



Youth Framework 2019 – 2023

Harnessing the energy and creativity of our young people





The City of Stirling acknowledges the Wadjak People of the Nyoongar Nation as the traditional custodians of Mooro Country. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes for Aboriginal Australia.

Introduction

The City of Stirling is a local government that embraces the rich diversity of its community. The City strives to ensure that all community members have access to services that meet their needs and opportunities to participate in community life.

In the City of Stirling, 17 per cent of residents are between the ages of 10 and 24. Young people in our community are growing up in a rapidly changing environment. They are engaging with cutting-edge technologies that provide opportunities to become part of a global community. They are transitioning from education to work in an evolving labour market that is shaped by technological advances, digital innovation and globalisation. With more than one in three City residents born overseas, many young people are also growing up in communities characterised by increasing cultural diversity. They may themselves have recently migrated or identify with a different cultural heritage. These changes create both opportunities and challenges.

This Youth Framework aims to ensure that we support and enable young people aged 10 – 24 in the City of Stirling to contribute in meaningful ways to community life and to play a key role in shaping our community's development in this changing environment. While we know that the transition from adolescence to adulthood can be a challenging time for young people and their families, experience tells us that when young people are supported to reach their potential, the whole community benefits.

Young people are one of our community's greatest assets. They represent the future and are key stakeholders in the City's development. Through working in partnership with young people, community organisations and other tiers of government, this framework will guide us in ensuring that our community harnesses the skills, creativity and energy of our youth.

Key principles of the framework:

Strengths-based

We recognise that young people have skills, knowledge and capabilities that can be drawn on to make positive changes in their own lives and in their communities.

Active citizenship

We support processes by which young people are empowered to become active agents of change in shaping their own futures and contributing to their communities. Research also shows that young people who are provided with the opportunity to contribute in meaningful participation are more likely to develop skills, competencies and confidence to enhance individual development.⁽¹⁾

Youth-centred

We recognise that young people have unique needs that are distinct from those of adults or children. Young people's experiences are shaped by the transition to adulthood, a journey of adolescence through which they navigate the complex processes of developing a sense of identity, becoming independent and carving out a place for themselves in the world.

Diversity and inclusion

We recognise that a young person's experience, views and needs may also be shaped by intersecting identities including race, culture gender, sexuality, socio-economic background and disability.

⁽¹⁾ United Nations, World Youth Report, 2003, Geneva

Strategic Alignment

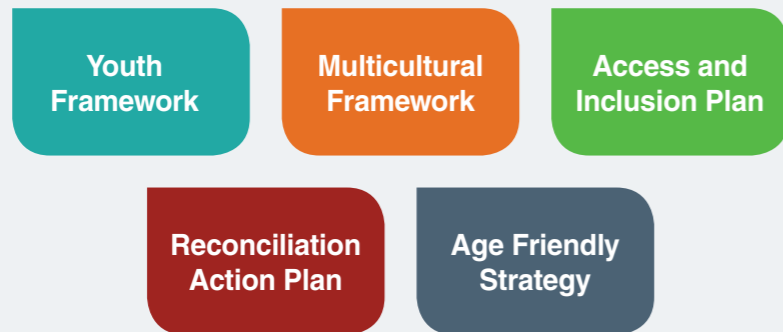
This Youth Framework will help the City deliver on the vision outlined in our Strategic Community Plan (2018 – 2028). It complements our existing Reconciliation Action Plan, which recognises our Aboriginal heritage; our Access and Inclusion Plan and Age-Friendly Community Strategy,

which focuses on ensuring residents of all abilities have access to City services and are included in community life; and our Multicultural Framework, which aims to achieve our vision of an inclusive and harmonious community.

Strategic Community Plan

Our Vision – the City of Choice

The City of Stirling will be a place where people choose to live, work, visit and invest. We will have safe and thriving neighbourhoods with a range of housing, employment and recreational opportunities. We will engage with our diverse community to help shape our future into the City of Stirling – City of Choice.





Our Young People

The City of Stirling is home to over 210,000 residents with nearly 35,000 aged between 10 and 24 years old⁽²⁾. Our neighbourhoods are characterised by a high degree of socio-economic and cultural diversity. This means that young people are growing up in very different circumstances across the City⁽³⁾.

