







Key messages to council from the Speak Up Engage Youth Team

We have a valid point of view and want to be informed and involved in what is happening in our lives and our community.

We need a space specifically for young people where we can still play and climb and be ourselves.

We need a cultural centre that supports the development of young people's music, art, dance and drama.

Through our involvement in the Speak Up Engage program we have experienced the caring, engaging and active nature of this council.



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Acknowledgements

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of this document.

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Jacquie Sandy and Jaiva Davis, Gubbi Gubbi Dance, Image credit: Horizon Festival 2017



Table of Contents

Message from the Mayor	6
Our vision and pathway	7
Our youth	7
What our young people are saying	8
Our youth action plan	10
Enhanced communication	12
Inclusive and interesting experiences	14
Having a say	16
Tracking progress	18

For the purposes of the Sunshine Coast Youth Action Plan, young people are aged 12 to 24 years of age.

Message from the Mayor



As one of Australia's fastest growing regions, the Sunshine Coast is entering an exciting chapter in our history.

The delivery of major projects such as the development of the new Maroochydore CBD and the Sunshine Coast Airport expansion will lead to significant growth and development in our region.

Sunshine Coast Council recognises that young people are an integral part of our community, the growth of this region and our future. It is imperative that council continues to tap into their enthusiasm, optimism, innovation and creativity to help shape our healthy, smart, creative region.

The *Sunshine Coast Youth Action Plan 2018-2021* has been created to strengthen our commitment to our young people and to value their contributions to our region. This plan will ensure our young people are involved in decisions that impact on their lives, that they are supported to actively participate in community life, encouraged to develop their identity and independence, and assisted to take responsibility for themselves.

The *Sunshine Coast Youth Action Plan 2018-2021* has been developed in direct consultation with our region's young people and the youth services sector. The young participants of council's youth development program, Speak Up Engage, have also been instrumental in the development of this action plan. I would like to personally thank everyone involved as your input will enable council to implement an action plan that is responsive and focused on addressing the relevant needs of our young people while also continuing to create opportunity for all.

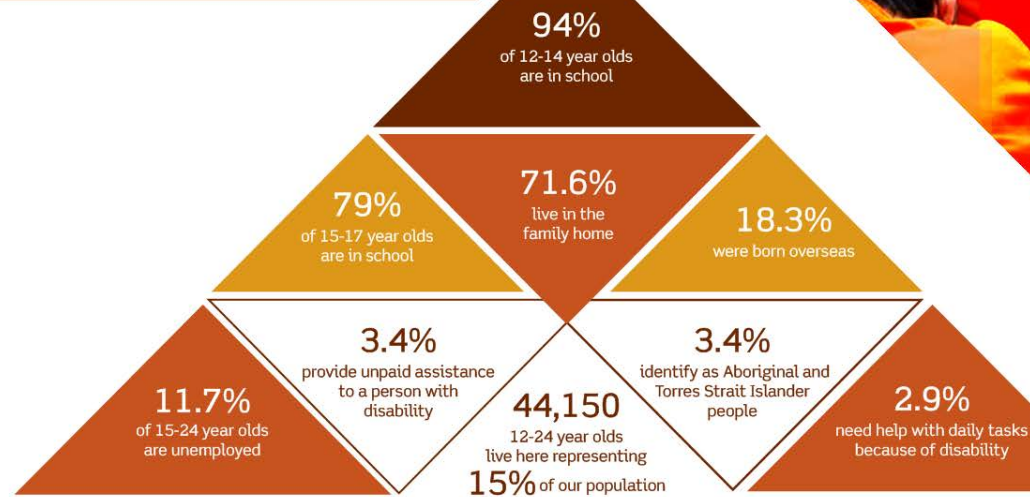
The future of the Sunshine Coast is bright and we are well placed to capitalise on the opportunities that technology and innovation will enable, and the careers that will result. As a young person on the Sunshine Coast, you can be excited about the future as council works to grow our region and meaningfully involve and support you to explore the many possibilities and opportunities ahead.

Mayor Mark Jamieson

Our vision and pathway

Young people thrive in our region and are vital in shaping our future. The Sunshine Coast Council values young people's contribution by listening to young people's views and supporting their participation in all aspects of life.

Our youth



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census Data 2016

What our young people are saying

Young people were asked about their interaction with the community. Workshops and an online survey were used to understand their views.

This helps us to interact with community:

- Appropriate life skills and getting along with people
- Physical and mental health
- Feeling safe.

These things encourage us to get out and about:

- Access to relevant information
- Being close to and able to afford public transport
- Opportunities to volunteer
- Sufficient infrastructure and facilities
- Activities that are gender inclusive
- Being able to afford the cost to attend activities/events
- Appropriate timing and duration of events
- Work experience
- Income
- Sufficient young people focussed events/activities
- Adequate youth spaces.

