Youth Engagement Strategy

Engagement Collaboration Awareness
Acknowledgement to Country

Mildura Rural City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land which now comprise the Mildura Rural City municipality. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and celebrate and respect their continuing culture and acknowledge the memories of their ancestors.

Acknowledgement of Diversity

We acknowledge our programs and community events will be respectful, accessible and inclusive of:
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth
Culturally diverse and newly arrived young people
Young people with disabilities
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex + young people

Mayor’s Message

It is with great pleasure that I present Council’s three year strategy to identify partnerships, programs, activities and actions to enhance the lives of young people living in the Mildura Local Government Area.

I wish to acknowledge all the young people who contributed to this strategy through participation in forums, or by completing surveys.

I also wish to acknowledge the contributions made by representatives of various youth services and organisations in the municipality who met with our team and offered their valuable insights.

Through the information obtained from discussions with young people and service providers, and extensive background research, we now have a clear direction to follow over the next three years towards making a positive impact in the lives of young people.

However, we cannot implement all of these actions by ourselves. It is important that we work in partnership with young people, families, education and service providers, sport and recreation groups, and community interest groups to collectively make a difference.

Mildura Rural City Council looks forward to implementing this strategy and ensuring that young people have access to opportunities, facilities and services that they need to grow, develop, feel connected and empowered, and to enjoy life.
What Youth Engagement Services Do

Mildura Rural City Council’s Youth Engagement Services provides the following services:
- Leadership programs
- YMCA Youth Parliament program
- School Holiday programs
- Youth development programs and activities
- FReeZA events
- Victorian Youth Week events
- Council Youth Awards
- FLO Connect and Navigator case management to re-engage secondary school students
- In-kind partnership between MRCC and headspace
- School Focussed Youth Service programs
- Coordination of the local Youth Service Providers Network
- Coordination of the School’s Wellbeing Network

What Other Youth Services Do

To achieve better outcomes for young people, it is important that there is collaborative effort between the organisations, service providers and community members that cater for them.

This includes:
Schools, training and tertiary providers, Victoria Police, sport clubs, health and wellbeing services, housing, community-based organisations, government departments and families. These are working locally with young people in the areas of:

- Accommodation
- Education
- Cultural identity
- Advocacy
- Entertainment
- Leadership
- Capacity building
- Health - general
- Health - mental
- Health-sexual
- Health-drugs and alcohol
- Counselling support
- Case management
- Mentoring
- Training and employment
- Transport
- Disability support
- Legal support
Introduction

Why Have a Youth Strategy

The Mildura Rural City Council’s Youth Strategy provides a clear, strategic platform for action for the next three years. The strategy will guide Council’s work and direct resources toward priorities that will support the development and wellbeing of Mildura’s young people.

The Strategy seeks to define Council’s role in working for and alongside young people in Mildura LGA, ensure local actions are evidence-based, and align local efforts and resources to improve opportunities so that youth are supported to learn, be safe, belong, work and contribute.

Scope

The Youth Strategy:
- Covers young people aged 12 to 25 who work, live, learn and play in the Mildura LGA
- Is a whole-of-Council strategic document
- Does not cover organisations or groups outside of Council. It does, however, seek to guide Council’s work with these groups to develop collaborative partnerships for better youth outcomes

Action Plan

The Strategy will be supported by an annual action plan that will set key actions for implementation against priority areas, including measures to track progress against outcomes. Reflective practice will be undertaken to continually review and track progress. This will allow initiatives to be responsive, targeted, adaptive and more effective, while maintaining strategic long-term direction.

Youth Strategy Review Findings

An external review of the previous Youth Engagement Strategy provided 18 recommendations for planning moving forward.

