



GREATER SHEPPARTON

YOUTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

2019 | 2023

We're a new generation with new opinions, new voices and new tolerance and we want to be able to make a better community for ourselves and everyone else to live in."

- survey respondent

GREATER
SHEPPARTON 



PREPARED BY



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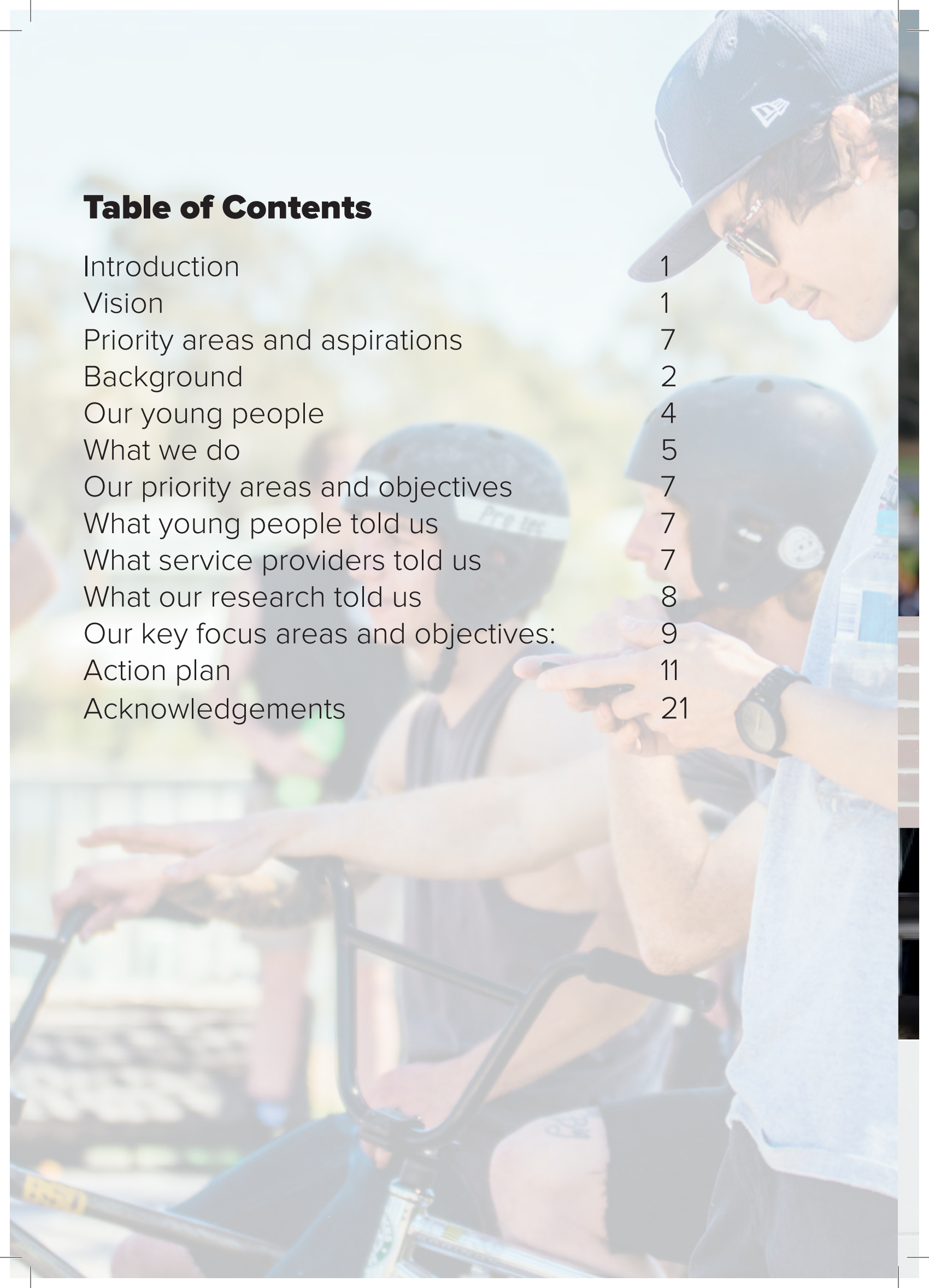
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Draft Report Date: 30 June 2018

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Acknowledgement of Country

We, Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the traditional owners of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton. We pay respect to their tribal elders, we celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.



