



Clarence...
a brighter place

Youth Plan

2018–2022



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Clarence City Council has a long and proud history of supporting and empowering young people who live, work, study or spend time in the City, which can be seen by the extensive array of programs and events it provides.



Overview

Clarence City Council has a long and proud history of supporting and empowering young people who live, work, study or spend time in the City. This can be seen by the extensive array of programs and events it provides.

To build on this strong foundation the 2018-2022 Youth Plan outlines current services for young people aged between 12 to 24 years, and identifies future services required to support the growth and development of young people across the City.

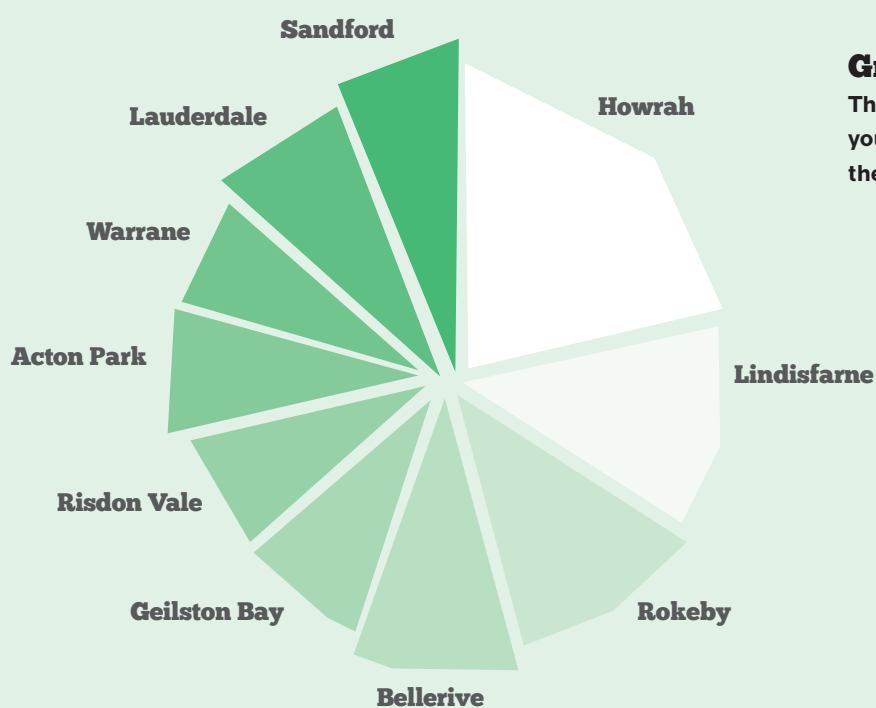
Key themes were identified through extensive consultation with young people, parents/carers and service providers. These priorities are also indicated in local, state and national priorities.

Council recognises young people as valuable contributors to our community and are committed assisting them to achieve wellbeing, build a capacity for resilience, develop positive self-esteem and make meaningful connections with others in their world through these themes:

- **Working together** – taking a co-ordinated approach to the support and development of young people through improved communication, engagement and participation
- **Giving young people a voice** – providing opportunities that allow young people to be more connected, engaged and active within their respective and collective communities
- **Getting help** – providing timely and easy access to information and services for young people and parents
- **Feeling safe** – assisting young people to feel safe in their relationships, home, community and public spaces
- **Employment, education and training** – providing support, encouragement and opportunities for young people to develop the necessary skills to work in the area of their choice

Young People in Clarence

The Youth Plan applies to all young people between the ages of 12 and 24 who live, study, work in and visit Clarence.



Graph 1.

The population density of young people (0-19) across the Clarence Municipality

Table 1.

Top 10 Suburbs where young people live

SUBURB	#	%
ACTON PARK	675	5.29
BELLERIVE	847	6.64
GEILSTON BAY	759	5.95
HOWRAH	1891	14.82
LAUDERDALE	625	4.9
LINDISFARNE	1149	9.01
RISDON VALE	694	5.44
ROKEBY	1003	7.86
SANDFORD	542	4.25
WARRANE	657	5.15

The Consultation Process

Opinions and ideas were collected from more than 718 young people, parents/carers, community members and service providers in Clarence through written and online surveys, focus groups, and casual conversations. These opinions informed the development of the 2018-2022 Youth Plan and provided the information base from which the most important issues for young people in Clarence were identified.

