

**7.5 DRAFT YOUTH ACTION PLAN 2023-2026**

- Attachments:**
1. **Draft Youth Action Plan 2023-2026**
  2. **Youth Action Plan 2020-2022**

**RECOMMENDATION:****That Council:**

1. **APPROVES the draft Youth Action Plan 2023-2026 for the purpose of community consultation.**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To receive the draft Youth Action Plan 2023-2026 at **Attachment 1**, and authorise advertising for public comment prior to Council's consideration and adoption.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the October 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting, the City of Vincent Youth Action Plan 2020-2022 (**Attachment 2**) was adopted by Council. This was the first Youth Action Plan (YAP) developed by the City following its inclusion in the *Corporate Business Plan 2019-2020*.

The YAP provides a formalised framework to facilitate holistic and integrated service delivery. The current deliverables strengthen our understanding of the needs and priorities of our young people, and clearly identify the key focus areas, current gaps and actions to address these. The YAP aligns with the City's Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028, supporting our key priorities of Connected Community, Thriving Places and Innovative and Accountable.

The progress of the Youth Action Plan is provided through formal reporting with the Children and Young People Advisory Group, and via the Annual Report and Corporate Business Plan updates.

**DETAILS:**

The current YAP was developed as part of a five-year vision, with actions and deliverables outlined for a two-year term. This timeframe was developed to ensure the plan was responsive to changing external context due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Elements of the YAP including graphics, community profile, vision, guiding principles and themes remain unchanged.

Draft YAP 2023-2026

The Draft Youth Action Plan 2023-2026 aims to:

- demonstrate the City's commitment to recognising and supporting our young people;
- provide a framework for how the City will work with young people, service providers and the community to support our youth;
- provide guiding principles for ensuring the City's services and programs consider the impact on youth and allow for synergies and integration with existing plans and strategies; and
- provide targeted objectives for how the City can support, connect, and empower its young people.

The purpose of this review is solely to update the deliverable component of the YAP.

Consultation and Engagement

An extensive community engagement process with a range of organisational and community stakeholders has informed the review of actions and deliverables to ensure that the diversity of knowledge and voices across our community is reflected.

In March 2022 the Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) was engaged to assist with a youth-led consultation model for development and delivery. Eight peer researchers were recruited in April 2022

undertaking extensive training and collaborating with the City to develop the Youth Action Plan survey. The peer researchers became community champions, driving the delivery of the survey to their peers.

The survey was open to the public from 2 May 2022 to 29 May 2022. During this consultation period, the following engagement activities were conducted:

- online and in person surveys;
- stall at Kyilla Farmers Market;
- pop-up consultation sessions at Loftus Recreation Centre;
- pop-up consultation session at Beatty Park Leisure Centre;
- pop-up consultation session at Leederville Skate Park;
- community workshop with the YMCA Youth Squad;
- community workshop with Aranmore Catholic College;
- online and in-person meetings with key external stakeholders;
- online workshop and feedback from the Children and Young People Advisory Group (CYPAG); and
- online and in-person feedback from team members across City business units.

An Imagine Vincent page was developed for the consultation process and promoted via the City's social media platforms, flyers and posters in key locations, the City's e-newsletter and information sent via email to relevant stakeholders, community groups and individuals (Foyer Oxford, The Y, Aranmore Catholic College, Passages, clubs, and community organisations).

The outcomes of this process included:

- 44 people participated in community workshops;
- 67 people engaged through pop-up consultation sessions;
- 334 hard copy and digital surveys completed (178 completed with a peer researcher); and
- 6 formal meetings with external stakeholders.

#### Creation and Review of the Draft Plan

Ideas and feedback received during the engagement process were used to inform the draft Youth Action Plan 2023-2026.

Actions and deliverables of the draft YAP have remained relatively consistent with many outcomes of the consultation being reflective of those received during the 2020 review.

During the consultation, we asked young people what topics were most important or relevant to them. The top five for young people when looked at collectively were:

- mental health;
- climate change;
- environmental sustainability;
- racism; and
- events for young people.

Mental health remains a primary concern for young people, both their own and that of their friends and family. Themes of health and wellbeing have therefore continued in the draft plan.

Opportunities for young people to be involved and participate in the community have remained a key priority with a stronger trend towards larger events. Many young people identified that they enjoy market and festival style events with the draft YAP identifying the need to review large scale community events for how young people can be integrated.

The cost and accessibility of events remains a significant factor for young people, with it being recommended that the City continue to prioritise low or no-cost events and activities and work to promote events as inclusive of all ages and abilities.

Consultation feedback also identified a need for more small workshops, with particular interest in upskilling and life-skills. 54 percent of respondents stated that they were unaware of workshops and events that are currently offered by the City.

Through the feedback it was evident that the City needs to review how it connects with young people. Most youth find out about events through word of mouth, Instagram and organisations or groups they are involved in. The draft plan recommends development of a communications plan targeted at youth. The new deliverables of the YAP reflect the importance of developing relationships and partnering with organisations that young people are already involved with to improve connections.

39 percent of young people who responded to the consultation identify as LGBTIQA+. It is recommended that the City continue to drive community awareness and initiatives that promote diversity, access, and inclusion.

Feedback also identified areas of concern for young people including:

- busy streets;
- lack of parking;
- cost of parking;
- inaccessibility of transport; and
- safety of some areas of the City.

A robust internal engagement process has ensured that all business units will be able to implement the actions relevant to their areas.

The draft YAP has been reviewed by internal and external stakeholders, including members of the City's Children and Young People Advisory Group (CYPAG).

#### **CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:**

The draft Plan will be advertised for community comment from the end of January 2023.

A further report will be presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting in April 2023 detailing any submissions received during the public comment period.

It is proposed to seek community feedback and input on the draft YAP through a 21 day public comment period. This will include:

- Seeking general community feedback through:
  - public comment through the YAP Imagine Vincent page;
  - notices on:
    - the City's website;
    - social media channels;
    - Library and Local History Centre; and
    - Beatty Park; and
  - attendance at pop-up events and sporting clubs where appropriate.
- Targeted engagement will also be conducted with key stakeholders through direct:
  - contact with youth who provided feedback during the consultation phase
  - conversation with local youth service providers and schools; and
  - send the document to CYPAG members and the YMCA Youth Squad.

#### **LEGAL/POLICY:**

There are no legal requirements to have a Youth Action Plan.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:**

Low: There is low risk for Council to establish a Youth Action Plan.

#### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Connected Community

*We have enhanced opportunities for our community to build relationships and connections with each other and the City.*

*We are an inclusive, accessible and equitable City for all.*

*Our community facilities and spaces are well known and well used.*

Thriving Places

*Our town centres and gathering spaces are safe, easy to use and attractive places where pedestrians have priority.*

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

This does not contribute to any environmental sustainability outcomes. This action/activity is environmentally neutral.

**PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:**

This is in keeping with the following priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*:

*Increased mental health and wellbeing*

*Increased physical activity*

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

Specific actions and deliverables within the Youth Action Plan 2023-2026 will be delivered through allocations in the 2023/2024 operating budget and subsequent budgets subject to Council consideration.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Vincent would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise the contribution the Whadjuk people have made and continue to make to our culture and in our community. We will continue to seek the input of the Traditional Owners.

The land on which we live, meet and thrive as a community always was and always will be Noongar land.

Cover art and assets by ADRIAN du BUISSON

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**INTRODUCTION FROM  
THE MAYOR**

The City of Vincent's Youth Action Plan embodies our commitment to young people. It's our pledge to continuously grow both our relationship with Vincent youth and what we can offer them.

People aged 12 to 25 make up about 15 per cent of Vincent's population.

As Vincent continues to grow and change, we're committed to ensuring that their collective voice is heard.

That is why we have developed our inaugural Youth Action Plan. This plan will help us deliver meaningful support and services for youth and ensure the youth perspective is part of our decisions and plans for our future.

It will guide us as we strive to connect with young people and empower them to develop confidence and resilience.

The Youth Action Plan centres around four key themes – support and opportunity, community

and participation, wellbeing and resilience, and organisational capacity.

It is filled with positive actions, from providing safe, youth-friendly spaces in Vincent to promoting the valuable contribution young people make to the rest of our community.

I would like to thank the Vincent youth who helped us create this plan by taking part in candid and insightful conversations at community events, cafes, parks and skate parks.

Over six months, we listened to and learned from more than 400 young people, parents and youth service providers across Vincent.

We gained a much greater understanding of the issues that matter most to our youth.

We learnt that young people want more action around mental health, climate change and employment and education in our community.

They want to have fun, but they're also acutely aware of important issues like safety, bullying and inclusiveness.

They want to contribute to their community and feel a sense of intergenerational and peer connection and belonging.

Young people bring invaluable energy, enthusiasm and innovation to our community. They have views that need to be heard, they know what they need and they are creative thinkers.

Through this Youth Action Plan, together we can achieve our vision of supporting, connecting and empowering youth.

Emma Cole, **Mayor**



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### ABOUT OUR YOUTH ACTION PLAN

This Plan has been developed to align with, and actively contribute to, the City's Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028 which identifies the community's vision and strategic priorities for Vincent – linked to the community's aspirations for the future. In particular the Plan supports our key priorities of Connected Community, Thriving Places and Innovative and Accountable by providing a roadmap for delivering relevant and meaningful services and support for our youth, as an integral part of the fabric of our community. It will guide our actions in the youth space to ensure we continue working towards a thriving and positive experience for all youth in our community.

As a key source of vitality, energy, enthusiasm and innovation it is essential we provide our young people with opportunities to have their voice heard and actively participate in our community. The City of Vincent is committed to working in partnership with the community to enhance the health and wellbeing of young people. Through the Plan, we hope to outline positive elements and areas of improvement in youth service provision as well as opportunities to engage in a wide variety of social, economic, cultural, recreational, learning and civic activities.

With 12–25 years of age being such a formative time in a person's life, it is important that our Plan stays current and relevant in an environment that changes so rapidly in terms of technologies, trends and topical issues. For this reason, we have adopted a tiered approach to our first Plan which will help us continue to deliver on the ground, while contributing to a longer term vision.

### OUR FIVE YEAR VISION

The opportunities and challenges experienced by youth change throughout their teenage years and into early adulthood. Over the next five years, the City has made the pledge to continuously grow our understanding of, and relationship with, youth in our City. Our vision is to Support, Connect and Empower our Youth.



### OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our vision is supported by a set of principles which will guide us through our work. These principles have underpinned the development of this Plan, and will continue to guide our work with youth going forward.

#### Authentic and empowered

We respect and value the views, knowledge, skills and capabilities our youth have to offer, and are committed to genuine and authentic engagement. We want to encourage and support our youth to develop confidence and resilience and empower them to own their voice. This is our starting point for all conversations with youth.

#### Equitable and inclusive

We recognise all of our youth as individuals from diverse and varied backgrounds and experience. We understand that their needs and views are shaped by personal experience and are conscious to make sure all voices are heard.

#### Evidence based

Our work must be informed by collaborative consultation, appropriate research and identified needs. We will encourage collaboration between young people, community groups and the wider community. This ensures well-informed and well-rounded service delivery.

### OUR TWO YEAR PLAN

Our vision is also supported by an initial two year Plan, which will create the foundations for this commitment. It establishes our key focus areas and strategies based on themes, issues and ambitions of youth who live, work, play and visit in the City of Vincent. It demonstrates Council's commitment to recognising and supporting youth in our community and provides a framework for how Council will work with young people, service providers and the community to support our youth over the life of the Plan.

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## 5 YEAR VISION

Support, Connect and Empower our Youth

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Authentic & Empowered      Equitable & Inclusive      Evidence Based

### 2 YEAR PLAN

#### FOCUS AREA 1

**Support & Opportunity**  
Create, promote and support opportunities that empower and build capacity of our young people to reach their diverse maximum potential

#### FOCUS AREA 2

**Community & Participation**  
Foster a sense of inclusiveness and belonging by providing opportunities for young people to connect with each other and the broader community

