Fi is implemented. Young people utilise free Wi-Fi.	Place Management Team IT.	Youth Services Team, Community and Cultural Programs Team, Community Infrastructure Team, Events Team, Strategic Planning, Open Space and Recreation, Community Planning, Y4Y members, young people.
Young people are included as key stakeholders in the design of safe public places and spaces. Young people's input is reflected in safer design. Places and spaces are safer places for young people to be. Young people feel safe.	Dependant on project.	Youth Services Team, Community and Cultural Programs Team, Place Management Team, Events Team, Strategic Planning, Open Space and Recreation, Community Planning, Y4Y members, young people.
Community facilities (e.g. community centres, libraries) incorporate specific areas for young people.	Community Planning Team Community Infrastructure Team Libraries.	Youth Services Team, Community Infrastructure Team, Y4Y members, young people.
More young people are able to participate in Council services, programs, events and activities as a result of access to transport.	Dependant on project.	Youth Services Team, relevant Units, Y4Y members, young people.
A network of safe pathways and cycleways for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchairs etc. linking young people to key destinations across the LGA.	Open Space and Recreation.	Transport providers, Youth Services Team, relevant Council Units, Y4Y members, young people.
Programs developed and implemented. Increased numbers of young people participating in programs. Young people's behaviours and attitudes are impacted. Road safety incidents decrease.	Community Education Team.	NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), Blue Datto, Little Blue Dinosaur Foundation, NRMA.

“ Even though I want to live on the coast when I leave school, I am ”  
not sure if I can afford to buy a house where I want to live

## +++++++ SOMEWHERE TO LIVE ++++++

For young people living on the Central Coast, finding a property to rent or buy is really tough, expensive and competitive. Young people were once able to move out of home after leaving high school or even earlier, and purchase a house later in life. However, this is increasingly not an option to young people living on the Central Coast today. Availability and affordability of appropriate housing are significant issues for young people.

### WHAT WE HEARD FROM

#### YOUNG PEOPLE

The issue of homelessness was of concern to young people both from a community and personal perspective. Many had personally experienced being homeless and/or having friends who were 'couch surfing' because they had nowhere to go and could end up homeless, alone and at risk. There were also many comments on how visible rough sleepers are and the need to help and prevent this happening.

A lack of affordable housing options for young people and their families was also identified. Many young people expressed that they were unsure of whether they could live on the Central Coast in the future because it was no longer an affordable area to buy or rent.

“ I want to buy land with my partner ”  
and live sustainably. Not sure if the  
coast is affordable enough.

“ Try and make housing more ”  
affordable for future home buyers

“ More affordable high rise living ”  
in areas that have our future jobs such  
as Gosford and Tuggerah

“ With the population of the Central ”  
Coast growing we will need to build  
more places to give youth shelter in Gosford  
have made a massive difference in their lives.

“ I've known schoolmates affected ”  
by homelessness or other unfortunate circumstances  
such as this and youth-aimed schemes and shelters  
such as the youth shelter in Gosford have made  
a massive difference in their lives. More programs such  
as these would make  
a great difference in the community

### DID YOU KNOW?

89%

of young people who completed the survey selected 'having somewhere to live' as really important.



Coast Shelter reported that in 2017, 17,829 overnight beds were provided to young people and 266 young people were accommodated.