Numbers surveyed:

Young People	637
Parents	59
Service Providers	22

The results from the three groups revealed some similarities which were developed into the five key themes of this Youth Plan.

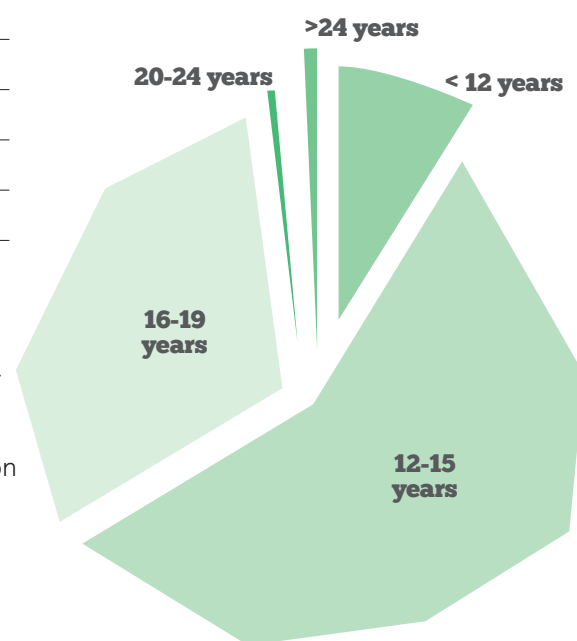
Table 2.

Age of young people who completed the survey

AGE	#	%
Under 12 years	58	9.11
12-15 years	368	57.77
16-19 years	204	32.03
20-24 years	2	0.31
Older than 24 years	5	0.78

The Clarence City Council classifies young people as those between the ages of 12 and 24. As **Graph 1** shows, the 12-15 and 16-19 year age groups had the largest number of survey respondents, while the older age group had significantly less respondents.

Through the Youth Plan, Youth Services aim to improve communication and engagement with the 19+ age group in the future.



Graph 2.

Age of young people who completed the survey

Priorities for Young People in Clarence

	BEING ABLE TO GET HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT
	PERSONAL SAFETY
	MENTAL HEALTH
	SCHOOL AND STUDY
	DEPRESSION
	HOMELESSNESS
	SUICIDE
	SELF HARM
	BULLYING
	PHYSICAL / SEXUAL ABUSE
	DRUGS
	FAMILY CONFLICT
	ALCOHOL
	SELF WORTH
	RELATIONSHIPS AND FRIENDS
	CYBER BULLYING

The issues raised by young people, parents/carers and service providers are listed to the left.

All three groups identified being able to get help, mental health, suicide and bullying, and physical and sexual abuse as issues. It is also interesting to note that parents/carers and service providers indicated alcohol, drugs, self worth and cyber bullying as priority areas but not by young people.

Parents/carers and service providers also highlighted youth participation, networks and partnerships and connectedness as important for young people.

Once identified, issues were further expanded through a series of forums held at local high schools during which young people identified potential strategies and actions.

Surveys and consultations were not the sole sources used to identify the issues and strategies put forward in this Youth Plan.

Some issues and strategies identified arose from consideration of information presented in local, state and national research and reports.

An example of this is 'Employment, Education and Training' which was not identified as an important issue by young people but is recognised as a significant factor in other research and data.

Other Key Local and State Issues

Other key local and state issues have been identified through community and youth forums, service network groups, and Government statistics and research. These issues include:

- Health and wellbeing (including self/body image, relationships, sexual health)
- Recreation and entertainment
- Truancy and disengagement from school
- Access to affordable housing and crisis accommodation
- Education, training and employment opportunities
- Families and young people with complex needs
- Community safety (including bullying, family violence, trail bikes, car theft, graffiti)
- Homelessness
- Unemployment

Top 10 issues in Clarence

Ranked in order of priority for each surveyed group

Young people...

TOP 10	ISSUE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
1	BEING ABLE TO GET HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT	628
2	PERSONAL SAFETY	626
3	MENTAL HEALTH	621
4	SCHOOL AND STUDY	611
5	DEPRESSION	594
6	HOMELESSNESS	591
7	SUICIDE	558
8	SELF HARM	586
9	BULLYING	583
10	PHYSICAL / SEXUAL ABUSE	578

Parents and Carers...