Together these formed three key focus areas for the Action Plan:

1. Youth Engagement and Voice
2. Collaboration between Local Government and Youth Services for better youth outcomes
3. Awareness raising about youth to better involve them in Council decision-making, and raising awareness across community of the work of Council’s Youth Engagement Services
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<td>Explore opportunities to provide access to low cost/no cost sport, recreation and social activities.</td>
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<td><strong>Collaboration</strong></td>
<td>Develop a strategic approach for youth employment including greater access to a wider range of work experience and volunteering activities and links to economic development.</td>
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<td>Strengthen Council’s partnership capability across the youth services sector.</td>
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<td>Develop a shared focus and key messages for advocacy across the youth sector.</td>
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<td>Seek resources to create and maintain an online youth services/support directory.</td>
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<td>Explore youth social enterprise opportunities.</td>
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<td>Write a youth friendly summary for the 2019-2022 Mildura Council Youth Strategy and broadly promote the document to young people, services and community.</td>
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<td>Continue to raise community awareness about the importance of education.</td>
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<td>Promote the achievements of Council’s Youth Engagement Services.</td>
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# Youth Social Indicators

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<th>Indicator Type</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How Many Youth</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10-24 years</td>
<td>10,042</td>
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<td></td>
<td>637 Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-14 years</td>
<td>3371</td>
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<td>15-19 years</td>
<td>3518</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-24 years</td>
<td>3153</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Disability</strong></td>
<td>3.4% need assistance with core activities. Higher than the Victorian rate.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Mental Health</strong></td>
<td>Nearly 1 in 5 showed high levels of psychological distress (depressive symptoms).</td>
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<td><strong>School Absence</strong></td>
<td>32 average number of days absent per full-time equivalent (FTE) Year 9 student enrolled in government schools. Victoria’s average is 22 days.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth 17-24 Engaged in Education, Training &amp; Employment</strong></td>
<td>Fully Engaged 57.1% Mildura 71.8% Victoria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Partially engaged 15.3% Mildura 11% Victoria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Not Engaged 16.2% Mildura 10% Victoria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Not Stated 8.6% Mildura 5.8% Victoria</td>
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<td><strong>Education Completion at 19 Years</strong></td>
<td>88% have completed Year 12. Equal to the rate for Victoria.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Unemployment</strong></td>
<td>7.2% of young people aged 16 to 24 receive an unemployment benefit. Nearly three times the rate for Victoria.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Physical Activity</strong></td>
<td>1 in 5 do the recommended amount of physical activity every day. Lower than the rate for Victoria.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Diet</strong></td>
<td>1 in 5 eat the minimum daily recommended serves of fruit and vegetables. Higher than the rate for Victoria.</td>
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<td><strong>Young People &amp; Alcohol</strong></td>
<td>70% have drunk alcohol (more than a few sips). Higher than the rate for Victoria.</td>
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<td><strong>Young People &amp; Drugs</strong></td>
<td>1 in 5 have smoked marijuana or taken other illegal drugs. Higher than the rate for Victoria.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth &amp; Crime</strong></td>
<td>290 offenders in Mildura were classed as a young person aged between 0-17. Twice the rate for Victoria.</td>
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<td><strong>Pregnancy Under 19</strong></td>
<td>20 pregnancies per 1000 females under the age of 19. More than twice the rate for Victoria.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth &amp; Family Security</strong></td>
<td>1 in 2 students are from families whose occupation category is Unskilled/Semi-Skilled or Unemployed (greater than 12 months).</td>
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<td><strong>Young People &amp; Family Violence</strong></td>
<td>Mildura ranks 2nd for family violence incidents per 100,000 population in Victoria.</td>
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Challenges Young People Are Facing

**Changing job markets**
There are fewer full-time employment opportunities for school leavers.

It is harder to get an entry-level job with no experience.

Unskilled or semi-skilled jobs being replaced by machines, robots or computer.

Many young people are employed as casuals (in a limited range of occupations, such as in the fast food industry).

**Digital technology**
Digital technology enables young people to access a lot of information and entertainment and to stay connected with their family and friends around the clock.

Digital technology has changed the way that many young people meet and interact with others (such as gaming, dating apps, social media and online streaming services).