Other acknowledgements

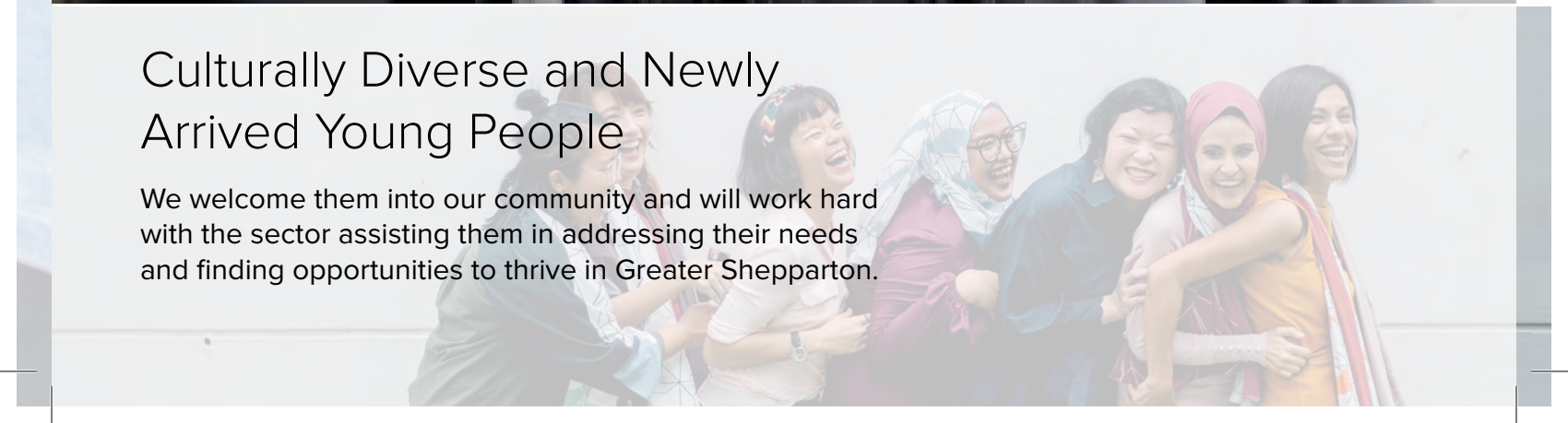
LGBTQI +

We acknowledge that our programs and community events will be respectful and inclusive of LGBTQI+ young people.



Young People with Disabilities

We acknowledge that our programs, events and community facilities will be accessible and inclusive for young people with disabilities and facing specific barriers



Culturally Diverse and Newly Arrived Young People

We welcome them into our community and will work hard with the sector assisting them in addressing their needs and finding opportunities to thrive in Greater Shepparton.

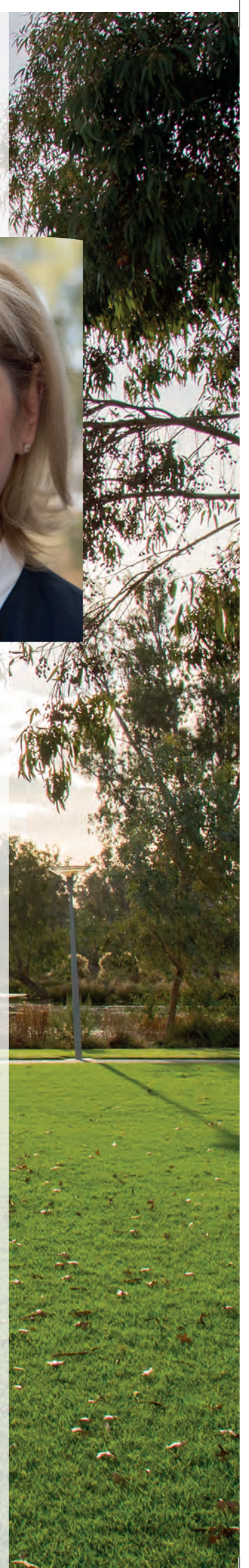
Mayor's Message

It is with great pleasure that I present to you Council's four year strategy to identify priority partnerships, programs, activities and actions to enhance the lives of young people living in Greater Shepparton.