These are the ways we participate in community:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • School/education | • Major events |
| • Employment | • Clubs/interest groups |
| • Music events and festivals | • Night clubs/bars |
| • Volunteering | • Extreme sports |
| • Organised sports | • School holiday programs. |



I either hear about events too late or not at all

There should be more volunteering events for younger people

The Coast needs more and different activities for youth and a say in what these activities are

Today, innovative ways to reach young people to determine issues and to work with them are required

More live music in the parks would bring more young people and vibrancy to the Coast



This is how we find out about things:

- Word of mouth
- Facebook posts/adverts
- Posters, brochures and promotional material
- Radio
- Internet search
- Instagram
- Television.

Our short term goals are mainly around:

- Study
- Employment
- Travel.

After finishing school if we leave the Coast it will be for:

- Other employment opportunities
- Life experience
- Travel.

Work with us in decision making through:

- Online surveys
- Council Facebook /social media pages
- Community engagement events
- School engagement activities
- Youth focus/advisory group
- Annual youth summit.

Our youth action plan

Our commitment to the young people is based in our Corporate Plan and regional strategies.



Currently council provides infrastructure and services such as:

- streets and neighbourhoods that are safe and active
- parks and gardens, indoor and outdoor sports complexes, libraries, aquatic centres, showgrounds, community land, walking and riding trails, bike racks and skate and BMX parks, coastal boardwalks, boat ramps, playgrounds and dog off leash areas
- programs that support the growth of our economy
- organising festivals and events
- a Community Grants program
- support of the youth sector
- youth engagement and development program.

Why a youth action plan

A strong community needs all of us to be engaged in community life. This action plan outlines steps to support our young people in that goal.





Our priority areas

All levels of government support young people. They are assisted by other organisations, groups and individuals. Council will fit in with and complement these activities.

Council has a strong relationship with the youth sector and our young people. This relationship has provided a strong base for the development of a youth action plan.

The plan focuses on three priority areas. The intent of these areas is to actively support young people to move through life's challenges. The actions within these areas are based upon the consultation findings.

The three priority areas are:

Enhanced communication

- Awareness of issues
- Access to information
- Conversations with young people
- Connection with young people.

Inclusive and interesting experiences

- Encourage participation
- Interesting experiences
- Opportunities to contribute
- New skills and abilities.

Having a say

- Encourage the views of youth
- Actively engage youth
- Foster youth leadership
- Youth in decision making.

Enhanced communication



The way we communicate improves our connection. It influences our interest and understanding of things.

Focus area

Develop ways to enhance conversations. Improve the flow of information between council and our young people.

Enhanced communication

- Awareness of issues
- Access to information
- Conversations with young people
- Connection with young people.

Action	Key stakeholders
1.1 Enhance and promote the Speak Up Engage Facebook page to ensure it remains attractive, interactive and informative.	Community Planning and Development Youth Advisory Group
1.2 Explore the opportunity to run a pilot youth led radio presence that builds an understanding, interest and connection with our young people.	Community Planning and Development Corporate Communications Sunshine Coast Radio Stations
1.3 Ensure that youth are represented when looking at the safety of public spaces.	Community Planning and Development Queensland Police Service Design and Placemaking Services
1.4 Investigate a way young people, when in public space, can advise council how safe they feel and why.	Community Planning and Development ICT, Digital, Spatial and Data Design and Placemaking Services
1.5 Test and trial a range of techniques for important conversations with young people through engagement at school or in the community.	Community Planning and Development Youth Advisory Group Department of Education and Training

What we will keep doing:

- Be a central point of contact and information distribution for local youth services.
- Provide referral information for young people and their families to community/youth services and programs.
- Coordinate the Youth Connect-Regional Youth Services Network to provide support and the sharing of knowledge and skills and resources.



Deliverable	Timeframe	Funding
Speak Up Engage Facebook page that is attractive to young people.	Ongoing	Core budget
Partnerships formed to progress the establishment of a pilot youth led radio presence.	June 2021	Core budget
Safety audits involve young people and include young people's perspective of safety.	Ongoing	Core budget
Report on the creation of a digital device for rating of feelings of safety in public space.	June 2021	Core budget
Interactive activities such as pop ups are used to engage young people and have conversations that are representative of all youth.	June 2020	Core budget

- Partner with local youth services and young people to support National Youth Week.
- Connect young people with the Smart City concept for the Sunshine Coast
- Delivery of the intent of the Sunshine Coast Transport Strategy to achieve a shift to public & active transport modes

Inclusive and interesting experiences



Participation in community is vital to young people. It builds their confidence and resilience.

Focus area

Provide opportunities for young people to experience all aspects of community life. Enable the learning of new skills. Allow them to make meaningful contributions to their lives and their community.