Overuse of technology is leading to poor social skills, disconnection, mental and physical health.

Other negative aspects of digital technology for young people include loss or confusion of identity, sexting, cyber-bullying, online gambling, texting while driving, hearing loss from headphone usage, reduction in inter-personal skills, an addiction to electronic devices, and easy access to pornography.

**Loneliness and social isolation**
One in six young people in Australia aged 12-17 reported feeling or having felt a very high intensity of loneliness. (2019 VicHealth Youth Australian Loneliness Survey)

Loneliness is becoming a serious public health problem for young people. Those who are lonely have worse physical and mental health, and are more likely to be depressed.

**Mental health**
Poor mental health and wellbeing is one of the significant health concerns of the 21st Century. Mental health was listed as the top issue by 43% of youth surveyed by Mission Australia in 2018.

Various support services such as headspace, Kids Helpline and Beyond Blue all have a major focus on improving mental health.

**Changing family structures and family connection**
Family stability is affected by increasing trauma including family violence, complex family issues such as drugs and alcohol, mental health and abuse.

Family dynamics are changing, including single partner or one-parent families and same-sex parents.

There is a decrease in available family time due to work and other commitments.

Entrenched generational poverty and unemployment can decrease aspirations.
Youth Voice

How We Consulted Youth
We built an Engagement Plan to try to reach across the diversity of youth in our community. 250+ youth were surveyed to inform the Action Plan and how it may be implemented. Youth were surveyed either one-on-one by Youth Engagement Services staff, or through an online survey. 253 responses were received and analyzed to help respond to the review recommendations, and to inform the Action Plan moving forward.

A sample of Social Indicators for youth were drawn from the State of Mildura 2018 Report to illustrate youth needs.

The Action Plan was workshopped by the Youth Engagement Services Team over a number of meetings.

The Youth Services Network and Local Drug and Alcohol Action teams also had the opportunity for early input.

Consultation Questions

Where do youth like to go?
What do they like the most about where they live?
What kinds of programs and activities appeal to young people?
What are barriers to participation?
How do young people find out about what is happening in their community?
What would they change if they could?
What are the biggest issues young people are facing in our community?
What would help to address these?
What Youth Said

The demographics of the youth who responded to the survey are shown below:-

222 answered and 31 skipped this question
What Youth Are Currently In

What Youth Are Planning For Next Year
**Other includes:** Instruments/Music, Drums Watching movies, buying “vbucks” on my mum’s credit card. Hobbies such as Drawing, Art, Animating, Drawing, Gardening and Reading, Photography and Videography, Dance, Origami, Crochet, Coding, Listening to Testimonies. Scooter, going outside, kicking the footy, playing with my older and younger brother and having friends over, Scouting, Fishing, riding dirt bikes, ringing my friends and playing with my dog, go for walks and shoot bow and arrows, Eating, Sleeping, Spending time with family.

**Other includes:** salty springs, scooter riding, making forts, home playing games together. Church, cooking, Restaurants/cafes/bars, National park hiking, Drive-thru café, Not really anywhere, every place is boring or costs money - things should be free.
Other includes: Newspaper, Google, We need to receive more communication about events, Optical illusion, ask the 'bois' in a squad game, news on television and other social media sites, such as YouTube, Youth Facebook page, Any essays on the street i see

Other includes: Not many people, so it isn't crowded as such cities as Melbourne or Sydney. It is not too crowded to get around, I also like it because at my house I can be free because I'm surrounded by blocks. I live close to my best friend and we go riding together on the weekends. Access to decent movies and music, Great chips place (Dunno's), good wifi, Liam Johnson and Fat Yack, The community involvement, There are also lots of opportunities (jobs, etc.) for all youth. Church, Family. The surrounding environment (river, bush land etc), the river and Lake Cullulleraine, Riding dirt bikes, motorbike track, It's not the worst place on earth, Not a lot of stuff to do in my street cops need to do more, Nothing - I live in the middle of nowhere, I have to live here otherwise I would move
Other includes: The barriers are more about not knowing about them, I don't know where to find out about them, they don't often show up on my Facebook feed. New to town don't know anyone. Doesn't sound exciting enough, it's not worth going out to an event if you can see the same thing at home, just things don't look fun, I just don't want to go. Not really my thing need to make more exciting, for younger children. Parents, Drugs, FEELING EXTREMELY UNSAFE, Jacks legs, “vbucks”