I wish to acknowledge all of the young people who contributed to this strategy including the Word and Mouth Committee and young people who participated in workshops or completed a survey. I also wish to acknowledge the contributions made by representatives of various youth services and organisations in the municipality who met with our project team and offered their valuable insights.

Through the information obtained from our discussions with young people and service providers, along with our extensive background research, we now have a clear direction to follow over the next four years so that we can make a positive impact on the lives of young people in our city in the areas that really matter. However, we cannot implement all of these opportunities or address all of these challenges by ourselves. It is important that we work in partnership with young people themselves, parents / carers, schools, tertiary education providers, other service providers, clubs, businesses, and places of worship to collectively make a difference.

Greater Shepparton City Council looks forward to implementing this strategy and ensuring that young people, regardless of their gender, place of birth or abilities are valued and have access to services facilities and opportunities that they need to grow, develop and enjoy life. We are particularly keen to ensure that young people feel connected to their communities and have a voice.



Introduction

The aim of this strategy is to develop a vision and a four year strategic plan that responds to the key needs of young people aged between 12-25 years of age who live, study, work and recreate in Greater Shepparton. This evidence-based strategy identifies priority partnerships, programs, activities and actions to enhance the lives of young people living in Greater Shepparton. It will be used to guide Greater Shepparton City Council’s activities and investment in the municipal youth sector over the next four years.

Background

In order to develop the Youth Strategy and Action Plan, we consulted with young people and service providers / staff throughout the municipality to get their views on key challenges and opportunities. We also:

- reviewed local, regional, state and national policies, strategies and research documents
- undertook a demographic analysis of the municipality
- benchmarked against Youth Services in other Local Government Areas
- mapped youth services that are available within the municipality.

All of this information was analysed and utilised to prepare a Youth Strategy and Action Plan that is realistic and achievable and will ultimately improve the outcomes for young people living, studying, working or recreating in Greater Shepparton.



Supporting the Youth Strategy and Action Plan is a background report that contains more detailed information about the:

Literature review

Youth workshops

Youth profile

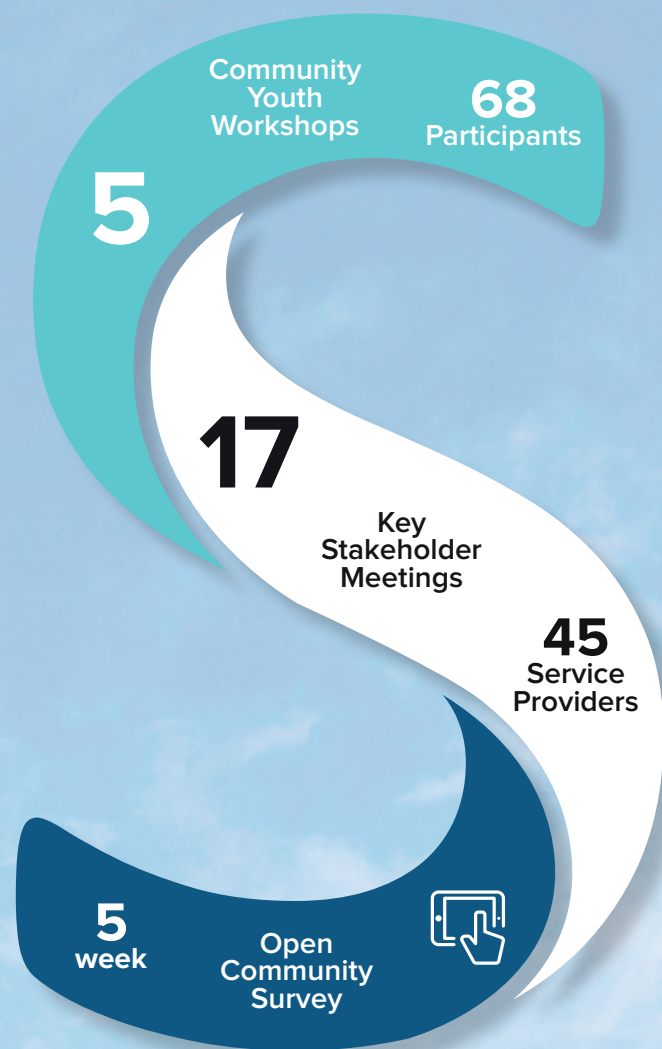
Key stakeholder interviews

Demographic analysis

Service mapping

Survey results

Benchmarking.