#### FOCUS AREA 3

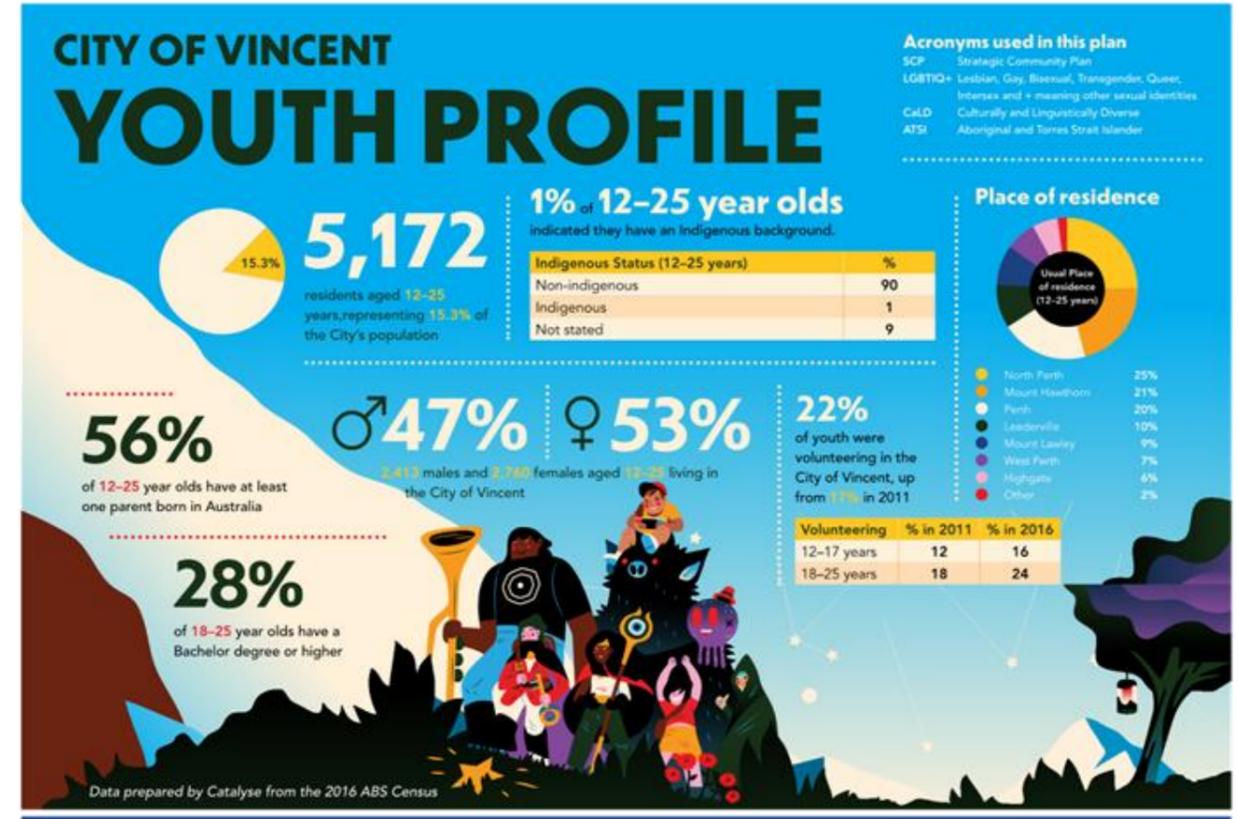
**Wellbeing & Resilience**  
Support our youth to be strong, safe and active.

#### FOCUS AREA 4

**Organisational Capacity**  
Build organisational capacity through partnerships, knowledge and ensuring a youth voice is considered in service delivery

# DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN

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## WHO WE ENGAGED WITH AND HOW

An extensive consultation and engagement process was undertaken to capture the range of views, opinions and knowledge of our youth, community and service delivery organisations. Consultation for the Plan kicked off in October 2019 with a City of Vincent WA Youth Forum. Over the six months to April 2020 we heard from over 400 youth, interested community members, service providers and Government agencies. Consultation focused around the areas of health and wellbeing, recreation, community support and opportunities, and employment and education. We used surveys to gather core data and conversations to hear people's stories, experiences and ideas.

### Youth and community consultation

Our City is home to, and visited by, youth from all walks of life. To capture this diversity the consultation aimed to engage with as many community members as possible to hear a range of young voices in a variety of settings - from attending community events and recreational training sessions to informal conversations on the street. Through almost 400 survey responses we gained critical information about what matters most to our youth. Through conversation we heard stories, challenges experienced and general day-to-day concerns. The City's Vincent Youth Network were consulted and encouraged to seek the views of their peers and we also gained valuable insight from parents and the broader community about what programs and initiatives they'd like to see more of for youth in our community.

### Service provider and organisational consultation

Conversations with youth focused service providers and various organisations were invaluable in providing both strategic and operational context for this Plan. Youth engagement hubs, crisis management providers and educational institutions provided vital insight into the variety, breadth and depth of the issues and priorities facing our young people. Research and discussions with State and Local Government agencies, peak bodies and advisory groups has also been essential in building our understanding of broader strategic considerations in the youth space and service networks the City forms a part of.

Our consultation and engagement has provided us with valuable knowledge that has strengthened our understanding of the young people that live, work, play and visit our City including what motivates them, what excites them, what concerns them and what they would like to see from Council. Over time, we will work to deepen this understanding and it is our relationships with our youth, our community, service providers and other organisations that will ensure the services we deliver support, integrate with and contribute to the holistic youth picture and a promising youth future.



## WHAT WE HEARD

A wealth of information and knowledge exists about current and emerging issues and priority areas of youth. Because of that, we have been conscious not to reinvent the wheel and designed our consultation to focus on identifying what those issues actually mean for youth in our community. Through over 400 voices, we have collected a range of qualitative and quantitative data. In particular, some of the key findings from consultation which have underpinned the development of this Plan are:

- \* Education and awareness around mental health is important;
- \* Education and awareness around the environment is important;
- \* Safety and bullying, accessibility and transport, inclusiveness, and finances and employment are the biggest factors impacting day-to-day living;
- \* Feeling a sense of 'belonging' and 'contributing' are both important;
- \* Young people want to have fun;
- \* Cost and accessibility of events and facilities are big considerations for young people;
- \* Friends, family and feeling 'connected' is important;
- \* Communication platforms we use to inform, educate and promote what the City has to offer are important;
- \* Big events are a draw card;
- \* Ensuring young people have knowledge of, and access to, resources, information and opportunities that can support their wellbeing is vital; and
- \* Age-appropriate activities and spaces for the different age brackets of youth is important.



Mental health, environment, and employment and education were the top three issues that matter most to our youth. Nearly 50% of the youth that identified mental health as a priority, experience or have experienced a mental health condition. 35% were also worried about the mental health of their friends and/or family, and nearly 70% would like other people to understand more about mental health. There is a strong desire from our youth for more opportunity to be actively involved in environmental initiatives and to increase broader community environmental awareness. With regards to education and employment, 60% of our working youth that responded to the survey felt ready to enter the workforce, while 33% felt they needed more support. Working close to home was also important.