Other includes: Discrimination, FEELING UNSAFE. SERIOUSLY, FIND A WAY TO MAKE THE STREETS SAFER
Depression, Not enough money/family not understanding of my needs Cost of everything, Not enough jobs for youth like I myself I applied for job from 2018_2019 but it's hard to get it.
When everyone is on the wifi, Lack of educational resources and ability to go to desired universities due to lack of funding for relocation. Very few people genuinely want to be here, because this town feels like it was designed for adults first and children growing up were an afterthought, Nothing really, Eshays, school, just not enjoyable.
What Youth Want Council To Do For Them

Youth enjoy the outdoors and riverfront and would like more trees, shade, camping spots, rubbish bins and water taps.

They want their environment and sports fields cared for so that they are clean and well maintained. They want to see more bins and better recycling.

They would like a nature park with equipment that they can use without being considered too old to do so.

They would like well-designed and accessible skate parks. They would like more bike tracks and the roads to be safer to ride on.

They would like some more youth-dedicated spaces to hang out or to undertake youth activities. They would like an internet café or Technology Hub.

They would like to see more youth and family-friendly events, music festivals and free movie nights, and a wider choice of things to do on weekends. They would like these to be no or low cost and supported with affordable transport.

Youth would like to feel safer at the riverfront and mall especially in the evenings and feel that bullying is an issue that should be better addressed.

Youth want leadership opportunities and a Youth Council so their ideas and concerns can be listened to.

They would also like more competitions and prizes for youth.

They want more opportunities to improve their community through working bees and volunteering.

Youth Strategy Development

Our Approach

To design the youth strategy and identify priority areas for action, we considered:

1. Local issues that impact most on the well-being of our young people;

2. The issues that our young people identified as most important;

3. What local data revealed about young people;

4. The Council’s plan, its role and ability to address these issues; and,

5. A strong research and evidence base
Council’s Plan and the Youth Engagement Strategy

The Youth Engagement Strategy 2020 – 2023 links to the following goals of Mildura Rural City Council’s Plan (2017-2021):

1.1 Community Safety
- People feel safe
- People are safe
- A community well prepared for emergencies

1.2 Community Development
- Improved facilities, services and activities
- Improved level of inclusion and active participation in the community
- Improved access to education opportunities

1.3 Community Health and Wellbeing
- High levels of community health and wellbeing

1.4 Community Services
- Youth are supported to reach their full potential

1.5 Arts and Cultural Heritage
- Increased access to a diverse range of arts and cultural experiences and opportunities
- Access to a diverse range of quality library materials, services and programs

1.6 Recreation and Sport
- Increased participation rates in sport and recreation activities
- Increased access to a diverse range of quality sporting and recreation facilities and programs

The Youth Engagement Strategy 2020 – 2023 links to other key Mildura Rural City Council plans:

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Hands Up Mallee
- Community Aspiration – A connected community where families matter and children thrive

Unlocking Sunraysia’s Potential
- Unlocking Sunraysia’s Potential Blueprint
Youth Engagement Strategy 2020 – 2023

Vision
Resilient, healthy, safe, productive and skilled young people connected to their community.

Mission
We promote youth engagement, participation and development so young people enter adulthood best equipped to enjoy strong, safe relationships and a vibrant, inclusive community in which to achieve financial security.