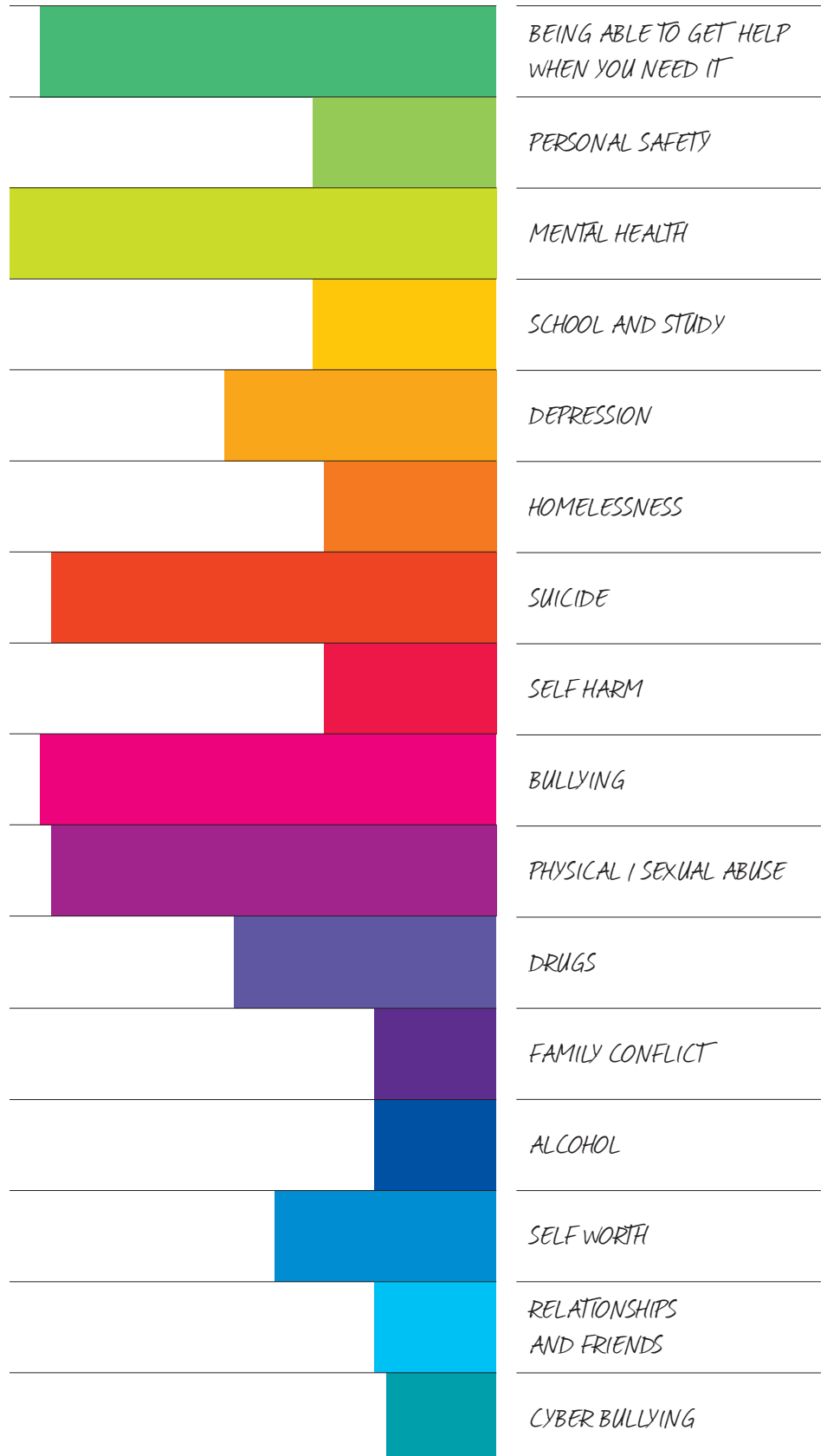
TOP 10	ISSUE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
1	DRUGS	32
2	MENTAL HEALTH	32
3	BULLYING	32
4	PHYSICAL / SEXUAL ABUSE	27
5	DEPRESSION	26
6	BEING ABLE TO GET HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT	26
7	SUICIDE	26
8	FAMILY CONFLICT	25
9	ALCOHOL	25
10	SELF WORTH	24

Services...