There was a strong positive response about the vibrancy and inclusiveness of the City of Vincent, the green spaces and open areas. We also heard that while the variety of events and activities on offer is generally hitting the mark, 35% would like more workshops with arts and culture and music events being the most popular. Cost, hobbies and accessibility are the biggest factors determining whether our youth attend an event.

We were also incredibly pleased to hear the innovative and creative suggestions from young people about how we could work with them to build an even better City.

A summary of outcomes and feedback received through our youth survey can be found at Attachment 1.

We know there is also a proportion of our young people experiencing very complex challenges and barriers to basic living standards and wellbeing. The City of Vincent has crisis-management services and various youth engagement hubs operating within its boundary, and it is important that we not only acknowledge the work they do, but support and advocate for them wherever possible.

All of the feedback we have received over the six months of consultation has been considered and reflected in the development of the key focus areas and deliverables in this Plan.

## A YOUTH VOICE

It is important that we involve young people in planning and decision making on the matters that affect them. The City hosts groups with a specific focus on youth affairs, ensuring we stay committed to our guiding principles.

### Vincent Youth Network

The City of Vincent has a well-established Youth Network made up of a diverse group of youth representatives who live, work, study, play and visit in the City of Vincent. The Network meets regularly to organise events and activities for youth that encourage their participation and engagement with the local community.

### Children and Young People Advisory Group

The City's Children and Young People Advisory Group, comprised of Council Members and community representatives, is tasked with identifying, advocating and exploring ways of addressing the issues and needs of children and young people in the City of Vincent. The group provides recommendations and advice relating to:

- Initiatives which foster closer relationships and ongoing liaison between local schools and the City;
- Matters which may impact on schools and/or students in the City;
- Promotion and enhancement of the City's services, facilities and programs that relate to children and young people;
- Strategies to address the needs of young people in the City; and
- Actions to be undertaken to inform, educate and raise awareness in the community with regard to issues faced by children and young people.

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

In early 2020 we were confronted by unprecedented circumstances with the outbreak COVID-19 being declared a global pandemic. This forcefully encouraged us to reconsider and in some cases redefine how we work, communicate and deliver at a whole of organisation level. Our services to youth are no exception. For this reason, this Plan includes deliverables which, at an operational level will involve response and recovery initiatives specifically to deal with the current and future uncertainty caused by COVID-19.



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# KEY FOCUS AREAS

Consultation, feedback and research has allowed us to identify four key areas we will focus on over the life of the Plan. These focus areas will allow us to deliver targeted and tangible outcomes that work towards achieving our vision of supporting, connecting and empowering the City's youth.



## FOCUS AREA 1

### Support & Opportunity

Create, promote and support opportunities that empower and build capacity of our young people to reach their diverse maximum potential

## FOCUS AREA 2

### Community & Participation

Foster a sense of inclusiveness and belonging by providing opportunities for young people to connect with each other and the broader community

## FOCUS AREA 3

### Wellbeing & Resilience

Support our youth to be strong, safe and active

## FOCUS AREA 4

### Organisational Capacity

Build organisational capacity through partnerships, knowledge and ensuring a youth voice is considered in service delivery

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## EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This Plan establishes priorities and deliverables for the two years to 2022. It provides the framework for how we intend to support, connect and empower our young community based on the feedback we have heard.

To make sure the City's contribution and commitment stays relevant, we will monitor progress against the Plan. Our success will be measured through key performance indicators (KPIs) developed to support operational deliverables for each focus area. These KPIs will be based around:

- changes in the volume and variety of initiatives where a youth focus is considered and/or incorporated (both organisational and community facing);
- changes in youth participation rates at events, programs and activities; and
- feedback received through ongoing consultation and engagement with our youth, our community, local service providers and other stakeholders.

A second phase of the Plan will be developed and implemented in 2022, building upon the achievements of this current Plan.

To ensure we are held accountable to the actions within this Plan, we will report on our progress through a number of formal reporting mechanisms including the Children and Young People Advisory Group, annual reporting and Corporate Business Plan updates. We will also communicate our achievements and progress to the community through our social media platforms, newsletters and relevant publications.

# DELIVERABLES PLAN

# THEME

## SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITY



**SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITY**

Connected Community;  
Thriving Places

Create, promote and support opportunities that empower and build capacity of young people to reach their diverse maximum potential.

<p><b>Increase community awareness of opportunities and resources available for young people across the City</b></p>	<p>Develop a communication plan that facilitates the engagement of young people with the City and its opportunities Inform key youth stakeholders of upcoming opportunities and promote stakeholder opportunities to young people Ensure content is structured and delivered in youth-friendly formats to maximise uptake and increase awareness</p>
<p><b>Support, promote and create leadership and empowerment opportunities for youth</b></p>	<p>Continue the Aranmore Catholic College trainee program and facilitate opportunities for work experience and targeted employment opportunities within the City of Vincent Engage and support youth leadership groups within the City of Vincent Ensure young people are heard and considered</p>
<p><b>Promote the valuable contribution of young people to our community</b></p>	<p>Identify and promote opportunities for young people that support connection and develop employment skills, life skills and soft skills Showcase and celebrate the contributions of youth to the diversity and vibrancy of our community Partner with local schools, local businesses and youth service providers to identify and recognise personal or professional achievements, efforts and contributions of youth</p>

Create, promote and support opportunities that empower and build capacity of our young people to reach their diverse maximum potential

# THEME

# COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION



Connected Community; Thriving Places

**COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION**

Foster a sense of inclusiveness and belonging by providing opportunities for young people to connect with each other and the broader community.