35%

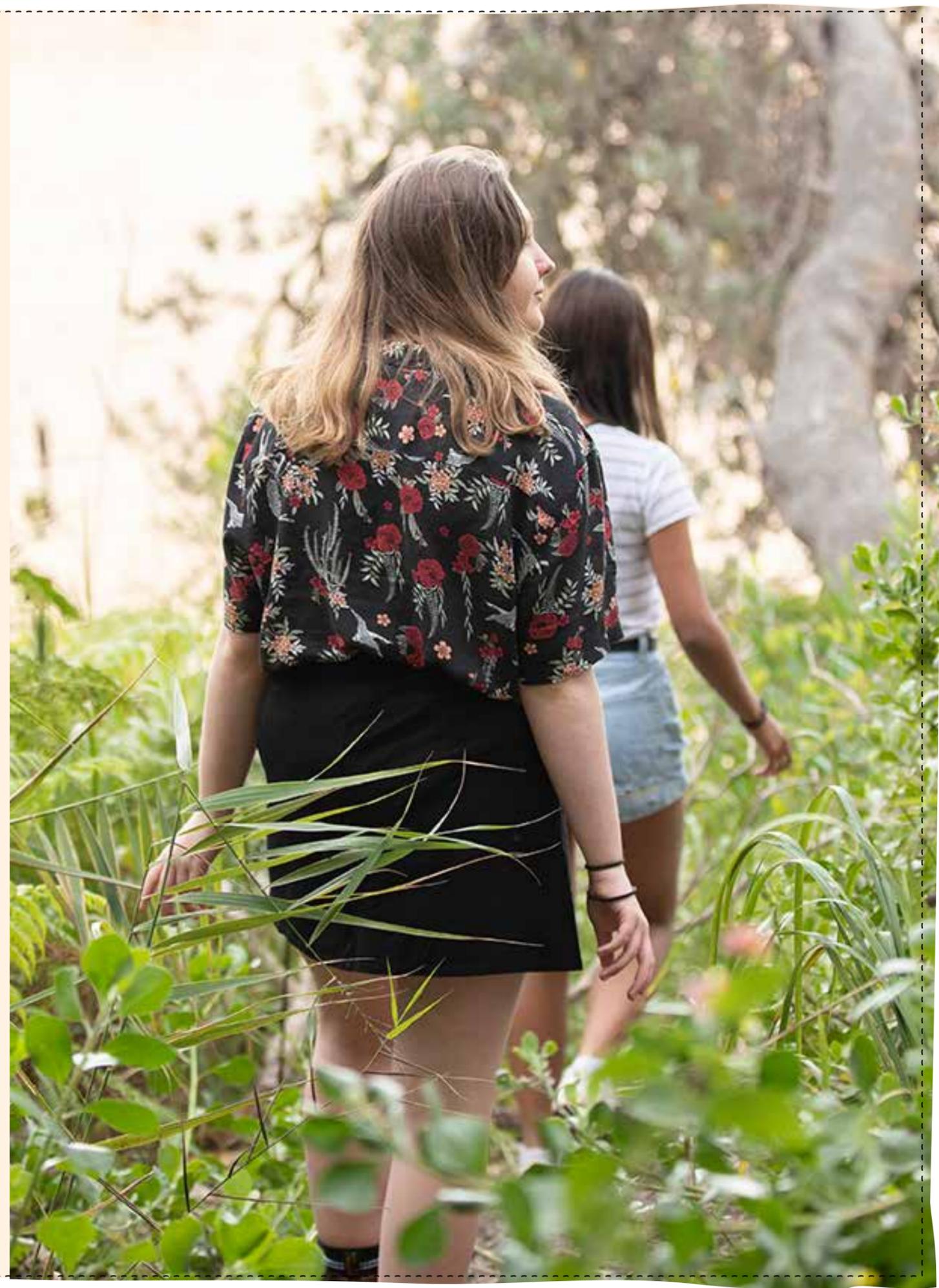
There was a 35% increase in homelessness in the Central Coast from 2011 to 2016.

2%

Only 2% of available rental stock in the Central Coast is affordable to very low income renters.

### YOUNG PEOPLE CAN CHOOSE TO LIVE ON THE CENTRAL COAST WHEN:

- ❑ **There is a range of housing options.**
- ❑ **Housing options are affordable to rent and buy.**
- ❑ **Accommodation and support is available for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.**



SOMEWHERE TO LIVE - WHAT WE'LL DO

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION	WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
A range of appropriate housing options for young people.	<b>NEW YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Support implementation of the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy.	Strategy is adopted by Council. Implementation plan is developed. Strategy is implemented.	Community and Cultural Programs Team.	Youth Services Team, Community Planning, Community Housing providers, Youth Sector.
	<b>NEW YEAR 2 - ONGOING</b>	Partner with Community Housing Providers (CHP) to develop well-located Council-owned sites for multi tenure affordable housing partnerships (including young people in tenure mix).	Council owned land is identified. EOI process is undertaken to partner with a CHP. Development is constructed. Young people are included in development tenure mix.	Community and Cultural Programs Team.	Leasing and Property Management, Community Housing providers, Youth Sector.
	<b>NEW YEAR 3 - ONGOING</b>	Partner with housing and homelessness sector to build capacity of programs for young people.	Affordable accommodation options are provided for young people / their families.	Community and Cultural Programs Team.	Housing Sector, Youth Services Team, Community Planning, Community Housing providers, Youth Sector.