Goals
- Strengthen Council’s understanding of the demographics, needs and priorities of young people
- Strengthen relationships between the Council and young people aged 12 to 25 years
- Engage youth in the development of Council strategies and policies that consider young people and their roles and place in the community
- Encourage young people’s contribution to decision-making and sense of ownership of, strategies, projects and decisions to support long-term sustainability of positive youth participation and development
- Assist youth, through provision of services, programs and events to:
  - Be healthy
  - Stay safe
  - Be included and inclusive
  - Make a positive contribution towards their community
  - Achieve social and economic wellbeing

Guiding Principles
- Encouraging youth voice so they can influence learning, policies, activities and events for young people
- Collaboration and co-design with young people and service sector
- Integrated planning and action across multiple partners and disciplines
- Evidence-informed decision-making and practice
- Building on the assets of young people and community
- Offer meaningful opportunities to young people to participate and connect to others
- Promote positive transitions and healthy development of young people
- Commitment to youth empowerment
- Understand and promote positive views of young people
## Youth Action Plan 2020 – 2023

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<td>1. Strengthen/build mechanisms to consider/involve the voice of young people.</td>
<td>1. Identify more ways for youth to share their ideas and opinions. 2. Develop and support youth-led structures and activities that enable the ideas and opinions of youth to be heard.</td>
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|                          | 2. Empower young people and build their capacity and skills to lead advocacy efforts.   | 3. Identify and facilitate opportunities for youth to participate in activities and programs that develop their capacity to:  
  - Be healthy  
  - Stay safe  
  - Be included and inclusive  
  - Make a positive contribution to community  
  - Achieve social and economic wellbeing |
|                          | 3. Target programs/offer enhanced support to engage more young people from diverse, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. | 4. Identify and offer activities and programs that engage the diversity of our youth and build connectedness. 5. Engage with key partners to build capacity for active outreach. |
|                          | 4. Expand opportunities for youth leadership development with a focus on youth from a diverse range of cultural, socio-economic and academic backgrounds. | 6. Liaise with community partners to design, run and coordinate a range of youth leadership projects and programs that target youth from different cultural, socio-economic and academic backgrounds. 7. Liaise with community leaders to increase coaching and mentoring of youth from a diversity of backgrounds. |
|                          | 5. Strengthen the engagement of young people aged 18+, especially during the transition years after secondary school. | 8. Create a map of what is provided for youth 18+ to identify gaps and duplications. 9. Design, run and coordinate programs that support young people to prepare themselves for independent living as students or employees, and build their capabilities to navigate range of systems e.g. health, legal, financial, Fair Work. |
|                          | 6. Strengthen the focus on early intervention and prevention for young people.          | 10. Promote the importance of education and re-engage youth into education, training and employment pathways. 11. Raise youth and family awareness of the range of early intervention programs, services and activities available for youth in our community and encourage early access. 12. Design, run and coordinate programs and activities that foster youth participation in community life to build resilience and social confidence. |
|                          | 7. Explore opportunities to provide access to low cost/no cost sport, recreation and social activities. | 13. Map what is provided as low/no cost for youth to identify gaps and duplications. 14. Liaise with community partners and schools to design, facilitate and coordinate no cost interest programs. Offer these at venues at different postcodes to overcome transport barriers. |
| **Community Partnerships** | 8. Develop a strategic approach for youth employment including greater access to a wider range of work experience | 15. Liaise with DET, NMLLEN, schools and employers to:  
  - Identify ways to support youth in accessing work experience and employment e.g. creating a work experience directory |
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| and volunteering activities and links to economic development. | • Test the feasibility of offering youth workplace and career pathway awareness modules  
• Re-engage youth into education, training and employment pathways  