Our young people

- Young people between 12-25 years of age currently account for 17.8% of the population of Greater Shepparton.
- By 2036, there will be 2,518 more young people in Greater Shepparton, i.e. from 11,612 to 14,131.
- Localities most likely to see an increase in the number of young residents are Kialla urban area (+676); Shepparton North East (+480) and Shepparton South East (+323).
- Areas most likely to see a decline in young people are Rural North West (-73), Shepparton Surrounds South (-70) and Rural East (-40).
- There is a higher proportion of low income

- households in Greater Shepparton compared with Victoria (25.6% of households receive less than \$650 gross weekly income, compared with 20.3%).
- The rate of participation in university or tertiary institutions is significantly lower in Greater Shepparton, i.e. 5.2% compared with 17.8% for Victoria and 16.1% for Australia.
- Other than English, the most common languages spoken at home in Greater Shepparton are: Italian (1.4%), Arabic (1.1%), Punjabi (0.8%), Mandarin (0.4%) and Hazaraghi (0.4%).

What we do and what others do

Greater Shepparton City Council's Youth Services branch has two staff who work in partnership with other departments in Council to deliver a wide variety of programs, services, activities and facilities for young people throughout the municipality including:

- Word and Mouth youth advisory committee
- FReeZA events
- National Youth Week events
- Cultural Leadership program
- Careers information and events
- Community events / festivals
- Sporting and recreational events
- Leadership programs
- Facility provision

A whole of community approach is required to ensure better outcomes for young people. Therefore it is important for all service providers, as well as young people, secondary and tertiary education providers, Victoria Police,

- Awards and recognition
- Issue-based initiatives, e.g. the provision of information and tools for anti-bullying including school tools; mental health resources; alcohol and drug awareness in schools and sporting clubs;
- Community safety initiatives

Staff also supports the youth sector by:

- Applying for and supporting various funding opportunities on behalf of the sector and for youth projects
- Participating in various professional networking opportunities, advisory groups and steering committees
- Supporting service provider projects in relation to relevant issues

sports clubs, businesses, community-based organisations, places of worship, government departments and families to work together. Some of the other organisations working locally with young people in the areas of:

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



Key findings

What young people told us

Young people told us through consultations and surveys that they:

- Believe that the community is inclusive and supportive of people from different cultural backgrounds, genders, etc.
- Have good personal support networks in Greater Shepparton, e.g. family / friends
- Believe that there are good community support services, e.g. counsellors, youth workers, teachers, doctors, coaches, etc.
- Believe that built facilities are good and easy to access, e.g. shops, skate parks, swimming pools, stadiums, etc.
- Like to see progress in Shepparton, e.g. the modern new Court House is appealing
- Believe that there are plenty of mainstream sports opportunities for young people
- Find the natural environment attractive, e.g. the river, parks, etc.

The areas where they would primarily like to see the Youth Sector focus its attention on are:

- Improving safety in public spaces, such as shopping areas, parks and skate parks
- Improving public transport opportunities, especially later services and better services to outlying towns
- Improving work and training opportunities for young people locally
- Providing more low cost, place-based activities and events, e.g. art, music, drama and informal recreation opportunities in parks, e.g. basketball half courts and portable soccer goals
- Advocating for more services to respond to the mental health needs of young people
- Helping to reduce the impact of drug and alcohol usage and advocating for more support services
- Improving opportunities to young people to have a voice and contribute to things happening in the community
- Helping to reduce the prevalence of bullying and cyber bullying

- Attracting more youth-friendly businesses and shops to Shepparton
- Improving the public image / perception of Greater Shepparton
- Providing more activities and events for young people aged 18-25.

What service providers told us

Service providers told us that they would like to see Council focus on:

- Networking and sharing of information with other local service providers, e.g. Municipal Health and Wellbeing data and demographic projections
- Advocacy on key issues, often in partnership with other service providers
- Partnerships with service providers for specific projects
- Support with service provider funding applications, e.g. letters of support
- Undertaking or commissioning research into specific youth-related issues
- Providing ways for young people's voices to be heard (including those who are traditionally disadvantaged or disengaged) and to involve young people more in the planning of their communities
- Acting as a central information source
- Providing a range of free / low cost activities and events for young people throughout the municipality
- Providing opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills
- Potentially supporting and advocating for young people or other service providers to develop youth programs or services
- Recognising and promoting the positive contributions of young people to the community.