“ The natural environment is the only thing that is really keeping us alive and without it we won't exist. All this money, transport, education - everything, it's great, but it's not what is keeping us alive and is going to continue to keep us alive, or should do, but climate change is having such a massive impact on the natural environment that we need to act, NOW. ”

## LIVING GREEN



Living Green is all about the beautiful, natural environment of the Central Coast and what we as a community can do to look after it and ensure its existence for future generations. The natural environment is extremely important and has close linkages to health and wellbeing - not only of young people, but for all residents and visitors.

Just like the rest of the community, young people live in, interact with and think about their environment on a daily basis. The state of the environment is a topic of significant community and political debate, on which young people have strong opinions and beliefs. They are constantly exposed to media and consequently they have a sophisticated understanding of the environment and environmental concerns such as pollution, loss of natural habitats and biodiversity and climate change.

## WHAT WE HEARD FROM - YOUNG PEOPLE -

When young people were asked 'What makes the Central Coast a good place?', the third most common response was the natural environment - especially the beaches, lakes and bushland.

The majority said that the beauty of and the proximity to the lakes and beaches was the main thing that they love about living on the Central Coast.

Young people love the natural environment - they love the access they have to beaches, lakes waterways and bushland, but they are also really concerned about its declining condition, the amount of rubbish and pollution on the coast, and particularly the amount of plastic in the ocean.

The preservation of the environment was very important and green open spaces, bushland, reserves and walking trails for active and passive recreation was highly valued. Young people thought there was also a need for more youth specific activities to educate and connect them to the environment in a positive way.

Many were also very worried that with the increased population growth, housing and industry development, that the natural amenity and amount of plants and animals will be lost. The environment was seen as an important factor to be maintained and protected further to create a balance with the increased development and in order to maintain a healthy community.

“ Have more recycling places where you can cash in your recycling it will encourage more kids to recycle and it could be other products too not just cans. ”

“ To have a cleaner environment Council should encourage the public to take care of the environment by making programs or teaching young kids at a young age about the environment and how it will affect them. ”



“ PLASTIC. I hate plastic it's a terrible thing that I want to prevent from ending up in our oceans. A little bin that you have to take when you're at the beach that hooks on your pants and you can pick up plastic and put it in there. ”

“ Not to overpopulate and deconstruct the natural environment, due to clearing habitats and building more houses/businesses. ”

“ Try to keep all landmarks, parks etc. the same as now so that the next generation can experience the environment we are. ”

“ Better awareness about our natural coastal environment and how to protect it. ”

“ We need a cleaner and more well-maintained environment. ”

“ We can't fight to change the conditions of anything or better society if we don't have a planet to live on. ”

## DID YOU KNOW?

22%

Over 22% young people who completed the survey said that they love the natural environment of the Central Coast, particularly the beaches, lakes and bushland.

13%

of young people who completed the survey said we need a clean and healthy environment in the future.

10.8%

of young people who completed the survey said that if they were the boss of the Central Coast, they'd clean up our local environment.



The Central Coast has 16 beaches along over 80 kilometres of coastline.



If you take 3 pieces of rubbish with you when you leave the beach, lake, or anywhere - you have made a difference to reducing litter in our natural areas.

## YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY ARE INCLUDED WHEN:

- They take part in caring for and protecting the natural environment.
- They feel educated and are making informed decisions about the environment.
- They are out in, and enjoying the environment of the Central Coast.