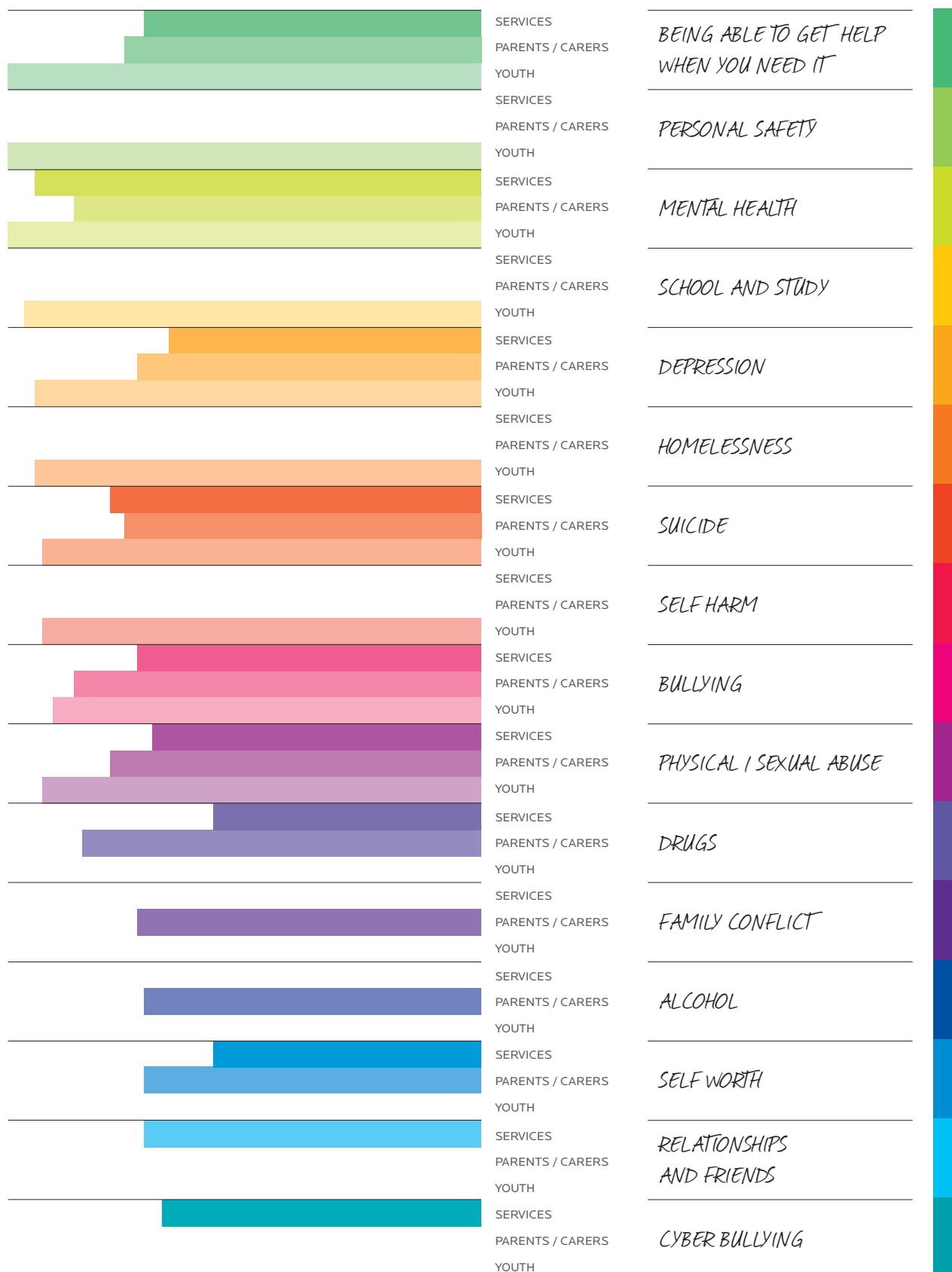
TOP 10	ISSUE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
1	MENTAL HEALTH	20
2	SUICIDE	17
3	BULLYING	16
4	PHYSICAL / SEXUAL ABUSE	15
5	RELATIONSHIPS AND FRIENDS	15
6	BEING ABLE TO GET HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT	15
7	CYBER-BULLYING	14
8	DEPRESSION	14
9	SELF-WORTH	13
10	DRUGS	12