16. Work with Council units to identify and create volunteering and work experience opportunities for youth and promote the use of the Be Collective volunteering platform. | |
| 9. Strengthen Council’s partnership capability across the youth services sector. | 17. Liaise with Hands Up Mallee to map the system that supports youth to see where to best work with the youth services sector to improve providing programs and activities for youth.  
18. Facilitate the Youth Service Providers Network to coordinate the means of improving youth mental health and connectedness.  
19. Liaise with the Local Drug Action Team and support their strategies for prevention and early intervention. | |
| 10. Develop a shared focus and key messages for advocacy across the youth sector. | 20. Identify key messages about the issues youth have raised, and find the best ways and audiences to communicate them.  
21. Design and test structures that give youth opportunities to be heard by Council. | |
| 11. Seek resources to create and maintain an online youth services/support directory. | 22. Map the services, activities and programs available for youth and create a free online directory using KUMU.  
23. Provide links for this to the community, promote its use and test its effectiveness. | |
| 12. Explore youth social enterprise opportunities. | 24. Study and learn from local social enterprises.  
25. Explore opportunities to develop social enterprises for youth in partnership with community services and organisations.  
26. Advocate for grant opportunities to support youth-led projects as stepping stones towards conducting social enterprises. | |
| 13. Embed the Youth Charter into Council employee induction processes and ensure the Youth Charter is visible in all Council buildings. | 27. Renew the Youth Charter and raise Council’s awareness of it.  
28. Create an induction kit about youth, their social indicators, and the Youth Charter to be included in Council and Councillor Induction training.  
29. Liaise with HR and offer to conduct the training ourselves. | |
| 14. Build the capacity of Council units to involve young people in the work that they do. | 30. Identify evidence-based practice that would best support our team in delivering awareness raising sessions with key Council units on how to better involve youth in the work they do.  
31. Hold a Youth-Led Round Table internally at Council to consider how to effectively engage youth in decisions that affect them and to raise youth awareness of the work of Local Government. | |
| 15. Continue to support Councillors and Executive Management to understand youth needs and issues so | 32. Raise the awareness of youth about what Council and Councillors do.  
33. Conduct at least one youth tour of Council per quarter. |
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<td>that they can advocate/lobby for youth needs at a higher level.</td>
<td>34. Advocate for more mentoring and workplace experience for youth within Council.</td>
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<td>35. Hold a Youth-Led Round Table to explore how to build a relationship with Councilors and involve them more in youth affairs.</td>
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<td>36. Nominate a ‘Council Year of Youth’ and hold a youth forum to inform the next Youth Engagement Strategy.</td>
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<td>Community Awareness</td>
<td>16. Write a youth friendly summary for the 2019-2022 Mildura Council Youth Strategy and broadly promote the document to young people, services and community.</td>
<td>37. Work with youth to create a youth friendly means of communicating the 2020-2023 Mildura Council Youth Engagement Strategy to youth, youth services and community.</td>
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<td>38. Liaise with community partners so that positive youth development is embedded across the community youth touch points.</td>
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<td>17. Continue to raise community awareness about the importance of education.</td>
<td>39. Liaise with schools and RTOs to explore how to better support youth during transitions during their educational pathway.</td>
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<td>40. Conduct workshops and information sessions about how to access support from services and employment pathways.</td>
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<td>41. Conduct workshops and information sessions to reach disengaged youth and their families as a bridge to re-engagement.</td>
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<td>18. Promote the achievements of Council’s Youth Engagement Services.</td>
<td>42. Actively promote what Youth Engagement Services offers for youth, and the progress of the Youth Engagement Strategy.</td>
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<td>43. Align the community promotion plan with the plan for raising Council awareness.</td>
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## Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MEL)