# LIVING GREEN - WHAT WE'LL DO

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION
<b>Educate young people about our natural environment.</b>	<b>NEW YEAR 3</b>	Develop unique youth friendly signage for recycling bins and recycle centres to help educate young people to know about what can and can't be recycled.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Inspire, educate, and inform young people about the environmental challenges that the Central Coast faces and work together to develop innovative solutions to sustainability.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Continue the partnership with environmental groups to get into schools to increase knowledge of litter and plastics impacts on waterways and catchments.
<b>Take action on environmental issues/challenges.</b>	<b>NEW YEAR 2</b>	Y4Y to research and investigate opportunities (e.g. a refill stations project) to reduce litter and single use of plastics in places where young people hang out.
	<b>NEW YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b>	Reduce litter and plastics use at all Council run youth events.
<b>Connect young people with the natural environment.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Link learning with lived experience - get young people out in the natural environment by providing environmentally based programs, activities and events e.g. water catchment tours, rock-pool rambles, digital storytelling, citizen science, bio blitz days, green living movies, bike tours.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
Youth Friendly signage developed. Sites for signage identified. Signage installed. Education campaign developed and rolled out to target young people and recycling habits.	Youth Services Team.	Community Education Team, Natural and Environmental Assets, Waste Services.
Education programs are provided. Young people are educated about our natural environment. Attitude and behaviour change is influenced. Innovative solutions to sustainability are developed. Impacts on the local environment are observed/felt.	Community Education Team.	Youth Services Team, young people, Local environmental community groups, education providers.
School programs developed/updated in partnership. Programs delivered to 20 schools each year. Students have increased knowledge of litter and plastics impacts. Students apply their knowledge practically, reducing litter and plastics in Central Coast environment.	Community Education Team.	Youth Services Team, young people, Local environmental community groups, education providers.
Y4Y work with relevant Council Units to locate permanent refill stations at a minimum of 2 frequently used youth locations e.g. Bato Yard. Refill stations are built at 2 locations Litter and plastics waste is reduced at youth locations.	Y4Y Team.	Community Education Team, Open Space and Recreation, Natural and Environmental Assets .
Community Education and Youth Services. Team work together to align principles to youth events/programs/initiatives with 'Keep the Coast Clean' project. Youth events/programs/initiatives reduce litter and plastics use.	Youth Services Team.	Community Education Team, young people, Local environmental community groups.
Programs developed/updated. Minimum of 10 programs/activities/events delivered. Increased number of young people participating in programs. Young people are outdoors and interacting with their local environment.	Community Education Team.	Youth Services Team, young people, Local environmental community groups, education providers.

“ I need to get further education, maybe a trade or university. More study after I leave school is the way to get jobs that pay me better and make a better life. I would like to earn enough money that I can pay my bills and have some left over. ”

## SKILLED AND READY

Skilled and Ready is all about improving young people's education and career opportunities in the constantly changing and evolving world of learning, education, skill development, and employment. Research by the Foundation for Young Australians' (FYA) shows that 35% of the skills that we consider important in today's workforce will have changed, and the jobs of tomorrow will require a broad range of skills that are transferable across all areas of employment such as creativity, problem-solving, critical and innovative thinking, data literacy, emotional intelligence/social intelligence, resilience and patience.

Technological advancement and global trends are changing the nature of work, the structure of economies, and the type of skills needed by labour forces across the world. Research reveals that the average transition time from education to work is 4.7 years compared to 1 year in 1986 (FYA 2018).

The theme of Skilled and Ready encompasses the four factors identified by FYA that can accelerate the transition from full-time education to full-time work:

- an education that builds enterprise skills
- being able to undertake relevant paid work experience
- finding employment in a sector which is growing
- an optimistic mindset

More than ever before, young people need access to relevant, high-quality education and learning systems that reflect and respond to their changing and diverse needs, and those of the economy. Investment in redesigning learning pathways from education to work to ensure young people are equipped and empowered with the skills, mindset and confidence to navigate the new world of work.

Ensuring young people have the ability to participate in lifelong learning, formal education, skill development, work experience, and meaningful local employment will go a long way in supporting and developing the future economic prosperity of the Region.

Having a sound basis and opportunities for further development will equip our young people with the learning, knowledge, skills and tools they need for the future.

## WHAT WE HEARD FROM - YOUNG PEOPLE -

Young people acknowledged that education is a critical step to reaching their full potential and unlocking their aspirations for the future. The key places where young people receive learning support on the Central Coast include at school, at home from their parents, in community settings such as libraries, through support at local youth services, in alternate schools, in TAFE or at University.

In general, young people felt that the schools on the Central Coast are good and provide most young people with a solid basis. Young people highly valued a good education and opportunities to develop practical skills and to gain meaningful employment.

Many young people felt that higher education opportunities are limited and more options and choice of courses should be provided here on the Coast.

Most young people felt that opportunities for employment in the area are important so fewer young people face unemployment or leave the area in search of work. Many young people mentioned they would relocate to Sydney or Newcastle for better employment or study options.

“ When you leave school, it is difficult to operate ” in the adult world when you have not been taught valuable life skills to assist you in further educating yourself, seeking employment and how to set yourself up for the future. I feel passionately about making a difference for youth in these areas.

“ I'm 21, at university and have been a resident ” of Wyong for close to 4 years after living and growing up in Sydney for 17 years. Since coming to the coast, I have struggled to find any meaningful employment.