Strategic Links

The Greater Shepparton Youth Strategy and Action Plan is informed by a variety of different policies, strategies and research including:

Local / Plans

Council Plan 2017-2021

Youth Strategy Action Plan 2012-2015

Best Start Municipal Early Years Plan (2015)

Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project (2016)
Falling through the cracks – stories of youth disengagement in Greater Shepparton

Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project (2015)
Mapping of Youth Services.

Shepparton Education Plan Phase Two
Community Engagement Report (2017)
and website

State of Greater Shepparton Children's Report
(2014)

Lighthouse Project 1,000 Conversations
(status overview) June 2018

State / Nationwide Reports

Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring
System VCAMS Outcomes Framework (DET)

Brotherhood of St Laurence (2018) An Unfair
Australia, Mapping Youth Unemployment
Hotspots.

Australian Research Alliance for Children &
Youth (ARACY) Report Card. The wellbeing of
young Australians 2018

Bendigo Youth Strategy and Action Plan
2017-2021

Mission Australia Youth Survey Report (2017)

Priority areas and aspirations

The six key priority areas of this strategy and our aspirations for young people are:

1 To be loved, healthy and safe

Young people are looked after and cared for to achieve holistic wellbeing including good physical and mental health. They have friends and trusted adults that they can turn to for help. They feel safe at home, at school, in the workplace and in the community.

2 To have access to material basics

Young people have access to sufficient housing, food, clothing, money, transport and technology to meet their daily living needs.

3 To learn and develop skills

Young people are actively engaged in affordable and accessible education, training, the workforce, volunteering and family life.

4 To have a voice

Young people have the opportunity to have their voice heard in schools and the broader community. They are involved in planning things in the community.

5 To be part of a community

Young people have access to a range of events and activities in the community. Young people feel welcome and valued in the community. Differences in cultural backgrounds, gender, sexuality, abilities, religious beliefs, appearance, socio-economic status, health are celebrated and respected.

6 To engage the youth sector

Young people's outcomes are greatly improved as a result of Council's Youth Services Team being actively engaged in the youth sector, sharing their skills and expertise, professional development opportunities, learning from others and forming strategic partnerships.

Acronyms

CALD

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

CCTV

Closed Circuit Television

CPTED

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

FReeZA

Drug and alcohol free event funding program initiated by the State Government

WAM

Word and Mouth Youth Organisation

GMLLEN

Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Employment Network

GSCC

Greater Shepparton City Council

LGBQTI

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Queer, Transgender and Intersex



A background image showing a group of people at an outdoor event. In the foreground, a person is wearing a red t-shirt with 'RACE TOUR' printed on it. To the right, a man is wearing sunglasses and a dark t-shirt. In the background, a woman with long dark hair is looking to the left. The scene is set outdoors with a clear blue sky and a grassy area.

Action plan

The following action plan, which outlines priority areas, objective and actions has been developed using information obtained from:

- Workshops with young people
- Surveys completed by young people
- Key stakeholder meetings with local service providers
- Demographic analysis
- Literature review of relevant policies and strategies
- Youth profile containing the latest available research on young people in the region
- Mapping of existing youth services in Greater Shepparton
- Benchmarking against youth services in other Local Government Areas.

Council acknowledges the evolving environment of the Youth Sector with service providers and funding opportunities entering and exiting the space. In order to deliver actions that will remain sustainable and current the action plan has been created as an ongoing live document providing the flexibility to evolve with the sector with the ability for any new or existing services to join partnerships.