Inclusive and interesting experiences

- Encourage participation
- Interesting experiences
- Opportunities to contribute
- New skills and abilities.

Action	Key stakeholders
2.1 Support initiatives that target workplace experience and training, youth led events/activities and the health and wellness of young people.	Community Planning and Development
2.2 Collaborate with young people to scope and design an organic and flexible youth space that meets the diverse needs of young people.	Community Planning and Development Parks and Gardens Environment and Sustainability Policy Youth Advisory Group Design and Placemaking Services
2.3 Promote a fee structure and timing for events/activities that encourages participation by young people.	Sport and Community Venues Community Planning and Development
2.4 Support initiatives that provide meaningful volunteering opportunities for young people.	Community Planning and Development Volunteer Sector Reference Group
2.5 Encourage and link young people to council's business environment that supports the growth of self-motivated and self-employed young entrepreneurs and business owners.	Community Planning and Development
2.6 Work with the Youth Advisory Group to network and better link young people to the programs and activities in the Regional Economic Development Strategy (such as Study Sunshine Coast, Health Heroes and various technology/start-up programs) to create jobs and economic outcomes.	Economic Development Youth Advisory Group Community Planning and Development

What we will keep doing:

- Assist local youth services to attract funds to deliver projects that support local young people
- Promote recreational, community, sporting, cultural and artistic activities and opportunities for young people
- Undertake programs that allow young people to enhance their awareness of the environment and participate in environmental activities

Deliverable	Timeframe	Funding
Programs and projects are available to assist young people to make choices that support their mental and physical health.	Ongoing	Core budget, Community funding, Government grants
A concept design for a vibrant youth space that provides for a diversity of activities and is gender inclusive.	June 2020	Annual budget submission
Special pricing arrangements and timing of events/ activities for young people.	June 2019	Core budget
Partnerships that support increased youth participation in volunteering.	June 2020	Community funding
Increase in the number of young business owners.	June 2021	Core budget
Link young people to programs and activities that create employment opportunities	June 2019	Core budget

- Provider of library collections and programs for young people such as robotics
- Provide opportunities for work experience, summer workplace and traineeships with council
- Facilitate events that promote youth living, studying, playing and working in the region.



Having a say



The success of projects delivered for young people is dependent on what young people have to say.

Focus area

Identify and establish ways for young people to have a say in decisions that impact them.

Having a say

- Encourage the views of youth
- Actively engage youth
- Foster youth leadership
- Youth in decision making.

Action	Key stakeholders
3.1 Establish an ongoing youth advisory group to provide advice on youth related matters and to act as a conduit for information and feedback from the wider youth community.	Community Planning and Development Youth Advisory Group
3.2 Actively engage youth when planning and designing facilities used by young people.	Community Planning and Development Design and Placemaking Services Youth Advisory Group
3.3 Explore opportunities to generate youth led cultural development initiatives and activities.	Community Planning and Development Community Relations
3.4 Encourage sporting/interest clubs to embrace youth involvement and activity and mentor young people in club roles.	Sport and Community Venues Community Planning and Development
3.5 Establish a website that encourages discussion and collaboration on a range of governance matters that impact on the lives of young people.	Community Planning and Development

What we will keep doing:

- Advocating for the needs of young people in the community and within council.



Deliverable	Timeframe	Funding
Increased number of responses from young people in the development of youth focused projects.	Ongoing	Core budget
Improved decision making on matters that impact the lives of young people.	June 2019	Core budget
Partnerships that support and grow the cultural capacity of young people.	June 2020	Core budget
Young people are actively involved in club activity and the running of their clubs.	June 2021	Core budget
Pilot website designed by young people is established and trialled.	June 2019	Core budget

Tracking progress

The *Sunshine Coast Youth Action Plan 2018-2021* has an implementation period of three years. The actions will form part of the daily operations of council.

Monitoring and review of the actions will be undertaken. It will ensure:

- Funding is aligned with youth focused initiatives
- Identification of future actions
- Evaluation on the progress of the actions
- Refinements are undertaken as required.

The annual monitoring and review of actions will be led by the Community Planning and Development Branch. It will be undertaken in consultation with the Youth Advisory Group and community stakeholders.

Measures of success

- Increased flow of information and conversations with young people about matters that impact their lives through:
 - Word of mouth
 - Social Media
 - Online engagement platform
 - Posters, brochures and promotional material
 - School and community noticeboards
 - Radio
 - Television.
- Improved connections and networks for young people generated through participation in community life through:
 - Volunteering
 - Organised sports
 - Youth services and program
 - Club/Interest groups
 - Music events/ festivals
 - Major events
 - Employment
 - Work experience.
- Increased involvement of young people in decisions that impact their lives through:
 - School engagement activities
 - Community engagement activities
 - Online surveys
 - Youth advisory group.