“ I think that giving youth more opportunities ” in the fields they would like jobs in, is important. I'd love more opportunities to use my performing arts skills but due to financial stuff I don't get those opportunities.



“ Finding a job as a graduate can be extremely ” difficult. It's very disheartening to finally finish your degree, and not find any entry level positions within your home region.

“ Education is very important for young people ” as it helps them set up for life. They would be able to live on their own and be able to pay bills and be able to do tax. Education is important as it teaches you social skills and work place skills which helps you get a job.

“ Being able to have access to quality university ” education for a range of interests on the Coast is the main thing for me. I would like to not have to travel to Sydney.

“ The Central Coast does not have many job ” opportunities now, let alone my future as it has one of the highest youth unemployment rates. Also, I would like to go to university at a university which will give me the best course possible and I feel as if the Central Coast does not have those high quality universities.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 24% of young people said that the Central Coast would be a better place now and in the future if there were more local job opportunities.
- X The Central Coast has higher rates of youth unemployment 12.7% compared to NSW 10.1% (Labor Market Information Portal LMIP February 2019).
- 7.1% of unemployed young people were looking for full-time work and 7.4% were looking for part-time work (LMIP February 2019).
- 7% of young people hold a tertiary qualification and 15.8% hold a vocational qualification.
- X Central Coast High Schools are under-represented in the Top 100 performing schools in HSC results.

## YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SKILLED AND READY WHEN:

- They develop and enhance life and creative skills.
- They have access to and participate in local learning and education.
- They pursue lifelong learning opportunities.
- They develop relevant and transferable skills that can be used across new and emerging areas of employment.
- They build knowledge and experience by participating in work experience.
- They find meaningful local employment.

# SKILLED AND READY - WHAT WE'LL DO

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION
<b>Provide young people with skills for life.</b>	<b>NEW YEAR 1</b>	Y4Y team to work with stakeholders to develop and hold a life skills expo which will provide practical information and skills e.g. basic car maintenance, first aid, sustainable living, applying for housing, tax and financial advice, basic cooking.
	<b>NEW YEAR 1</b>	Y4Y team to develop short (90sec) online 'how to' videos/tutorials on life skill topics - by young people for young people.
<b>Young people are linked in with local business.</b>	<b>NEW YEAR 2</b>	Attract new sponsors and partners for youth focused programs/events/activities, which link young people and business enabling skill development, mentoring and pathways.
<b>Kickstart young people's business ideas.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Develop and deliver social enterprise programs (e.g. Ignite Business Launch Pad, local market enterprise, pop up shopfronts) for young people.
<b>Upskill young people and provide pathways to employment.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Develop and implement free programs e.g. 'Skill Me' in the school holidays to upskill young people to seek and gain employment in targeted sectors such as a barista course, RSA, white card, hospitality, and sport coaching.
	<b>NEW YEAR 2</b>	Educate internal staff and external businesses on employing young people (aged 10-15yrs) as per legislation and the process required by the Office of the Children's Guardian.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
Y4Y Team develop and implement expo. Young people attend expo. Young people learn new life skills.	Y4Y Team.	Youth Services Team, young people, schools, Youth Sector, Health Services, business stakeholders (NRMA, tax accountants), financial advisors.
Concept developed for videos. Videos filmed/edited and finalised. Videos loaded onto website and shared on social media.	Y4Y Team.	Youth Services Team, Youth Sector, schools, local businesses, Training providers.
Information night held to attract sponsors and create linkages between businesses and young people. Young people linked with industry professionals for mentoring and pathway opportunities.	Youth Services Team.	Youth Sector, local businesses, Industry professionals.
Training sessions provided for young people to workshop and develop enterprise ideas, business and strategic plans. Mentor session provided with local young people. Pitch session held for young people to pitch their ideas to local business.	Youth Services Team.	Enterprise and Activation Team, Youth Sector, local businesses, Industry professionals, training providers.
Courses are run in school holidays. Young people receive appropriate qualification/accreditation to begin employment in industry. 3 month follow up with participants.	Youth Services Team.	Relevant local field-related businesses, training providers, education providers.
Resource developed which enables a better understanding/knowledge of the process to employ young people aged 10-15 years.	Youth Services Team.	Workforce Development Team, relevant Council Units.