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<th>Results Based Measurements</th>
<th>Evaluation Questions</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. How much did we do, how many did we reach, what diversity of reach?</strong></td>
<td>To what extent are MRCC employees aware of the Youth Charter and its relevance to their role? To what extent are they advocating for youth needs?</td>
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<td># Programs, activities, events conducted</td>
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<td><strong>2. How well did we do it?</strong></td>
<td>How well have we disseminated a youth-friendly summary of the strategy throughout our community?</td>
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<td>Planning &amp; delivery</td>
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<td>Staff morale</td>
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<td>Unit cost</td>
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<td>Service standards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer satisfaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timely</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% youth completing programs, activities</td>
<td>How well have we engaged with the collective voices of young people in our community?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Were Youth Better Off?</strong></td>
<td>What engagement methods were used to reach the collective voices of youth? Was this made authentic for culturally-diverse communities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge &amp; skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitudes &amp; opinions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved circumstances</td>
<td>To what extent have youth directed or informed activities and investment decisions?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To what extent do all the demographics believe they are understood and are aware of Youth Engagement Services?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How well have we raised awareness of the importance of education?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To what extent have we promoted the achievements of the strategy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has the Youth Engagement Strategy influenced policies and practices for youth?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is life better for youth?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Collection Tools
- Counts.
- Surveys, post activity reflections,
- Most significant change stories,
- Case studies.

### Most Significant Learnings Through Time
Youth Policies

Local

Mildura Rural City Council’s Youth Charter

The Youth Charter articulates Council’s commitment to actively involving young people in all aspects of community life. The Charter is framed by four key guiding principles: inclusion, equality, advocacy and commitment. The Youth Charter emphasizes how Council will engage with, listen to, celebrate and advocate for youth needs across the municipality.

State


The strategy identifies a key role for services in enabling the Government to achieve its goals to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families. The key overarching goals of the Strategy are:

→ Prevent abuse and neglect;
→ Act earlier when children and young people are vulnerable; and
→ Improve outcomes for children and young people in statutory care.

Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan 2016 - 2026

Marrung is a State Government long-term plan prepared by the Department of Education and Training. The plan is designed to achieve an aspirational vision to deliver the ambitious Education State targets and underpin Victoria’s strong and steadfast commitment to close the gap in educational outcomes between Koorie and non-Koorie Victorians.

Roadmap to Reform: Stronger Families, Safe Children

In April 2016, the Victorian Government officially launched the Roadmap for Reform: strong families, safe children, as one of its key platforms to respond to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

The Roadmap sets out once-in-a-generation changes designed to improve the lives of vulnerable Victorian children, young people and families.

Victorian Charter for Child Friendly Cities and Communities

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) launched the Victorian Charter for Child Friendly Cities and Communities in 2013. The Charter is consistent with global initiatives mentioned previously, and embodies a commitment to ensure that children and
young people have a voice in local planning and decision-making, through the following principles: **Freedom** for young people to experience environments that consider their needs; **Respect and dignity** for young people to express their individual opinions, participate in and contribute to decisions about their communities and their wellbeing; and **Equitable access** to supportive environments and services for young people regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or ability.

**Youth Policy - Building Stronger Youth Engagement in Victoria**

The Victorian Government’s Youth Policy strengthens how government engage with young people and embeds their voice in building an even better Victoria. Young people are often overlooked when developing services, policies and programs on issues that are important to them. The policy creates opportunities right across government to engage with young people, including those whose voices often go unheard. It allows development of solutions and ideas together and guides future services, policies and programs that impact on young people’s lives.

**Federal**

The Federal Government does not currently have a Youth Strategy; its policy focus in relation to youth is focused strongly around education.

**The National School Reform Agreement**

The National School Reform Agreement 2019-2023 is a joint agreement between the Commonwealth, States and Territories to lift student outcomes across Australian schools. The agreement outlines strategic reforms in areas where national collaboration will have the greatest impact on driving improved student outcomes.

**Global**

**United Nations Youth Strategy**

The Strategy aims to:

- facilitate increased impact and expanded global, regional and country-level action to address the needs,
- build the agency and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the world; and
- ensure youth engagement and participation in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant global agendas and frameworks.
References

Vic Health - Young Australian Loneliness Survey 2019

Mission Australia – Annual Youth Survey


Hands Up Mallee - Community Conversations – Youth Deep Dive
https://www.handsupmallee.com/community-conversations-data