







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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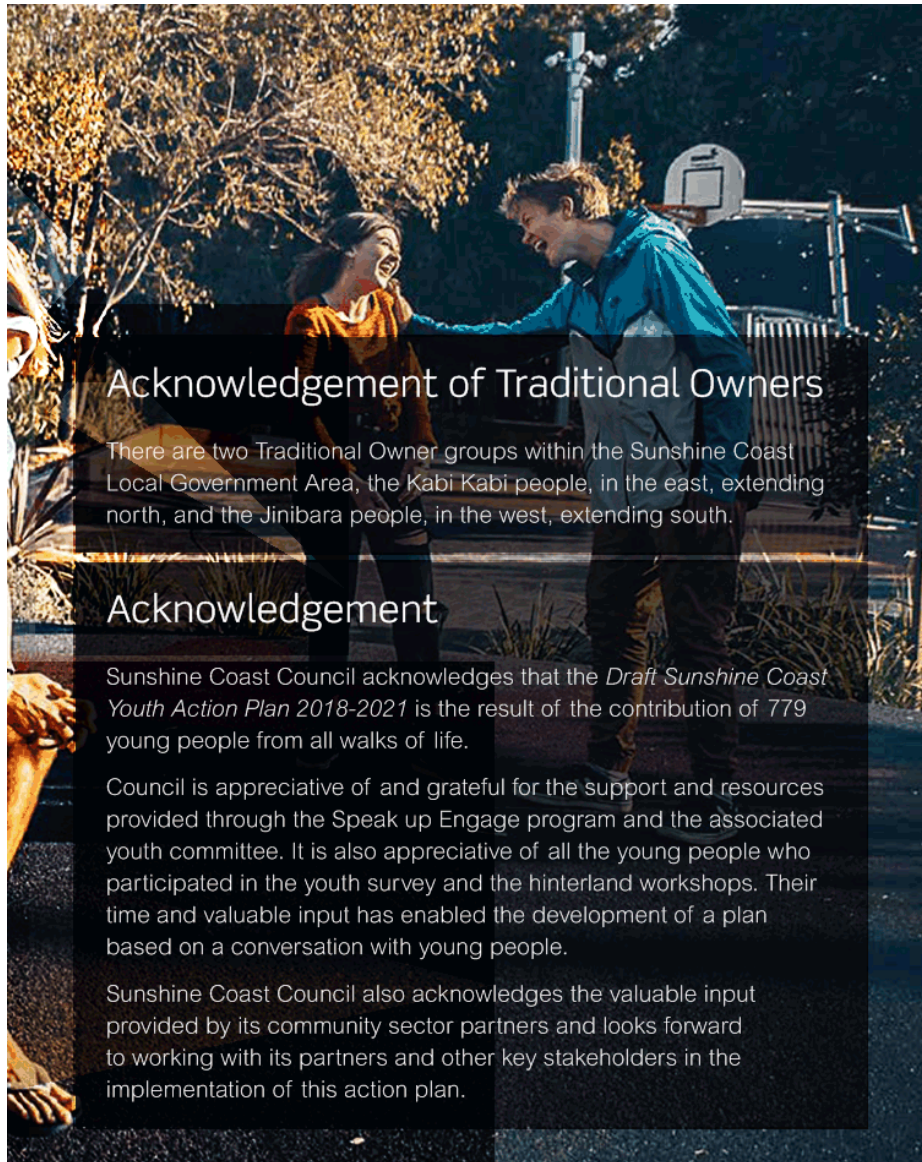
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Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all contributors and stakeholders involved in the development of this document.

Disclaimer

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

There are two Traditional Owner groups within the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area, the Kabi Kabi people, in the east, extending north, and the Jinibara people, in the west, extending south.

Acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges that the *Draft Sunshine Coast Youth Action Plan 2018-2021* is the result of the contribution of 779 young people from all walks of life.

Council is appreciative of and grateful for the support and resources provided through the Speak up Engage program and the associated youth committee. It is also appreciative of all the young people who participated in the youth survey and the hinterland workshops. Their time and valuable input has enabled the development of a plan based on a conversation with young people.

Sunshine Coast Council also acknowledges the valuable input provided by its community sector partners and looks forward to working with its partners and other key stakeholders in the implementation of this action plan.

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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 *Draft 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 *Draft 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.