More than one in four is born overseas

13 per cent have lived in Australia for less than five years

Almost one in five speaks a language other than English at home

In the suburbs of Balga and Mirrabooka, almost half are born overseas

Two per cent are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

One in 20 young people has caring responsibilities

More than one in five volunteers

One in 10 lives in single parent homes

One per cent have a disability

⁽²⁾ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (2016), Stirling Community Profile

⁽³⁾ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (2016), Stirling Community Profile, statistics based on residents aged 15 – 24 years

A Partnership Approach

At the City of Stirling, our staff are on the frontline of local service delivery, interacting with young people across a wide range of services including libraries, recreation services, community-based programs and events. In addition to the services we deliver, the City also partners with other

organisations to achieve positive outcomes for young people in our community. These partnerships with schools, youth organisations, multicultural communities and neighbouring local governments generate many benefits and opportunities for young people and the wider community. Examples include:



Dream Do Deliver

In 2017, a partnership with Community Arts Network WA supported young people to turn their ideas into reality through project mentoring and the opportunity to receive project funding.



Beatball

Established in 2008 at Stirling Leisure Centres – Herb Graham, Mirrabooka, this partnership with Nyoongar Sports Association and the Edmund Rice Centre attracts hundreds of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people to monthly three-on-three basketball youth tournaments.



Multicultural Youth Settlement Service

Established in 2015, this partnership with Youth Futures WA provides newly arrived young people with access to information, advocacy and support. A case management service and group activities help young people build knowledge, confidence and social networks.





Youth Services in Stirling

The City of Stirling collaborates with a number of organisations that provide valuable support to young people in our community. These organisations are important partners for the City in achieving positive outcomes for young people.

White Lion supports 'at-risk' young people to improve their future via a diverse range of programs, including the mobile youth and family education support service. www.whitelion.asn.au/balga

Youth Futures WA provides support services for young people, including alternative education programs, crisis accommodation, emergency relief, drug education and support, and multicultural youth settlement service. www.youthfutureswa.org.au

WADJAK Northside Aboriginal Resource Centre delivers youth engagement, training and mentoring activities. www.wadjaknorthside.org.au

Edmund Rice Centre, WA provides youth leadership and recreation programs for newly arrived young people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. www.ercwa.org.au

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre delivers programs that engage young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in settling and integrating into Australian society. www.mmrcwa.org.au

Nyoongar Wellbeing and Sports works in partnership with schools and community organisations to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in active recreation activities. www.nyoongarsports.com.au

WA State Government departments provide a range of intervention services for young people in our community. Departments include WA Police, Child and Adolescent Community Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Department of Child Protection and Family Services and Youth Justice Services. www.wa.gov.au

Sporting associations
The City of Stirling hosts approximately 400 sporting clubs and associations that provide a wide variety of opportunities for young people to engage in sporting and recreational activities.

Educational institutions
There are 16 private and public high schools that operate within the City of Stirling. The City also hosts post-compulsory institutions including Tuart College, Edith Cowan University and North Metropolitan TAFE.

headspace provides education and early intervention mental health services to 12 – 25 year-olds. www.headspace.org.au

How We Developed the Framework

In 2016, the City of Stirling initiated a process to develop our first Youth Framework. The development of this framework has been shaped by our learnings from the research we have undertaken, in addition to insights obtained through engagement with City staff, local agencies and young people.

The process involved:



Our Vision

The Framework has been designed to be a high-level guiding document that will underpin the City's approach to achieving our vision. It is accompanied by a two-year implementation plan that provides a detailed breakdown of targets, responsibilities and time frames (2019 – 2021). The Framework will be reviewed every four years with implementation plans updated every two years.

During September and October 2018, the City delivered its Youth Survey consultation process to hear the voices of 10 – 24 year olds who live, work, go to school or hang out in the City of Stirling.

Over 350 responses were collected through online and paper surveys and two focus groups were delivered.

The responses and information received during the consultation period will be collated into a final report and the outcomes will inform the City's role in providing a youth-friendly City. These outcomes will also inform the actions within the Youth Framework Implementation Plan 2019 – 2021.





Youth Framework Key Focus Areas

The City is committing to supporting and engaging with young people aged 10 – 24 years through the following four key focus areas which align with the City's strategic vision and sets the framework for our work with young people.

It is recognised that young people are transient to the place they usually reside and the City will approach the key focus areas to encompass participation of young people who live, work, study and hang out in the City.

1

Engagement, information and support

Young people's health and wellbeing are enhanced through access to opportunities, information, networks and services that meet their needs and raise awareness about youth issues.

2

Leadership and civic participation

Empowering young people to participate in the community and become future leaders by driving positive change through contributing their strengths, knowledge, skills and abilities.

3

Youth-friendly communities

Our community spaces, facilities and services are youth-friendly, providing opportunities for young people to engage with their community and develop a sense of social connectedness.

4

Inclusion and diversity

Our community is inclusive of all young people, celebrates their diversity and supports their participation in community life.

1

Engagement, information and support

Young people's health and wellbeing are enhanced through access to opportunities, information, networks and services that meet their needs and raise awareness about youth issues.

