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## Introduction

The Youth Plan 2021-25 is the City of South Perth's (the City) inaugural plan for young people who live, study, work, volunteer or spend time in our community. This Plan provides strategic direction on how the City will support local young people over the next five years.

The City acknowledges that young people are unique group, requiring tailored planning and consideration. Young people face specific challenges - several of which were highlighted during the recent pandemic. They also have unique skills and strengths, and an aim of this Plan is to nurture and develop these so that we contribute to our young people thriving and reaching their full potential.

This Plan includes goals and actions across four priority areas that respond to the current and emerging needs of our young people. Over the next five years we will:

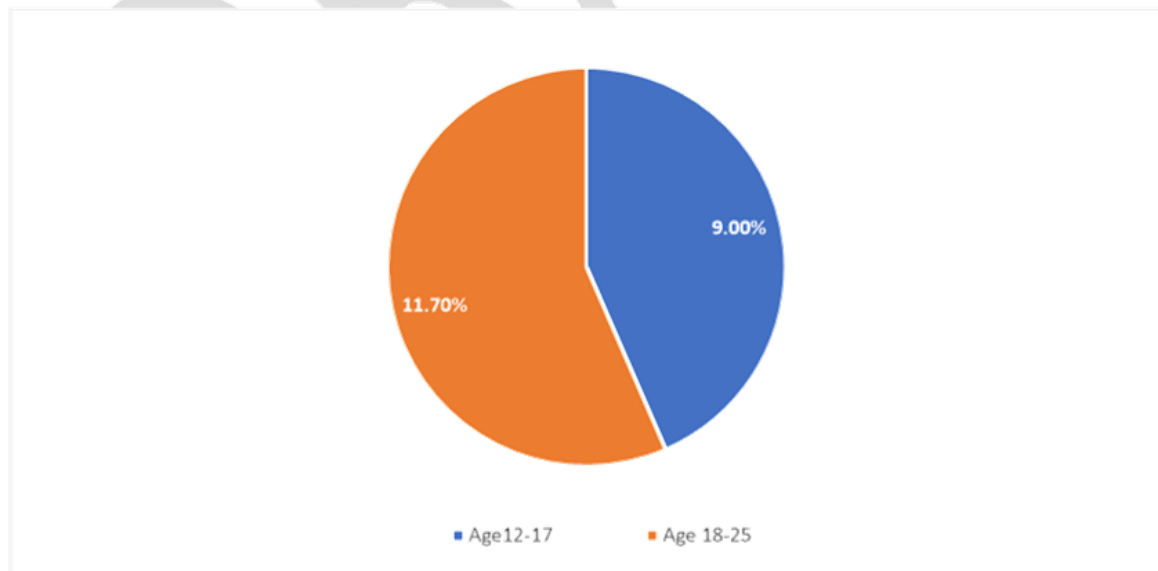
1. Further develop our youth programs and events
2. Improve our facilities and places for young people
3. Improve our communications and engagement with young people
4. Provide opportunities for young people to develop their capacity and skills

The Plan is underpinned by a community development approach. This approach seeks to build social cohesion and community connections.

*\* For the purpose of this Plan, the definition of 'young people' is those aged 10 to 25. This is in line with the Department of Communities' definition of youth/young people.*

### Who are our young people?

Young residents aged 10 to 25 make up 21.7% of the City's population. There are more young people aged 18 to 25 (in tertiary education or the world of work), than those aged 10 to 17 (in later years of primary school and high school).



According to the 2016 Census 18.1% of residents within the City of South Perth are aged 12-24 years old.

- 88 people aged 10 to 19 in the City are living with a disability
- 5% of young people aged 15 to 25 in the City are disengaged from education and employment - lower than the Greater Perth average
- 1.2% of the population is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

## Why do we need a Youth Plan?

The City developed this Youth Plan to guide our decisions on the kind of community programs, services, events, projects and facilities that should be considered for local young people now, and into the future. This includes young residents, but also young people who work, volunteer, study and/or recreate in the City.

Young people are at a critical stage in their life and planning for this demographic should be targeted and carefully considered. At this age, they are moving towards independence, but still need a significant amount of scaffolding and support, from their family, from the services and institutions they connect with, and from their community. Local government has a significant role to play, however with a significant proportion of young people not eligible to vote and the least likely demographic to complain, they can be easily forgotten about.

Young people's needs are also constantly changing. Young people have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (ongoing as at the development of this Plan) through job losses, disruption to their education, periods of isolation and less access to friends and support networks. Even before the pandemic, young people faced a range of unique challenges, such as rising rates of mental health, insecure housing and housing unaffordability, high youth unemployment, school and study stress and increasing technology pressures such as social media use and misuse, fake news and disinformation. Many young people also face community-wide negative perception of them as a group, with young people who have intersecting minority identities especially impacted and discriminated against.