<p><b>Facilitate and support opportunities that encourage young people to build strong social networks through connecting with the broader community</b></p>	<p>Liaise with established community groups (Town Teams, Sporting Clubs, etc.) to identify opportunities for young people to contribute and participate in their local community</p> <p>Ensure that events offered by the City to youth throughout the year allow participation in different capacities and cater for different age groups and varied interests (i.e. spectating, volunteering, leading, participating ect.)</p> <p>Collaborate with major stakeholders on activities and events specifically organised for young people (i.e. Young Makers Market)</p>
<p><b>Provide opportunity for youth to be actively involved in community initiatives</b></p>	<p>Seek broad youth input into the events and activities organised for WA Youth Week</p> <p>Promote volunteering opportunities</p> <p>Support young people in providing perspective and feedback on relevant City projects, plans or strategies</p>
<p><b>Provide safe youth-friendly spaces that enable young people to connect and engage in activities (social, recreational or educational)</b></p>	<p>Ensure youth focus is considered in the development and implementation of the City service programs (i.e. Beatty Park, Library and Local History Centre)</p> <p>Activate the City's facilities and spaces to with youth-friendly activities and opportunities</p> <p>Explore potential opportunities for the City to facilitate outdoor health and fitness courses for young people</p>
<p><b>Consider accessibility and inclusion in all aspects of youth planning and service delivery</b></p>	<p>Ensure services, activities and events are inclusive and accessible, appealing to the diversity of our youth and reflecting varied interests, hobbies, ages, backgrounds and demographic profiles (e.g. LGBTQIA+, ATS, CaLD, at-risk, people living with disability)</p>

Foster a sense of inclusiveness and belonging by providing opportunities for young people to connect with each other and the broader community

# THEME

## RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING



**RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING**

Connected Community;  
Thriving Places

Support our youth to be strong, healthy, safe and active

Support service providers in their advocacy efforts and in their service delivery to youth

Continue to develop relationships with service providers and support them where possible to promote awareness of their services and create links with the wider community

Support our youth to be healthy, happy, safe and connected

Support, where possible, networks, organisations and programs that target the wellbeing of vulnerable young people  
Facilitate creation of positive experience and constructive freedom of expression through creative platforms including art, music, events, performances opportunities and workshops

Identify opportunities to promote and support the mental health and wellbeing of our young people through partnerships with service providers

Foster wellness by ensuring youth have knowledge of, and access to, services that influence their health, wellbeing, sense of safety and belonging  
Advocate for partnerships in the delivery of workshops and programs to maximise community reach and impact  
Explore workshop opportunities focused on mental health and wellbeing in order to promote confidence and support the transition to adulthood  
Continue to explore current and potential relationships and partnership opportunities with mental health service providers

Support our youth to be strong, healthy, safe and active

# THEME

# ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY



Connected Community,  
Thriving Places

**ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY**

*Build organisational capacity through partnerships, knowledge and ensuring a youth voice is considered in service delivery*

<p><b>Maintain an understanding of our youth sector and its evolving nature</b></p>	<p>Continue to regularly network with stakeholders to maintain knowledge of current and emerging themes impacting young people Continue to develop linkages and data sharing between youth service providers Stay informed of State, Federal and Local Government policy agendas and reform programs with a youth focus Encourage staff development opportunities that target the inclusivity of young people.</p>
<p><b>Encourage integrated decision-making</b></p>	<p>Consider a youth perspective in the development of relevant Council policies and plans (RAP, Arts and Culture Strategy, Public Health Plan, Town Centre Place Plans, Economic Development Strategy, etc.) Ensure that community engagement on projects and plans include opportunities for young people to contribute Ensure youth representation is considered when determining membership of the City's Advisory and Working Groups.</p>
<p><b>Explore opportunities for greater partnerships with service providers, educational institutions and peak bodies</b></p>	<p>Continue participation in cross-agency collaborations, networks and working groups Consider collaborative opportunities with local service providers and businesses with youth focused initiatives Support service providers with their youth advocacy efforts where possible</p>
<p><b>Provide young people with a platform to communicate their needs, issues and aspirations</b></p>	<p>Engage with and seek feedback from young people on a regular basis by creating a platform for youth to contact and communicate openly with council representatives and implement feedback where appropriate Support formal platforms / Advisory Groups in which youth have an active or leading voice. Review existing methods of engagement with young people and identify opportunities to expand/improve.</p>

**Build organisational capacity through partnerships, knowledge and ensuring a youth voice is considered in service delivery**



CITY OF VINCENT

## CONTACT US

To find out more, or share your thoughts and ideas, contact us at:

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@cityofvincent







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The City of Vincent's Youth Action Plan embodies our commitment to young people. It's our pledge to continuously grow both our relationship with Vincent youth and what we can offer them.

People aged 12 to 25 make up about 15 per cent of Vincent's population.

As Vincent continues to grow and change, we're committed to ensuring that their collective voice is heard.

That is why we have developed our inaugural Youth Action Plan. This plan will help us deliver meaningful support and services for youth and ensure the youth perspective is part of our decisions and plans for our future.

It will guide us as we strive to connect with young people and empower them to develop confidence and resilience.

The Youth Action Plan centres around four key themes – support and opportunity, community

and participation, wellbeing and resilience, and organisational capacity.

It is filled with positive actions, from providing safe, youth-friendly spaces in Vincent to promoting the valuable contribution young people make to the rest of our community.

I would like to thank the Vincent youth who helped us create this plan by taking part in candid and insightful conversations at community events, cafes, parks and skate parks.

Over six months, we listened to and learned from more than 400 young people, parents and youth service providers across Vincent.

We gained a much greater understanding of the issues that matter most to our youth.

We learnt that young people want more action around mental health, climate change and employment and education in our community.

They want to have fun, but they're also acutely aware of important issues like safety, bullying and inclusiveness.

They want to contribute to their community and feel a sense of intergenerational and peer connection and belonging.

Young people bring invaluable energy, enthusiasm and innovation to our community. They have views that need to be heard, they know what they need and they are creative thinkers.

Through this Youth Action Plan, together we can achieve our vision of supporting, connecting and empowering youth.

Emma Cole, **Mayor**



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## ABOUT OUR YOUTH ACTION PLAN

This Plan has been developed to align with, and actively contribute to, the City's Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028 which identifies the community's vision and strategic priorities for Vincent – linked to the community's aspirations for the future. In particular the Plan supports our key priorities of Connected Community, Thriving Places and Innovative and Accountable by providing a roadmap for delivering relevant and meaningful services and support for our youth, as an integral part of the fabric of our community. It will guide our actions in the youth space to ensure we continue working towards a thriving and positive experience for all youth in our community.

As a key source of vitality, energy, enthusiasm and innovation it is essential we provide our young people with opportunities to have their voice heard and actively participate in our community. The City of Vincent is committed to working in partnership with the community to enhance the health and wellbeing of young people. Through the Plan, we hope to outline positive elements and areas of improvement in youth service provision as well as opportunities to engage in a wide variety of social, economic, cultural, recreational, learning and civic activities.

With 12–25 years of age being such a formative time in a person's life, it is important that our Plan stays current and relevant in an environment that changes so rapidly in terms of technologies, trends and topical issues. For this reason, we have adopted a tiered approach to our first Plan which will help us continue to deliver on the ground, while contributing to a longer term vision.