Combined Priorities for Young People in Clarence

Combined priorities



Comparison of priorities between survey groups



The role of Clarence City Council

Clarence City Council has an important role in planning for the future social, economic and environmental needs of young people who live, work, study or visit Clarence:

Governance and Leadership

Council will provide leadership with accessible, responsive, transparent and accountable governance of the City

Planning

Council has a role in responding to current and future needs of the community through the provision of services and support infrastructure

Advocacy

Council will take an active role in supporting or recommending a particular cause or action

Lobbying

Council will take an active role in influencing for changes in legislation or the provision of a service or facility through other tiers of government

Provider

Council has a direct role in providing this service, facility or infrastructure within the limits of Council's resources

In carrying out these roles Council has various organised groups with responsibility for supporting the delivery of the Youth Plan including Health and Community Development, Communication and Marketing, Asset Management, and City Planning. Other Council groups include Operations (Depot), Corporate Support and Financial management.

Included in the Council's key roles is a responsibility to build community knowledge and awareness of issues that impact young people, to promote youth participation, and to bring relevant stakeholders together. Where it is appropriate, Council will link in with campaigns and use resources provided at the state and national level by government and non-government organisations.

The **Youth Network Advisory Group (YNAG)** is one way through which Clarence City Council fulfils these roles. The Council is committed to supporting the YNAG as an important link with Council and young people. The YNAG provides opportunities for young people to express their ideas and concerns, and participate in decision making processes regarding issues that affect them.

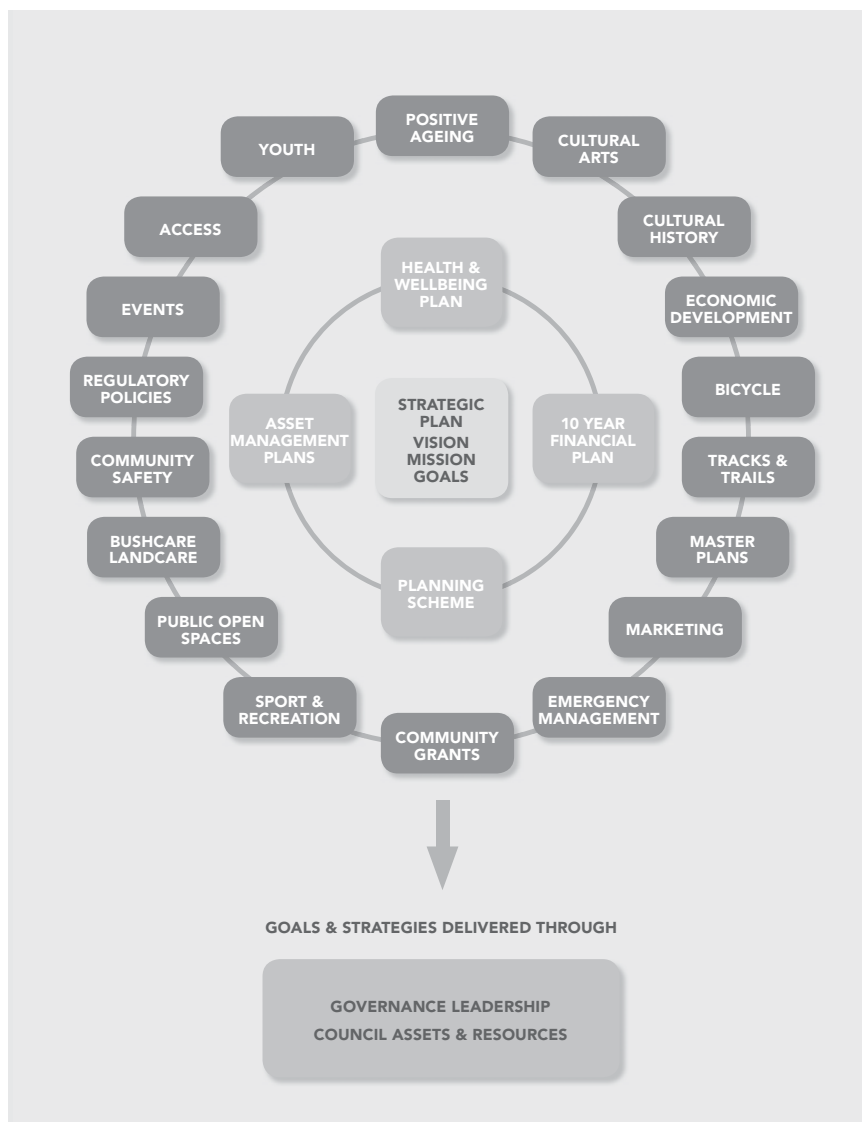
Political and Legislative context

Clarence City Council is engaged in many plans and activities that are interconnected with young people.