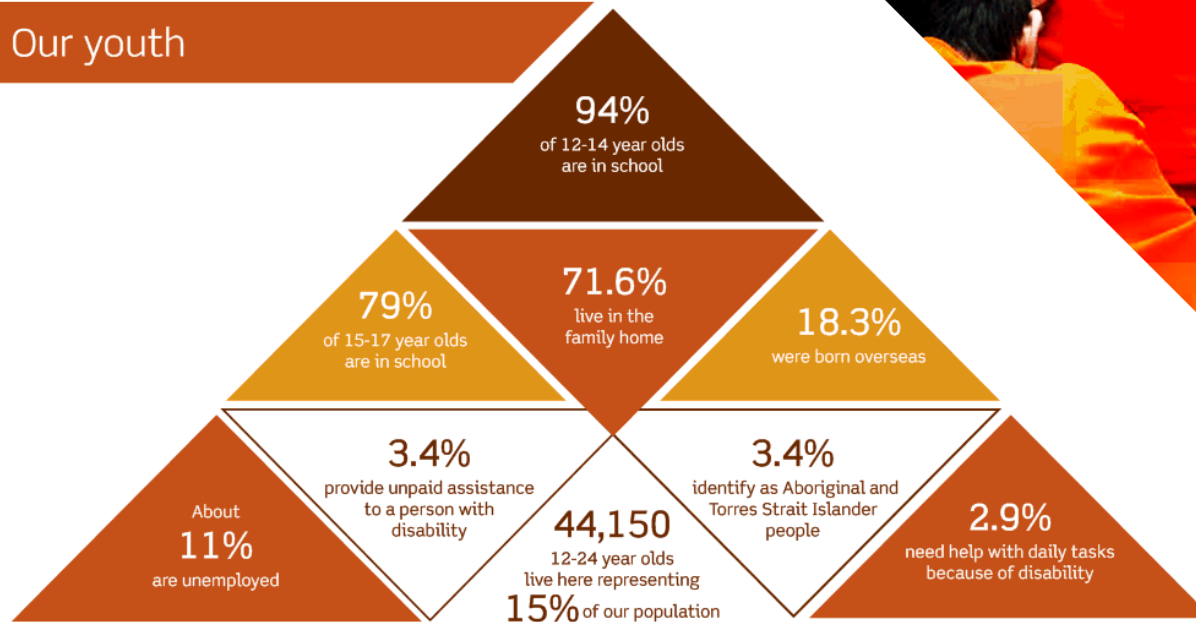
Mayor Mark Jamieson



Our vision and pathway

Young people are vital to our future as they are our next generation of leaders and drivers of social and technological change and innovation. The Sunshine Coast Council and its community recognises and values the contribution young people make to our community. Listening to young people's views and supporting their participation in all aspects of community life, including decision making that impacts them, builds their capacity and strengthens our community.

Our youth



What our young people are saying

Over a period of two months we engaged with young people through workshops and an online survey to understand their views and opinions about community participation and decision making.

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. |





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 enduring commitment to young people is demonstrated through our regional strategies that are aligned with our *Corporate Plan 2017-2021*. Our vision is to be “Healthy. Smart. Creative.”.

This action plan implements the intention of the *Sunshine Coast Social Strategy 2015* and the corporate plan goal of “A strong community”.



Currently this translates into the provision of infrastructure and services such as:

- designing and maintaining streets and neighbourhoods so they are safe and encourage social interaction and physical activity
- the provision of 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 and initiatives that support the growth of a regional economy such as traineeships, summer workplace placements, The Mayor’s Telstra Technology Awards, Hackfest and Startup Weekend Sunshine Coast
- organising and/or supporting festivals and events
- providing a Community Grants program for one-off community projects, events, programs and activities
- delivering of a number of youth sector support activities including network coordination, capacity building and information sharing
- providing a youth engagement and development program for young people.





Our priority areas

All levels of government work in their respective areas to provide leadership, infrastructure, facilities and services that provide an environment where all critical elements are in place to support strong communities and the young people in those communities.

They are assisted by non-government organisations, groups and individuals.

Our intention is to continue to fit in with and complement these activities.

An outcome of our previous *Sunshine Coast Youth Strategy 2010-2015* is strong relationships with young people and the youth sector. This allowed for a continuation of engagement about the challenges young people face and a strong foundation for collaboration in development of a new youth action plan.