## OUR FIVE YEAR VISION

The opportunities and challenges experienced by youth change throughout their teenage years and into early adulthood. Over the next five years, the City has made the pledge to continuously grow our understanding of, and relationship with, youth in our City. Our vision is to Support, Connect and Empower our Youth.



## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our vision is supported by a set of principles which will guide us through our work. These principles have underpinned the development of this Plan, and will continue to guide our work with youth going forward.

### Authentic and empowered

We respect and value the views, knowledge, skills and capabilities our youth have to offer, and are committed to genuine and authentic engagement. We want to encourage and support our youth to develop confidence and resilience and empower them to own their voice. This is our starting point for all conversations with youth.

### Equitable and inclusive

We recognise all of our youth as individuals from diverse and varied backgrounds and experience. We understand that their needs and views are shaped by personal experience and are conscious to make sure all voices are heard.

### Evidence based

Our work must be informed by collaborative consultation, appropriate research and identified needs. We will encourage collaboration between young people, community groups and the wider community. This ensures well-informed and well-rounded service delivery.

## OUR TWO YEAR PLAN

Our vision is also supported by an initial two year Plan, which will create the foundations for this commitment. It establishes our key focus areas and strategies based on themes, issues and ambitions of youth who live, work, play and visit in the City of Vincent. It demonstrates Council's commitment to recognising and supporting youth in our community and provides a framework for how Council will work with young people, service providers and the community to support our youth over the life of the Plan.

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## 5 YEAR VISION

Support, Connect and Empower our Youth

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Authentic & Empowered      Equitable & Inclusive      Evidence Based

### 2 YEAR PLAN

#### FOCUS AREA 1

**Support & Opportunity**  
Create, promote and support opportunities that empower and build capacity of our young people to reach their diverse maximum potential

#### FOCUS AREA 2

**Community & Participation**  
Foster a sense of inclusiveness and belonging by providing opportunities for young people to connect with each other and the broader community

#### FOCUS AREA 3

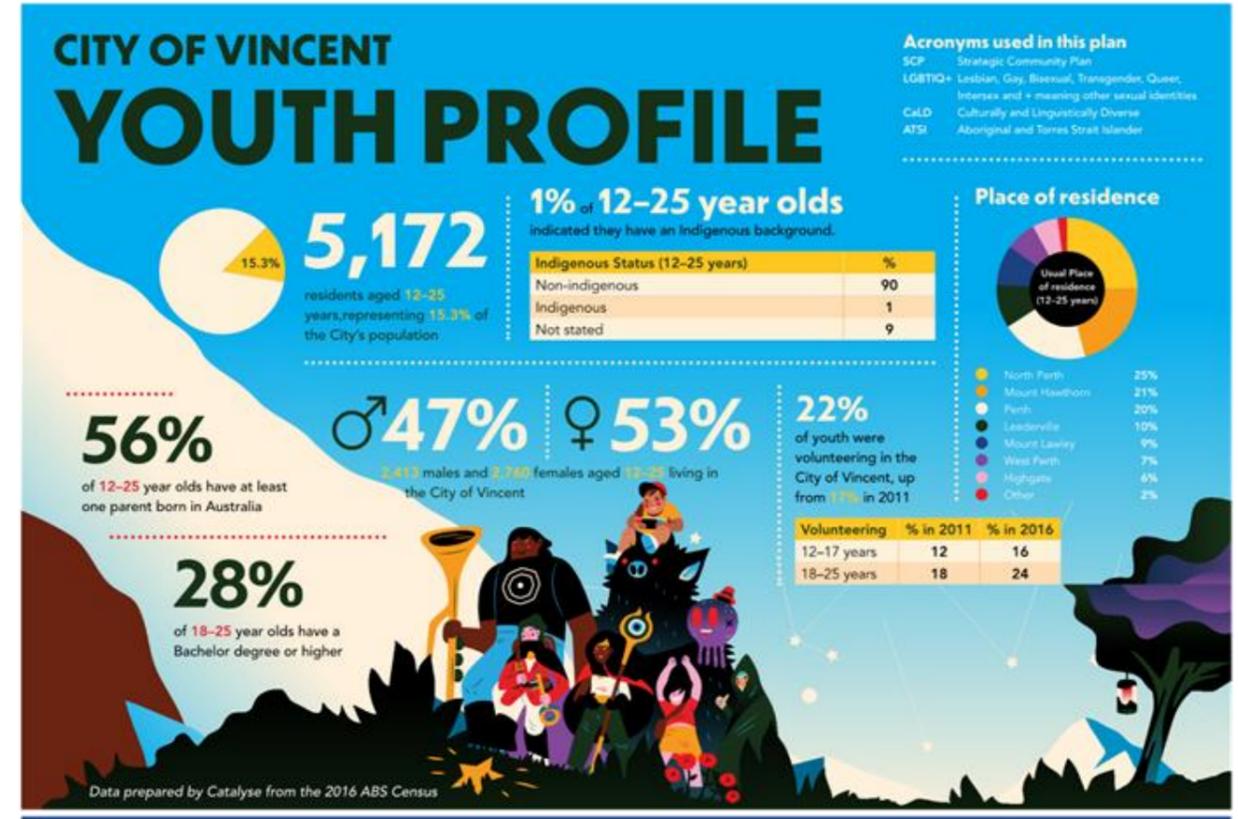
**Wellbeing & Resilience**  
Support our youth to be strong, safe and active.

#### FOCUS AREA 4

**Organisational Capacity**  
Build organisational capacity through partnerships, knowledge and ensuring a youth voice is considered in service delivery

# DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN

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## WHO WE ENGAGED WITH AND HOW

An extensive consultation and engagement process was undertaken to capture the range of views, opinions and knowledge of our youth, community and service delivery organisations. Consultation for the Plan kicked off in October 2019 with a City of Vincent WA Youth Forum. Over the six months to April 2020 we heard from over 400 youth, interested community members, service providers and Government agencies. Consultation focused around the areas of health and wellbeing, recreation, community support and opportunities, and employment and education. We used surveys to gather core data and conversations to hear people's stories, experiences and ideas.

### Youth and community consultation

Our City is home to, and visited by, youth from all walks of life. To capture this diversity the consultation aimed to engage with as many community members as possible to hear a range of young voices in a variety of settings - from attending community events and recreational training sessions to informal conversations on the street. Through almost 400 survey responses we gained critical information about what matters most to our youth. Through conversation we heard stories, challenges experienced and general day-to-day concerns. The City's Vincent Youth Network were consulted and encouraged to seek the views of their peers and we also gained valuable insight from parents and the broader community about what programs and initiatives they'd like to see more of for youth in our community.