1. To be loved, healthy and safe

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
1.1 Greater Shepparton has access to additional resources to enable further delivery in mental health services	Advocate to the State Government for more mental health resources in Greater Shepparton.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) • Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project (GSLP) • Existing and new service providers within the youth sector • Mental Health Service Providers currently this includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Headspace - Child and Youth Mental Health Service 	Year 1 - 4
1.2	Advocate to the Department of Health and Human Services for more female doctors in region to better meet the needs of young women (particularly those of the Islamic faith).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Goulburn Valley Health 	Year 1 - 4
1.3 Young people have accessible information and education made available to them and feel engaged in their community.	<p>Provide programs, services, facilities and recreational events that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote physical and mental health and wellbeing • promote respect, diversity and inclusion • are free of drugs and alcohol This includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug and Alcohol information workshops throughout sporting communities • National Youth Week activities and events • Freeza Events • 3630 Concrete Jungle Skatepark Competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector this can include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headspace • The Bridge • The Salvation Army • Berry Street • The Youth Foyer • Mind Australia • Kildonan Uniting Care • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
1.4 Young people have access to a broad range of local, safe, free / low cost and inclusive events that meet their needs.	To evaluate the FReeZA program ensuring that it provides a diverse range of drug and alcohol free events, programs and activities of various sizes for young people between 12-25 years of age and in various locations around the municipality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Arts groups/Bands • Existing and new service providers 	Year 1 - 4
1.5 Young people who present at GSCC front desk seeking help are provided with suitable support and information to assist them.	To provide training for GSCC front desk staff to provide information for young people seeking help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Sport and recreation clubs 	Year 1
1.6 Young people are exposed to healthier eating choices at Council owned sport and recreation facilities.	To support the Municipal Health and Wellbeing plan specifically the implementation of a healthy eating policy at Council owned sport and recreation facilities to reduce the amount of junk food that young people have access to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Sport and recreation clubs 	Year 1 - 4
1.7 Young people and their parents feel as though they are confidently able to make well informed choices impacting the lives of young people.	To provide information sessions for parents and young people on issues of concern such as drugs, alcohol and safe partying; bullying / cyberbullying; respectful relationships; stress, anxiety and depression; transitions through life stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector • Victoria Police • Training organisations • Local Sporting clubs 	Year 1 - 4
1.8 Young people are confidently and frequently utilising public spaces	To ensure GSCC utilises tools such as Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED) principles (which may also incorporate lighting and CCTV cameras) are used when designing or upgrading public spaces such as parks, facilities, shopping areas, bus stops, etc to improve public safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Victoria Police • Neighbourhood Watch 	Year 1 - 4

2. To have access to material basics

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
2.1 Young people have convenient and affordable public transport options within the municipality and to other locations outside the municipality for education, work and leisure.	To advocate to the Department of Transport to implement timetables and routes that more effectively meet the needs of young people both within Shepparton and in outlying towns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSS • GSLP • Regional Roads Victoria • Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources 	Year 1 - 4
2.2 Young people are able to use active transport to access the key areas in the community that they need for education, employment and leisure.	To continue developing safe, well connected walking / cycling paths to destinations throughout the municipality that young people need to access, e.g. schools, sports facilities, shopping areas, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources 	Year 1 - 4
2.3 Young people have access to free Wi-Fi in key locations in Shepparton and outlying towns to enable them to connect for educational and recreational purposes.	To support free Wi-Fi locations in public spaces such as libraries, shopping areas and parks throughout Shepparton and outlying towns to enable young people to access the internet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Internet providers • Chamber of Commerce 	Year 1 - 4
2.4 Young people accessing Council's website can find information about youth-specific services.	To maintain a link to the community directory developed by the GMLLEN on its website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMLLEN • GSCC 	Year 1 - 4

3. To learn and develop skills

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
3.1 Young people have access to relevant information about careers, training opportunities and further education at times when they need it.	To continue working with GSCC's economic development and People and Performance departments to deliver information about careers, training opportunities, further education opportunities and business establishment in a mode of delivery that best meets the needs of young people (based on results of evaluations with young people).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Shepparton Business Centre • GSLP • GMLLEN • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1
3.2 Young people have access to meaningful student placements within GSCC and in the community.	To provide support to help young people gain student placement opportunities and work experience both within GSCC and externally where possible, utilising the available resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the youth sector • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4
3.3 Young people have access to meaningful careers information.	To deliver small scale on-site careers presentations for young people in partnership with local businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the youth sector this can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Headspace - Mind Australia - Brayton Youth and Family Services - The Shepparton Youth Foyer - Berry Street - Kildonan Uniting Care • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
3.4 Young people accessing Council's website can find information about youth-specific services.	To maintain a link to the community directory developed by the GMLLEN on its website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the youth sector • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4
3.5 Young aspiring leaders develop the skills to enable them to be more engaged in civic life and to take on more roles in voluntary organisations, education or businesses and their communities.	To continue providing a range of opportunities for young aspiring leaders to develop their leadership skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Word and Mouth 	Year 1 - 4
3.6 Members of the Word and Mouth Committee are skilled in delivering events.	To continue working with the Word and Mouth committee to develop their event management skills through the planning and delivery of FReeZA events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Regional Roads Victoria • Berry St 	Year 1 - 4
3.7 Young people who may not otherwise have access to driving instruction are supported to get their driver's licence.	To support the work of the Greater Shepparton Volunteer Strategy and to promote and support opportunities for young people to volunteer in the community to develop their skills and to provide assistance to individuals, groups and initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP 	Year 1 - 4
3.8 Young people have access to a broad range of volunteering opportunities which enable them to 'give back to the community' and to develop skills that are transferrable to the workplace.	To promote and support opportunities for young people to volunteer in the community to develop their skills and to provide assistance to individuals, groups and initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the youth sector 	Year 1 - 4