The 2018-2022 Youth Plan has been developed within the broader context of the Clarence City Council Strategic Plan (2016-2025), other Council Plans (see diagram below). Additionally, the Youth Plan considers State and National Legislative Frameworks.

Other major research, reports and plans relating to young people including data from the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, Australia Clearinghouse for Youth Studies, Mission Australia and Anglicare has also informed the Youth Plan.

Clarence City Council Strategic Framework



What Clarence City Council Youth Services are currently doing to support young people

- Providing information, support, referral and advocacy
- Collaborative programs with schools and other service providers around health, arts, employment, accommodation, alcohol and drugs, recreational activities and events
- Computer and internet access at Clarence City Council
- Youth Assist in the Rosny Integrated Care Centre
- Outreach recreation programs at Skate Parks, Clarence Plains, Risdon Vale Sports Hall, Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre
- Participating in intergenerational activities such as Our Shared Space
- Alternative learning programs at schools, Neighbourhood Centres, the Youth Centre in Clarence Plains (homework support, workshop, resilience, girls group, bike program)
- Pop-up health and wellbeing events/activities within schools and across Clarence
- Graffiti reduction education and community based programs
- Support other Council, school and community events across Clarence
- School Holiday Programs
- Youth participation programs such as the Youth Network Advisory Group
- Encourage youth participation in local, State and National forums and research

Clarence City Council Youth Services utilises a strength based and community development focused approach when working with young people. Youth Services recognises the potential and power young people can develop as they grow into adults and aims to guide them along their journey. While the service's primary focus is young people, its role also includes enabling families and other supporters to access the necessary resources to assist young people.

Strategies for addressing the Key Themes

What we plan to do



Youth Plan - Resource Requirements

The ongoing success of Clarence City Council Youth Services is underpinned by a fantastic team with a complementary collection of skills and experiences which ensures we achieve well with our existing resources.

Youth Services have been building on existing programs around youth health, crime prevention, work readiness and developing young leaders. To better meet the needs of young people and to progress this work, additional resources are needed in some areas.

Resources required from Clarence City Council include a well balanced mix of permanent and casual staff needed to adequately plan and facilitate ongoing and additional programs as well as appropriate infrastructure and facilities to support these programs.

Working Together

GOAL For partners and networks to work together with young people in planning and implementing youth focussed activities, events and programs

Strategies	Actions
Continue working with current partnerships and networks	Continue to attend local and regional network meetings
	Support and facilitate health promotion events led by students within schools
	Continue to work with youth agencies across Tasmania to share information, opportunities and resources
	Continued sharing of resources
	Support the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) by promoting and encouraging young people from Clarence to participate in forums, conferences and surveys relating to young people
	Promote and contribute to research and resources undertaken by other services and organisations
	Support and encourage Youth Network Advisory Group membership activities
	Explore opportunities with services who work with minority groups such as young people who have a disability or come from a culturally diverse background
	Continue working collaboratively with other Council committees on projects of mutual significance e.g. Age Friendly Cities and Communities, Access and Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing

Working Together

<i>Seek out new connections when working on existing and new campaigns that aim to address issues relating to young people</i>	Approach appropriate Local and State Government organisations about relevant issues
	Continue to work with schools and youth health services to explore the possibilities of further collaboration
	Contact the University of Tasmania, Beacon Foundation and other relevant service providers to explore opportunities for research, program development and implementation of activities
	Continue to attend local and regional network meetings
	Continue to engage with headspace (as a member of the headspace Consortium and through health promotion programs)
<i>Work closely with other agencies and organisations who work with at risk young people, young people who are disengaged from school, or young people in the Youth Justice System</i>	Continue to explore partnerships and program opportunities with Tasmania Police, Youth Justice, schools and other services to develop and implement strategies to address disengagement and crime prevention
	Explore opportunities in partnership with Tasmania Police and the Youth Justice system for working with young offenders from Clarence e.g. Community Conferences, Community Service/Work Orders,
<i>Seek opportunities to work in partnership with young people and other services through external funding</i>	Continue to partner with other organisations when applying for Grants
	Seek grants which will enhance programs provided by Youth Services in meeting the needs of young people