Although young people face many societal challenges, there are also many opportunities. Young people are resilient, innovative and leading the way in many areas including challenging discrimination, climate action and forging a path into the future using innovative technology to solve some of our community's most challenging problems. Our role as local government is to support young people in these endeavours and provide opportunities for them to thrive. The Youth Plan sets out a path for actions that the City of South Perth will take to do this over the next five years.

## Strategic alignment

### Strategic direction

The City of South Perth's Strategic Community Plan 2020-30 includes a range of strategies related to the provision of programs, services, projects, events and facilities for local young people. The development of the Youth Plan 2021-25 has been informed by the City's Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030.



## City's role in youth development

The City of South Perth takes a community development approach to the work it does with young people that seeks to build social cohesion and community connections.

The City coordinates a youth leadership group- the South Perth Youth Network (SPYN), comprised of young people aged 12 to 25 who live, work, or study within the City of South Perth. The group plan events and deliver youth events, volunteer at City events and are one of the City's three reference groups that must be consulted when the City conducts any stakeholder engagement.

The City plays an important leadership role in facilitating and establishing collaborative approaches and actions to support and engage young people. It achieves this through the roles outlined below. For each action, the City's level of involvement (and potential involvement) has been listed using the following categories:

<b>Planner</b>	The City identifies the community's requirements for programs, services, projects and/or facilities that deliver outcomes for young people, and ensures mechanisms are in place to meet these requirements.
<b>Supporter</b>	The City provides support for relevant stakeholders. This support could be delivered through a number of methods, such as providing in-kind support for programs, services, projects or facility and the provision of funding.
<b>Partner</b>	The City partners with relevant stakeholders to achieve shared community youth outcomes. These partnerships could be on an informal or formal basis as required.
<b>Coordinator</b>	The City brings together stakeholders to plan, deliver and evaluate youth programs, services, projects and/or facilities.
<b>Provider</b>	The City is solely responsible for the delivery of a youth program, service, project and/or facility. Income and expenditure is determined by the City's annual budget process.

## Youth provision in the City of South Perth

The City current plans for and delivers a variety of youth focused programs and services.

- South Perth Youth Network (SPYN) - the City's youth leadership team
- WA Youth Week programming
- South Perth Young Writers Award
- Speak with Confidence Award
- Volunteering opportunities for young people
- Term and school holiday programs through the two libraries and George Burnett Leisure Centre
- Financial assistance (Community Funding Program and KidSport Program)

The City also has a range of other places and facilities that are used by young people including a number of parks and reserves, George Burnett Leisure Centre, Manning Skate Park, Manning and South Perth Libraries, and community halls and buildings.

There are approximately 35 sports clubs that operate in the City and a club development program to support them. Wesley College has a swimming pool and gym that is open to the public and used by young people, and there is a public golf course with regular golf, foot golf and mini golf.

There are five high schools in the area: four private and one public. The City also borders Curtin University.

Key attractions in the City are the Perth Zoo, RAC Intellibus and RAC Imagine Program (run from the Old Mill); the Ferry Tram and Mindeerup, which has a well-designed space near the jetty and a Noongar sound and light show.

## Stakeholder and community engagement

Stakeholder and community engagement to develop the Youth Plan was delivered in April and May 2021. This engagement included:

- An online survey with young people aged 10 to 25 and parents and caregivers
- Hard copy surveys available from the Civic Centre and the South Perth and Manning libraries
- Intercept surveys, carried out by Youth Plan Ambassadors at City events
- Question and answer tool on Your Say South Perth (YSSP), the City's online engagement platform, where participants could ask questions about the project

Information about the project, including the opportunity to participate, was provided to the community through multiple City channels, including Peninsula Magazine, the City's website, the City's Facebook and Instagram pages, Peninsula Snapshot eNewsletter and Club Spirit eNewsletter.

### Who we heard from Young people

- 273 young people completed the survey
- 77% were aged 10 to 17 and 23% were aged 18 to 25
- 65% lived in the City; 45% attended events in the City; 38% studied in the City; 33% played sport in the City; 13% worked in the City (this increased to 30% of 18 to 25 year old's)
- 16% culturally and linguistically diverse
- 13% LGBTIQ+
- 11% living with a mental health issue
- 9% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 4% had caring responsibilities
- 3% identified as living with a disability
- 1% a parent.

### Parents and caregivers

Parents and caregivers also contributed via a parent/caregiver survey.

- 105 parents/caregivers completed the survey.