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION
<p>(CONTINUED...)</p> <p><b>Upskill young people and provide pathways to employment.</b></p>	<p><b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 3</b></p>	<p>Develop a youth specific procurement policy to enable contracting of suitably skilled young people to deliver services/events/programs/activities to Council where appropriate.</p>
	<p><b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1</b></p>	<p>Develop and implement a Youth Employment Strategy that increases opportunities for employment of young people within Central Coast Council.</p>
	<p><b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 2</b></p>	<p>Support Internal business units and external stakeholders to coach and mentor young people in skills development through traineeships and apprenticeships.</p>
	<p><b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 3 - ONGOING</b></p>	<p>Provide opportunities to young people through upskilling or volunteering across Council business units so young people increase skills, knowledge and experience in areas outside their normal employment.</p>
	<p><b>NEW</b> <b>YEAR 1 - ONGOING</b></p>	<p>Provide opportunities for young people to gain on the job experience across a range of creative career and industry opportunities, enterprise development and event production in areas such as design, performance, film, photography, dance, visual art, sport and music.</p>
	<p><b>ONGOING</b></p>	<p>Continue the Scholarship and Undergraduate program to support and mentor young people in roles relevant to their area of study.</p>

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
<p>Procurement policy developed and implemented. Increased numbers of young people are contracted to Council.</p>	<p>Youth Services Team.</p>	<p>Workforce Development Team, Purchasing Team, relevant Council Units.</p>
<p>Youth Employment Strategy developed and implemented. Increased numbers of young people employed. Professional youth perspective influencing Council projects.</p>	<p>Workforce Development Team.</p>	<p>Youth Services Team, Community Planning Team, relevant Council Units.</p>
<p>Best practice traineeship, apprenticeship and volunteering approaches/opportunities investigated and implemented. Young people are aware of opportunities. Increased numbers of young people are engaged in programs/employed in relevant areas of experience.</p>	<p>Workforce Development Team.</p>	<p>Relevant Council Units, local businesses, training providers, local leaders/mentors.</p>
<p>Minimum of 2 young people per business unit are provided with additional raining/upskilling/ volunteering opportunities.</p>	<p>Youth Services Team.</p>	<p>Workforce Development Team, Council Units.</p>
<p>Creative career and industry opportunities developed and implemented. Young people participate in programs. Young people increase skills in creative industries. Numbers of young people in paid employment in these industries increases.</p>	<p>Youth Services Team.</p>	<p>Arts and Culture Section, Community and Cultural Programs Team, Enterprise and Activation Team, Event Team, local businesses, Industry professionals.</p>
<p>Scholarship and undergraduate program continues Increased numbers of young people engaged in these roles. Increased numbers of young people are employed in relevant roles following from their internship. Professional youth perspective influencing Council projects.</p>	<p>Workforce Development.</p>	<p>Youth Services Team, schools/education providers, tertiary education providers, Youth Sector.</p>

GOAL	NEW OR ONGOING & WHEN	ACTION	WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE	LEAD	KEY PARTNERS
(CONTINUED...) <b>Upskill young people and provide pathways to employment.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Continue workshops to develop interview and job readiness skills (resume writing, interview skills, what to wear etc.) e.g. 'Employ Me' program.	Workshops provided to young people on employability skills. Young people are more confident in applying for employment. Increased numbers of young people employed.	Youth Services Team.	Youth Services Team, local businesses, employment providers, training providers.
<b>Support creative pathways.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Deliver creative and professional development programs and skills development to young people (e.g. Central Coast Battle of the Bands, Discovered, Springboard, Idea to Screen, Exposure, Youth in Performing Arts).	Creative career and industry opportunities developed and implemented. Young people participate in programs. Young people increase skills in creative industries. Numbers of young people in paid employment in these industries increases.	Youth Services Team.	Community and Cultural Programs Team, Art and Culture Section, local creative sector, local businesses.
<b>Embrace learning opportunities.</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	Support initiatives within Council libraries that provide young people with academic, social and job readiness opportunities e.g. Studiosity.	Initiatives continued and implemented. Increased numbers of young people participate in library programs.	Libraries.	Youth Services Team, local businesses, training providers, education providers.
	<b>ONGOING</b>	Get young people engaged with local decision-making - provide Stage 5 students with an understanding of local Council processes and the role of local Council in community decision making.	Develop and deliver annual Future Council program to local schools. Young people have an increased understanding of local government processes and decision-making.	Community Education Team	Local high schools, relevant Council Units, ELT, Youth Services Team.



for  
**youth**  
by youth



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YOUTH STRATEGY  
2019 - 2024