This action plan responds to the consultation findings. It focuses on three priority areas with an intention to actively support young people to move through life's challenges and grow up safe, healthy and with the skills, confidence and resilience to participate fully in community life.

The three priority areas are:

Enhanced communication

Reaching out to young people to raise awareness, in a way that is interesting and inclusive of young people's diversity, provides access to relevant information that allows young people to be informed and make choices. It demonstrates a commitment to supporting the development of our young people and the allowance of an ongoing conversation that fosters enhanced connection.

Inclusive and interesting experiences

Supporting the participation of young people in all aspects of community life enables inclusive practices where young people are allowed to contribute, explore, experience and learn new skills. Our young people and the community benefit from an environment that creates opportunities for participation that are attractive, valuable and contribute to the health, confidence and resilience of young people.

Having a say

The linking of young people to decision-making processes recognises their opinions and contributions are sought and valued and encourages young people to take an active role in their community. The engagement needs to be empowering, inclusive, encouraging and purposeful and is vital to the success of the design and delivery of public policies, programs and infrastructure and services that impact their lives.

Enhanced communication



The way we communicate with each other influences our understanding, interest and connection.

Focus area

Develop through collaboration, ways to enhance conversations and improve the flow of information between council and our young people.

Enhanced communication

Reaching out to young people to raise awareness, in a way that is interesting and inclusive of young people's diversity, provides access to relevant information that allows young people to be informed and make choices. It demonstrates a commitment to supporting the development of our young people and the allowance of an ongoing conversation that fosters enhanced connection.

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
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
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

Enduring commitments:

- Act as the central point of contact and information distribution point for local youth services and provide information on local services, programs, resources, funding and partnership opportunities
- Provide referral information to young people and their families to community/youth services and programs that can assist with their needs
- Coordinate Youth Connect-Regional Youth Services Network to strengthen the capacity of youth service providers through the provision of support and the sharing of knowledge, skills and resources
- Partner with local youth services and young people to support National Youth Week activities



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 advice 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

- Connecting 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 and active transport modes.

Inclusive and interesting experiences



Participation in community is vital to the growth and development of confident and resilient young people and the strength of our community.

Focus area

Identify and enable opportunities where young people can explore and experience all aspects of community life, learn new skills and make meaningful contributions to their lives and their community.

Inclusive and interesting experiences

Supporting the participation of young people in all aspects of community life enables inclusive practices where young people are allowed to contribute, explore, experience and learn new skills. Our young people and the community benefit from an environment that creates opportunities for participation that are attractive, valuable and contribute to the health, confidence and resilience of young people.

Action	Key stakeholders
2.1 Promote and support initiatives that target and enhance the life skills, 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 & Sustainability Policy Youth Advisory Group
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

Enduring commitments:

- Assist local youth services to attract funds to deliver projects that support local young people, including assistance with project scoping and letters of support
- Promote recreational, community, sporting, cultural and artistic activities and opportunities to young people
- Undertake a range of environmental 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 2018	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

- The provision of library collections and programs for young people that are current and adequately resourced such as robotics
- Providing opportunities for work experience, summer workplace and traineeships with council
- Facilitating events that promote youth living, studying, playing and working in the region.

Having a say



The appropriateness and success of what is delivered for young people is dependent upon the engagement of young people.

Focus area
Identify approaches and establish processes for young people to have a say in decision making that impacts their lives.

Having a say

The linking of young people to decision-making processes recognises their opinions and contributions are sought and valued and encourages young people to take an active role in their community. The engagement needs to be empowering, inclusive, encouraging and purposeful and is vital to the success of the design and delivery of public policies, programs and infrastructure and services that impact their lives.

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 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

Enduring commitment:

- 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 *Draft Sunshine Coast Youth Action Plan 2018-2021* has an implementation period of three years. The actions will form part of the operations of council and be implemented through the day to day operations of the organisation.

Monitoring and review of the actions within each priority area is required to ensure:

- Improved funding alignment for youth focussed initiatives
- Identification of opportunities and potential on the ground actions for future plans involving young people
- Reporting on the progress of the implementation of the actions
- Reporting on the status of the deliverables and undertaking refinements where required to ensure their delivery.

The monitoring and review will be led by the Community Planning and Development Branch, the Youth Advisory Group in consultation with council 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
 - Facebook
 - 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
 - Social media.