### Service provider and organisational consultation

Conversations with youth focused service providers and various organisations were invaluable in providing both strategic and operational context for this Plan. Youth engagement hubs, crisis management providers and educational institutions provided vital insight into the variety, breadth and depth of the issues and priorities facing our young people. Research and discussions with State and Local Government agencies, peak bodies and advisory groups has also been essential in building our understanding of broader strategic considerations in the youth space and service networks the City forms a part of.

Our consultation and engagement has provided us with valuable knowledge that has strengthened our understanding of the young people that live, work, play and visit our City including what motivates them, what excites them, what concerns them and what they would like to see from Council. Over time, we will work to deepen this understanding and it is our relationships with our youth, our community, service providers and other organisations that will ensure the services we deliver support, integrate with and contribute to the holistic youth picture and a promising youth future.



## WHAT WE HEARD

A wealth of information and knowledge exists about current and emerging issues and priority areas of youth. Because of that, we have been conscious not to reinvent the wheel and designed our consultation to focus on identifying what those issues actually mean for youth in our community. Through over 400 voices, we have collected a range of qualitative and quantitative data. In particular, some of the key findings from consultation which have underpinned the development of this Plan are:

- \* Education and awareness around mental health is important;
- \* Education and awareness around the environment is important;
- \* Safety and bullying, accessibility and transport, inclusiveness, and finances and employment are the biggest factors impacting day-to-day living;
- \* Feeling a sense of 'belonging' and 'contributing' are both important;
- \* Young people want to have fun;
- \* Cost and accessibility of events and facilities are big considerations for young people;
- \* Friends, family and feeling 'connected' is important;
- \* Communication platforms we use to inform, educate and promote what the City has to offer are important;
- \* Big events are a draw card;
- \* Ensuring young people have knowledge of, and access to, resources, information and opportunities that can support their wellbeing is vital; and
- \* Age-appropriate activities and spaces for the different age brackets of youth is important.



Mental health, environment, and employment and education were the top three issues that matter most to our youth. Nearly 50% of the youth that identified mental health as a priority, experience or have experienced a mental health condition. 35% were also worried about the mental health of their friends and/or family, and nearly 70% would like other people to understand more about mental health. There is a strong desire from our youth for more opportunity to be actively involved in environmental initiatives and to increase broader community environmental awareness. With regards to education and employment, 60% of our working youth that responded to the survey felt ready to enter the workforce, while 33% felt they needed more support. Working close to home was also important.

There was a strong positive response about the vibrancy and inclusiveness of the City of Vincent, the green spaces and open areas. We also heard that while the variety of events and activities on offer is generally hitting the mark, 35% would like more workshops with arts and culture and music events being the most popular. Cost, hobbies and accessibility are the biggest factors determining whether our youth attend an event.

We were also incredibly pleased to hear the innovative and creative suggestions from young people about how we could work with them to build an even better City.

A summary of outcomes and feedback received through our youth survey can be found at Attachment 1.

We know there is also a proportion of our young people experiencing very complex challenges and barriers to basic living standards and wellbeing. The City of Vincent has crisis-management services and various youth engagement hubs operating within its boundary, and it is important that we not only acknowledge the work they do, but support and advocate for them wherever possible.

All of the feedback we have received over the six months of consultation has been considered and reflected in the development of the key focus areas and deliverables in this Plan.

## A YOUTH VOICE

It is important that we involve young people in planning and decision making on the matters that affect them. The City hosts groups with a specific focus on youth affairs, ensuring we stay committed to our guiding principles.

### Vincent Youth Network

The City of Vincent has a well-established Youth Network made up of a diverse group of youth representatives who live, work, study, play and visit in the City of Vincent. The Network meets regularly to organise events and activities for youth that encourage their participation and engagement with the local community.

### Children and Young People Advisory Group

The City's Children and Young People Advisory Group, comprised of Council Members and community representatives, is tasked with identifying, advocating and exploring ways of addressing the issues and needs of children and young people in the City of Vincent. The group provides recommendations and advice relating to:

- Initiatives which foster closer relationships and ongoing liaison between local schools and the City;
- Matters which may impact on schools and/or students in the City;
- Promotion and enhancement of the City's services, facilities and programs that relate to children and young people;
- Strategies to address the needs of young people in the City; and
- Actions to be undertaken to inform, educate and raise awareness in the community with regard to issues faced by children and young people.

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

In early 2020 we were confronted by unprecedented circumstances with the outbreak COVID-19 being declared a global pandemic. This forcefully encouraged us to reconsider and in some cases redefine how we work, communicate and deliver at a whole of organisation level. Our services to youth are no exception. For this reason, this Plan includes deliverables which, at an operational level will involve response and recovery initiatives specifically to deal with the current and future uncertainty caused by COVID-19.



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# KEY FOCUS AREAS

Consultation, feedback and research has allowed us to identify four key areas we will focus on over the life of the Plan. These focus areas will allow us to deliver targeted and tangible outcomes that work towards achieving our vision of supporting, connecting and empowering the City's youth.



## FOCUS AREA 1

### Support & Opportunity

Create, promote and support opportunities that empower and build capacity of our young people to reach their diverse maximum potential

## FOCUS AREA 2

### Community & Participation

Foster a sense of inclusiveness and belonging by providing opportunities for young people to connect with each other and the broader community

## FOCUS AREA 3

### Wellbeing & Resilience

Support our youth to be strong, safe and active

## FOCUS AREA 4

### Organisational Capacity

Build organisational capacity through partnerships, knowledge and ensuring a youth voice is considered in service delivery

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## EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This Plan establishes priorities and deliverables for the two years to 2022. It provides the framework for how we intend to support, connect and empower our young community based on the feedback we have heard.

To make sure the City's contribution and commitment stays relevant, we will monitor progress against the Plan. Our success will be measured through key performance indicators (KPIs) developed to support operational deliverables for each focus area. These KPIs will be based around:

- changes in the volume and variety of initiatives where a youth focus is considered and/or incorporated (both organisational and community facing);
- changes in youth participation rates at events, programs and activities; and
- feedback received through ongoing consultation and engagement with our youth, our community, local service providers and other stakeholders.

A second phase of the Plan will be developed and implemented in 2022, building upon the achievements of this current Plan.