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
3.9 Young people support one another and share their skills and expertise.	To advocate to and also where possible on behalf of local Universities to increase the range of courses delivered from Shepparton campuses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the youth sector • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 2
3.10 More young people are able to remain in Shepparton to study the tertiary course of their choice where possible.	To advocate to local Universities to increase the range of courses delivered from Shepparton campuses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Shepparton Business Centre • Local businesses and organisations 	Year 1

4. To have a voice

	Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
4.1	The Word and Mouth Committee is recognised by Council as a key voice of young people in the community and its views are regularly sought by Councillors and units within Council.	To expand the role of the Word and Mouth Committee to have a greater advisory role for GSCC on youth related issues and schedule a twice yearly update with Councillors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Word and Mouth 	Year 1 - 4
4.2	Effective two-way communication between students and Council occurs through the Youth Ambassador's program.	To train several young people in schools to become youth ambassadors for GSCC so that they can report back on issues that matter to young people and also promote any GSCC initiatives within schools, e.g. FReeZA events, festivals, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4
4.3	Young people have a greater say in what is happening or being planned in their communities.	To work with community planning groups to provide greater opportunities for young people to have a say about their local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Community planning groups • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector 	Year 1 - 4
4.4	Young people's feedback is sought and included in all relevant Council programs, services, facilities or strategies that are developed.	To develop a formalised process whereby relevant Council programs, services, facilities or strategies that are developed seek the views of young people in their design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC 	Year 1 - 4

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
4.5 Young people's achievements are recognised within the broader community.	To provide an opportunity for an annual awards program recognising the achievements of young people in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Local Businesses • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector this can include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Headspace - Mind Australia - Brayton Youth and Family Services - The Shepparton Youth Foyer - Berry Street - Kildonan Uniting Care 	Year 1 - 4
4.6 There is a positive perception of young people's contributions to society by the local community.	To promote positive achievements of young people in the community across internal social media platforms and external news platforms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Local media outlets • Existing and new services providers within the Youth Sector 	Year 1 - 4

5. To be part of a community

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
5.1 Young people feel valued and welcomed at all community events.	<p>To provide a diverse range of programs, services and facilities which encourage young people to participate in and engage with the community and which take into consideration their needs regardless of gender, culture and ability.</p> <p>To ensure that a variety of accessible, inclusive, multi-cultural and intergenerational events are offered in the community each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4
5.2 Young people have access to a broad range of initiatives that meet their specific needs.	To continue delivering Youth Week activities for young people in partnership with other youth services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector currently this includes: Headspace • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4
5.3 Young people have access to a range of place-based outdoor facilities that meet their physical and social needs.	To continue developing youth related facilities in smaller towns in the municipality as per the Youth Recreation Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC 	Year 1 - 4
5.4 Young people have access to resources that enable them to bring some relevant youth-related ideas to fruition.	To support and work with Council's current Matching Community Grants Program that enables young people, or community groups who work with young people to apply for seed funding to establish a specific initiative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP 	Year 3