## What we heard

### Youth Programs and Events

Young people told us that one of the biggest barriers to them attending City programs, services and events was that they were not interested in what was on offer. The events that they did enjoy tended to be in favoured locations such as South Perth foreshore and in parks and reserves. They particularly enjoyed events with music, markets and food trucks. Young people said that they saw the many City run events as family oriented and did not feel those events were for them. Young people told us that they wanted to see more youth-focused events and activities, or more youth focused activities within the large-scale community-wide events.

The City has a strong culture of youth volunteering and young people told us that they were keen on more service focused events or programs that helped them contribute and give back to their community.

We heard from young people and parents/caregivers that there were some good formal sport options, but that young people were keen for some more informal options both of a sporting nature, but other things such as yoga or parkour in the park, or arts, drama, music etc.

We heard that providing things local for young people was important. South Perth has adequate public transport and bike paths, compared to many other local government areas, however, provision is patchy and some young people in places like Karawara have poorer access and are less likely to be able to travel to places and events. Different suburbs in the City have varying youth demographics, and programming should take this into consideration. For example Karawara has a significant proportion of young people in the 18 to 25 age demographic, and of Chinese heritage.

### Youth Places and Facilities

South Perth is rich in parks and reserves and natural beauty spots such as the Swan River. The South Perth foreshore and parks and playgrounds were the places most commonly frequented by young people. The City's libraries were also used by around half of the young people surveyed, and sporting clubs or ovals around 40%. City facilities that were not well used included community halls (18%), George Burnett Leisure Centre (15%) and Manning Skatepark (14%).

There is capacity for the George Burnett Leisure Centre to be utilised more often by young people. There are no programs run out of the centre for young people over the age of 12. Young people talked about wanting more basketball and other facilities. The leisure centre has one basketball court which can be used for badminton, soccer and volleyball but these are not being used in any significant way by young people. Nearly a third of young people told us that cost is a barrier for them attending things they want to, and we know that young people's finances have been impacted by COVID-19.

Young people and parents and caregivers told us that they want more youth specific places, or a youth facility of some kind in the City. The City has a number of community halls or 'centres' which are rarely used by young people at the moment, so exploring the development of one or more of these into an exclusive, or part-time drop-in space with youth facilities, activities and programming should be looked at as a long-term goal. The City is



also exploring building a new recreation and aquatic facility near Curtin University, which should include youth provision should it go ahead.

## Youth Communication

Young people told us that the biggest barrier to them attending City programs, services and events was that they just don't know about them (61%). Parents and caregivers supported this. Young people said that the City needed to communicate with them in more youth-friendly ways. Technology and ways that young people find out about things change. We also heard from SPYN members through their engagement with young people that there is disillusionment, apathy and a general lack of youth understanding of what local government is responsible for. Young people also said that the City needs to hold events and talk to young people in places that they wanted to go to already. They said it was important to go to them, rather than expect them to come to you. A review of communications and branding of City services, facilities and events for young people would assist with this.

This is a significant area of development for the City and there was limited depth of questioning around this included in the surveys. As such the City should look at developing a specific youth communications strategy in consultation with young people interested in this area, that is reviewed on a biannual basis to keep up to date with emerging youth communication preferences.

Young people said that they would like the City to feel more welcoming of young people. And that this would help if communications around events were targeted at young people, and they were explicitly included in imagery, wording and event provision. They also said that they would also feel more welcomed if there was a more positive image of young people portrayed in the community.

## Youth Development

Young people were not asked about specific issues that were important to them, but nevertheless several issues did get spoken about regularly, this included better bike infrastructure and the importance of environmental sustainability, and innovative ideas for projects on these topics emerged, such as City run bike hire. The SPYN is a good starting point for consultation, but unpaid reference groups attract a certain demographic of young people, and a small number of self-nominating young people should never be considered representative. Young people are also often only interested in contributing on an area of interest to them one they have particular knowledge around or skills to assist with. The City should explore ways of engaging with young people when developing plans and strategies, such as the City's Integrated Transport Plan or the City's Strategic Environmental Management Plans. The biggest barrier to this can be City staff not having the experience, skills or confidence to engage with young people. A City guide of simple ways or avenues to talk to young people could be developed to support this.

Young people aged 18 to 25 were under-represented in the stakeholder engagement, and over the Plan's duration more consultation with this demographic should be delivered. However from the responses that were captured and looking at general trends we know that young people in this age group are interested in help with life skills development and things that lead to employment, such as resume and interview skills, understanding how to set up their own micro business, as well as tax returns and other 'adulting' skills. A youth maker's market was suggested to give young people the opportunity to sell their skills and wares. This could become a flagship youth event for the City held in places young people like to



spend time and providing wrap around support with lead in workshops to build young people skills on things like pricing, promotion and reporting income.