To ensure we are held accountable to the actions within this Plan, we will report on our progress through a number of formal reporting mechanisms including the Children and Young People Advisory Group, annual reporting and Corporate Business Plan updates. We will also communicate our achievements and progress to the community through our social media platforms, newsletters and relevant publications.

# DELIVERABLES PLAN

# THEME

# SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITY

Create, promote and support opportunities that empower and build capacity of our young people to reach their diverse maximum potential

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Actions	Deliverable	SCP objective	Delivery year	
			2020-21	2021-22
Ensure youth have access to information, resources and opportunities to support their potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a workshop calendar, identifying opportunities to deliver engaging sessions to support connection and provide employment skills, life skills and soft skills</li> <li>Promote and increase awareness of community and organisational initiatives with a youth component</li> <li>Promote and develop connections, networks and access to resources</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	★
Support, promote and create leadership and empowerment opportunities for youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate establishment of a youth traineeship program, to provide work experience and targeted employment opportunities within the City of Vincent</li> <li>Review the composition and function of existing youth networks coordinated by the City</li> <li>Ensure that events offered by the City to youth throughout the year allow participation in different capacities (i.e. spectating, volunteering, leading, participating etc.), and cater for different age groups and varied interests</li> <li>Advocate for a youth voice in public consultation forums</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	
Promote the valuable contribution of young people to our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Showcase and celebrate the contributions of youth to the diversity and vibrancy of our community</li> <li>Partner with local schools, local businesses and youth service providers to identify and recognise personal or professional achievements, efforts and contributions of youth</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	★
Communicate with youth in an age-appropriate manner to maximise reach and uptake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and expand (where appropriate) Vincent's youth social media strategy and other communication methods for young people to engage with the City</li> <li>Ensure content is constructed and delivered in youth-friendly formats to maximise uptake and increase awareness</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	



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# THEME

# COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Foster a sense of inclusiveness and belonging by providing opportunities for young people to connect with each other and the broader community

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Actions	Deliverable	SCP objective	Delivery year	
			2020-21	2021-22
Facilitate and support opportunities that encourage young people to build strong social networks through connecting with the broader community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all the events funded or provided by the City consider a youth element (where appropriate)</li> <li>Liaise with established community groups (Town Teams, Sporting Clubs etc.) to identify opportunities for young people to contribute and participate in their local community</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	★
Provide opportunity for youth to be actively involved in community initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek broad youth input into the events and activities organised for WA Youth Week</li> <li>Promote volunteering opportunities</li> <li>Ensure events offered/available to youth throughout the year allow participation in different capacities (i.e. spectating, volunteering, leading, participating etc.)</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	★
Provide safe youth-friendly spaces that offer young people spaces to connect and engage in activities (social, recreational or educational)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure a youth focus is considered in the development and implementation of the City's service programs (i.e. Beatty Park, Library and Local History Centre)</li> <li>Review the City's facilities and spaces to identify ways to integrate youth-friendly activities and opportunities</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places		★
Consider accessibility and inclusion in all aspects of youth planning and service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure a range of services, activities and events to be inclusive and accessible and appeal to the diversity of our youth, reflecting varied interests, hobbies, ages, backgrounds and demographic profiles (e.g. LGBTQ+, ATSI, CaLD, at-risk, People living with Disability) of our youth cohort</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	★

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# THEME

# RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING

Support our youth to be strong, healthy, safe and active

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Actions	Deliverable	SCP objective	Delivery year	
			2020-21	2021-22
Support service providers in their advocacy efforts and in their service delivery to youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish regular exchange of information to ensure contemporary knowledge of issues affecting young people</li> <li>Continue to develop relationships with service providers and support them where possible to promote awareness of their services and create links with the wider community</li> <li>Stay informed of current and emerging trends and issues evidenced in the youth space</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	★
Support a positive sense of self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate creation of positive experience and constructive freedom of expression through creative platforms including art, music, events, performance opportunities and workshops</li> <li>Foster wellness by ensuring youth have knowledge of, and access to, services that enhance their wellbeing, sense of safety and belonging</li> <li>Advocate for youth mental health and other key youth services</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	★
Identify opportunities to promote and support the mental health and wellbeing of our young people through partnerships with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore workshop opportunities focussed on mental health and wellbeing in order to promote confidence and support the transition to adulthood</li> <li>Continue to explore current and potential relationship and partnership opportunities with mental health service providers</li> </ul>	Connected Community; Thriving Places	★	★

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# THEME

# ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Build organisational capacity through partnerships, knowledge and ensuring a youth voice is considered in service delivery

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Actions	Deliverable	SCP objective	Delivery year	
			2020-21	2021-22
Build understanding of our youth sector and its evolving nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an expanding library of quantitative and qualitative information on the CoV youth</li> <li>Investigate ways to improve linkages and data sharing between youth service providers</li> <li>Stay informed of State, Federal and Local Government policy agendas and reform programs with a youth focus</li> </ul>	Innovative & Accountable	★	★
Encourage integrated decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider a youth perspective in the development of relevant Council policies and plans (Reconciliation Action Plan, Arts and Culture Strategy, Public Health Plan, Town Centre Place Plans, Economic Development Strategy etc.)</li> <li>Ensure the City's community engagement includes opportunity for young people to contribute where possible and that this is reflected in the Community Engagement Charter</li> <li>Enhance internal capacity to promote holistic, responsive and proactive youth services</li> <li>Use youth-focused communication channels to ensure true engagement with young people</li> <li>Ensure youth representation is considered when determining membership of City's Advisory and Working Groups</li> </ul>	Innovative & Accountable	★	
Explore opportunities for greater partnerships with service providers, educational institutions and peak bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue participation in cross-agency collaborations, networks and working groups</li> <li>Consider collaborative opportunities with local service providers and businesses with youth focused initiatives</li> <li>Support service providers with their youth advocacy efforts where possible</li> </ul>	Innovative & Accountable	★	★
Offer open and inviting platforms for youth to share and communicate their needs, issues and aspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing methods of engagement with young people and identify opportunities to expand/improve</li> <li>Engage with, and seek feedback from, young people on a regular basis by creating a platform for youth to contact and communicate openly with Council representatives and implement feedback where appropriate</li> <li>Consider formal platforms/Advisory Groups in which youth have an active or leading voice</li> </ul>	Innovative & Accountable	★	



CITY OF VINCENT

## CONTACT US

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