Guiding Strategies

1. Facilitate and support youth engagement activities that build social networks and connect young people with information and services.
2. Disseminate information on services, activities and other community resources in youth friendly formats.
3. Conduct research, policy and advocacy work on the issues and trends impacting on young people.
4. Develop partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaborations that address identified service gaps and meet the needs of young people.

Rationale

- Our research into youth issues and trends highlighted many challenges facing young people, including the growing prevalence of mental health problems, high rates of unemployment and concerns regarding drug and alcohol use.
- There are many services and resources in the community that can help young people navigate these challenges; however, information can be hard to find and service systems difficult to navigate for many young people.
- By engaging with young people in safe, supportive environments (soft entry points), we can build rapport and help to connect them with information or services that may meet their needs.
- As a local government, we are well placed to identify unmet needs in our community and address these by working in collaboration with stakeholders to develop appropriate responses.



2

Leadership and civic participation

Empowering young people to participate in the community and become future leaders by driving positive change through contributing their strengths, knowledge, skills and abilities.

Guiding Strategies

1. Establish a youth-led Youth Action Collective that engages young people in developing innovative solutions that address youth and community needs.
2. Provide support to youth-led projects that promote youth participation and address issues of concern to young people, such as racism, mental health and drug and alcohol abuse.
3. Encourage and facilitate civic participation by creating and adding value to existing volunteering, mentoring, advocacy and leadership opportunities.

Rationale

- Many young people already contribute to our community in positive ways. One in five young people (12 – 24 years) living in Stirling volunteer. This represents 17 per cent of all volunteers in Stirling.
- Our experience with youth-led initiatives has taught us that where we give young people the opportunity to take charge, they consistently rise to the challenge.
- The creativity, ideas, energy and perspectives that young people bring to the table lead to innovative solutions to complex problems.
- Young people understand their own needs and what works for young people better than anyone else. Involving young people in planning and decision-making processes ensures the outcomes reflect their needs and aspirations.
- Research shows that when young people are actively engaged and contributing to their community, they are less likely to engage in risky or anti-social behaviour.



3

Youth-friendly communities

Our community spaces, facilities and services are youth-friendly, providing opportunities for young people to engage with their community and develop a sense of social connectedness.

Guiding Strategies

1. Develop a program of youth activities that activate and encourage young people to use the City's public spaces and facilities.
2. Develop youth-friendly spaces that are safe and welcoming and provide opportunities for young people to engage in recreational and social activities.
3. Integrate youth-friendly programming at City-run facilities, including libraries, leisure centres and community centres.

Rationale

- A youth-friendly community is one where young people are treated with respect, and where they feel safe and welcome. Youth-friendly communities recognise young people's contributions and provide youth-friendly services, spaces and facilities.
- Consultations conducted by the City of Stirling indicated that young people value places/spaces to meet and community events and activities.
- Consultations and feedback from young people and youth organisations highlighted a perceived lack of youth-friendly spaces and facilities within Stirling. The City's Public Open Space Strategy and Local Area Plans have also highlighted the need for youth-friendly spaces.
- The City of Stirling provides six libraries, 14 community centres, six leisure centres, a Men's Shed, 400 reserves and 320 playgrounds. By identifying opportunities to make these facilities and resources more youth-friendly, we can increase young people's engagement with their community and their social connectedness.
- The Skate and BMX Facility Strategy prepared in 2013 outlines a framework for new and improved skate and BMX facilities in Stirling.



4

Inclusion and diversity

Our community is inclusive of all young people, celebrates their diversity and supports their participation in community life.

Guiding Strategies

1. Apply an inclusion lens to the planning and delivery of youth activities and programs to ensure that they are inclusive of young people's diverse backgrounds and experiences.
2. Work in partnership with schools and community organisations to ensure that newly arrived young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and young people with a disability have access to appropriate services and opportunities to participate in community life.
3. Celebrate and promote the contributions and achievements of young people through events and other forms of recognition.




Rationale

- Young people in the City of Stirling are increasingly diverse, coming from a range of backgrounds and socio-economic environments.
- One in four young people (15 – 24 years) living in the City of Stirling were born overseas. In the suburbs of Balga and Mirrabooka, this figure is much higher, with almost half of all young people born overseas.
- We know that, depending on their backgrounds, young people can have unique needs and experience barriers which may impact on their participation in community life. For example, newcomers may experience barriers as a result of limited English proficiency, cultural differences and a lack of understanding of the opportunities that exist for community participation and support.
- In Mission Australia's annual survey of young people in WA, 56 per cent of young people said that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination and 31.8 per cent of young people responded that they themselves had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination.
- Race/cultural background, gender and age were the most commonly cited reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination, with 21 per cent also reporting physical health or ability as the 12 reason.





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