## Implementation Plan

To develop the Youth Plan 2021-2025 we analysed the information we heard from young people and parent/caregivers within the context of the City's strategic direction, current youth provision and general youth issues and trends.

The Plan has four key focus areas:

1. Youth programs and events
2. Youth places and facilities
3. Youth communication
4. Youth development

Each focus area has key outcomes and actions and a timeline associated with delivery.

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## 1. Youth Programs and Events

#	Action	City involvement	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1.1	Continue to provide a range of activities and events for WA Youth Week, inclusive of all ages and interests, with a focus on localising activities	Provider	X	X	X	X	X
1.2	Facilitate youth programming in places that young people enjoy attending (i.e. Foreshore, local parks and reserves)	Partner	X	X	X	X	X
1.3	Deliver an annual youth-focused music and food event	Provider		X	X	X	X
1.4	Incorporate a 'youth zone' at City large scale events.	Coordinator		X	X	X	X
1.5	Partner with local business to deliver pop up youth workshops/events in 'on trend' places (i.e. cafés, art spaces, boutiques)	Partner		X		X	
1.6	Explore the provision of more casual/informal activity options in parks and open spaces	Planner			X		
1.7	Continue to develop and diversify the City's libraries' programming for young people	Planner	X	X	X	X	X
1.8	Plan youth programming to be localised and responsive to the youth demographics in different City suburbs	Planner	X	X	X	X	X

## 2. Youth Places and Facilities

#	Action	City involvement	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2.1	Assess the feasibility of developing one of the City's community centres into an exclusive or part-time youth drop in space	Planner				X	
2.2	Explore the ability to incorporate youth programs and services within the City's proposed new recreation and aquatic facility (RAF)	Planner		X			
2.3	Program free or low-cost activities for young people at the City's George Burnett Leisure Centre at off-peak times	Provider		X	X	X	X
2.4	Explore the inclusion of outdoor sports facilities across the City, particularly for young people (i.e. basketball half court)	Planner	X				

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### 3. Youth Communication

#	Action	City involvement	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3.1	Engage a diverse group of young people to develop a Youth Communications toolkit for City wide use; this should be updated biannually as youth platforms change	Planner		X		X	
3.2	Promote positive stories of young people in the community i.e. volunteering, outstanding achievements, youth businesses/starts ups	Supporter		X	X	X	X
3.3	Review the City's engagement processes involving young people to optimise their input into the City strategies, plans and policies	Planner		X		X	

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#### 4. Youth Development

#	Action	City involvement	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
4.1	Continue to facilitate and support South Perth Youth Network, with an increased focus on building capacity and skills through training or other means.	Supporter	X	X	X	X	X
4.2	Continue to foster a culture of youth volunteering and contributing to the community, through partnering with schools and tertiary institutions.	Partner	X	X	X	X	X
4.3	Develop connections and methods to engage with young people aged 18 to 25yrs to inform programming for this age group	Planner			X		
4.4	Develop a life skills and/or entrepreneurship focused program for young people aged 16yrs and over	Planner		X			
4.5	Explore the development of a flagship youth 'makers market' for young people to sell their skills and products	Planner		X			
4.6	Continue to deliver the City's Community Funding Program (with a focus on increasing promotion for cultural, academic or community activities and events)	Provider	X	X	X	X	X
4.7	Continue to support the City's suite of youth development awards and scholarships	Provider	X	X	X	X	X

## Reviewing the Plan and Monitoring Progress

The Implementation Plan will be subject to an annual review to stay in tune with current and emerging youth needs and trends. The associated time frames will be adjusted accordingly. The outcomes of actions within the Implementation Plan will be measured and reviewed as part of the City's annual business planning process. Measuring the success of the actions related to the delivery of the Plan will vary according to the project, program or service development identified. All actions will be measured using a range of tools and methods e.g. both qualitative and quantitative data.

## Resourcing

Any financial requirements for implementing the Youth Plan 2021-25 will be sought through the City's annual operating budget process, with external funding and/or contributions from external stakeholders to be pursued.

## Acknowledgements

The Youth Plan has been prepared by the City of South Perth in partnership with the Youth Advisory Council of Western Australia (YACWA), South Perth Youth Network (SPYN) and the local community. The City would like to acknowledge everyone who assisted with the development of the plan.

Kaartdjinin Nidja Nyungar Whadjuk Boodjar Koora Nidja Djining Noonakoort kaartdijin wangkiny, maam, gnarnk and boordier Nidja Whadjul kura kura.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and their Elders past, present and future

## Access and inclusion

This Plan is available in alternative formats upon request, including Braille, large print, electronic and audio format on CD. National Relay Service (NRS): 13 36 77. Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS): 131 450.