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
<p>5.5 Young people who traditionally do not or are limited in terms of accessing youth programs, services or facilities are supported to do so.</p>	<p>To identify the needs of groups in the community who are under-represented in community programs, services and facility use, e.g. young people with dual diagnosis, disabilities, Indigenous community, CALD community – particularly Muslim girls, LGBTQI community, disengaged young people, etc and develop suitable participation and programming opportunities for them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector this currently includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Headspace - Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-Operative - GV CASA - Mind Australia - The Salvation Army • Community leaders • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	<p>Year 1 - 4</p>
<p>5.6 Young LGBTQI+ members of the community feel valued by GSCC</p>	<p>To begin conversations around Council flying the Rainbow Flag outside the Council office to acknowledge that it is an inclusive organisation that supports diversity. To work closely with community agencies to ensure young members of the LGBTQI+ community feel supported and included in their homes and in their places of work, study and recreation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • LGBTQI community • Kildonan Uniting Care • Diversity Group • GV PRIDE • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	<p>Year 1 - 4</p>
<p>5.7 Young people recognise that GSCC supports inclusivity, diversity and safety of all of its residents.</p>	<p>To provide support to relevant national, state or local initiatives that promote safety, inclusion, health, wellbeing, etc to demonstrate Council's commitment to a safe, diverse and inclusive community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Community safety programs • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector • White Ribbon Day • Victoria Police 	<p>Year 1 - 4</p>

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
<p>5.8 Young people will have the opportunity to share ideas and develop skills in cultural leadership, creative enterprise and cultural management.</p>	<p>To continue developing and implementing the Cultural Aboriginal Leadership Program within the community alongside our program partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • Indigenous leaders • Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-Operative • Academy of Health and Sport • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector this currently includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Headspace - GV CASA • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	<p>Year 1 - 4</p>

6. To engage the youth sector.

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
6.1 Youth service staff are supported to improve their skills, share their expertise and to better connect to existing services.	To attend relevant professional development and networking opportunities to increase their skills and to share resources / expertise and also provide local professional development and networking opportunities for the sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector • People and Development Department • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4
6.2 Partnerships with relevant service providers are formed and the outcomes of young people in the region are subsequently improved.	To seek opportunities to form partnerships with service providers where appropriate to develop improved outcomes for young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4
6.3 Additional resources are made available locally for young people, thereby improving their outcomes.	To assist the youth sector to advocate for additional resources required to provide improved services and access to services within the region as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4
6.3i	To assist in sector funding applications including applying for funding on behalf of the sector to address issues current to the sector at that time and providing support letters where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector • Secondary and Tertiary Education Providers 	Year 1 - 4

Objective	Action	Partners	Priority
6.3ii	To support local sector causes and where possible assist in fundraising opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCC • GSLP • Existing and new service providers within the Youth Sector providers within the Youth Sector 	
6.4	GSCC staff to continue to collaboratively together on youth related issues and achieve better outcomes for young people.	To develop an internal GSCC youth working party which meets quarterly to encourage greater awareness, communications and collaborations between various Council units	GSCC Year 1 - 4
6.5	Young people are more readily able to access electronic information about youth services in the Greater Shepparton.	To provide more information on Council's website about youth services in Greater Shepparton.	GSCC Year 1 - 4

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- Greater Shepparton City Councillors
- Greater Shepparton City Council staff
- Berry Street
- Better Together Alliance Schools
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District
- Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Employment Network
- Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project
- Headspace
- Kildonan Uniting Care
- Mind Australia
- Primary Care Connect
- The Salvation Army
- Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-Operative
- Brayton Youth and Family Service
- The Bridge
- Victoria Police



Quotes collected throughout consultations for the Youth Strategy and Action Plan

To be loved, healthy and safe

“I love that the Shepp Lake is becoming more family friendly and culturally diverse. Going down there after school has such a great feel now”

“I don’t feel very safe walking around Shepparton, which is mainly because I am a young female. Sometimes I don’t even feel safe walking to the park by myself which is literally three blocks away.”

To have access to material basics

“Finances are the biggest problem for myself and a lot of my friends. Student allowance and new start are very hard to live off of and still have access to activities/events, even the little things like going out for lunch with friends.”

To learn and develop skills

“I have to travel to Bendigo with 5 of my friends for 3 days per week as the uni in Shepparton does not provide for all courses.”

To have a voice

“We need a voice, some way to voice our issues and speak as part of the community.”

To be part of a community

“I think there’s a bit to be done on welcoming new arrivals in Shepparton. I myself find it hard to fit in because there’s no one to tell me how things work.”

“Shepp is really culturally diverse and I feel like we do a great job at welcome different people from different backgrounds here”

To engage the youth sector

“There is so much to do and I think it’s only getting more exciting and kid friendly”

“We need to invest in our youth so we have a productive community going forward.”