Giving Young People a Voice

GOAL To enable young people to ‘have a voice’ and become more connected, engaged and active within their respective and collective communities

Strategies	Actions
Develop and expand the role and capacity of the Youth Network Advisory Group (YNAG)	Develop a framework that provides identified pathways for skill development through participation in Youth Network Advisory Group activities
	Explore opportunities with local schools to expand youth participation to include and address the needs of young migrant people and young people with a disability
	Develop formal processes that enable the Youth Network Advisory Group to communicate with, advise and advocate for young people within Council and other lead agencies
	In partnership with schools, develop processes which will enable the Youth Network Advisory Group to consult more effectively within schools
Make sure Council has a continuing focus on and commitment to youth participation and leadership	Identify Council committees or groups that would benefit from youth representation and recruit young people to participate (using Youth Network Advisory Group as a resource)
	Develop pathways to ensure youth representation on Council and other committees or groups relevant to young people (using Youth Network Advisory Group as a resource)
	Provide training and learning opportunities for members of the Youth Network Advisory Group and other young leaders in Clarence
	Support membership and activities run by the Youth Network Advisory Group by providing opportunities for the development of advisory and leadership skills

Giving Young People a Voice

<i>Improve access to and awareness of programs for all young people</i>	Continue to run outreach programs at Clarence Plains, Risdon Vale and Warrane
	Continue to promote use of the Youth Centre at Clarence Plains for outreach and other programs
	Continue to promote and support other services programs
	Work in partnership with local schools, Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre and local migrant groups to establish and facilitate a peer support young migrant literacy program
	Continue to work with and encourage young people of all age groups backgrounds to be included as a part of Council and other services youth events and activities
	Continue to promote Youth Services programs through events, displays, newsletters, social media and attending meetings and assemblies
	Continue to support school programs and events
<i>Provide opportunities for young people to be involved in developing programs and organising activities</i>	Continue to engage the Youth Network Advisory Group in Youth Services as well as local activities and events
	Continue to work with secondary schools on health promotion events
	Run focus groups with young people as required
<i>Promote the contribution young people make in Clarence and establish a positive image for young people</i>	Investigate ways to promote a positive image of young people and acknowledge the contributions they make in the life of the City
	Acknowledge the collaborations that young people have with people of all ages and abilities across Clarence e.g. Our Shared Space activities; Living Well in Clarence, Volunteering
	Form a special committee of Council to facilitate the exchange of ideas, information, knowledge and skills between young people and Council

Getting Help

GOAL To provide timely and easy access to information and services for young people and parents –healthy body, healthy mind

<i>Strategies</i>	<i>Actions</i>
<i>Develop a communication plan with creative options for communication with young people, parents and carers, Council, schools and other services</i>	<p>Provide information to young people, parents/carers, teachers and schools through activities and events, displays, newsletters and social media</p> <hr/> <p>Create links to existing health campaigns through promotion and education sessions within schools and public engagement</p>
<i>Explore methods and opportunities to improve access to services and information (Youth Assist)</i>	<p>Continue to provide a drop-in youth health space</p> <hr/> <p>Encourage and manage the use of the Youth Assist room by other youth service providers e.g. headspace, Colony 47, Anglicare, Family Planning</p> <hr/> <p>Continue providing education around how to communicate and work with young people effectively about their health and well being</p> <hr/> <p>Work in partnership with the local secondary schools to facilitate health and wellbeing advisory groups for young people within the school setting</p> <hr/> <p>Develop and distribute youth friendly resources through snapshot education sessions in the school setting or casual engagement and outreach within the community (in partnership with schools and other youth services)</p> <hr/> <p>Distribute information and resources on existing campaigns relating to young people</p> <hr/> <p>In partnership with the school, facilitate Parent Information sessions at each of the local public secondary schools</p>

Getting Help

	Continue to outreach to local secondary schools during lunch times
	Continue to outreach to local areas within Clarence e.g. Skate Parks, local parks and events
	Meet with services to discuss opportunities and ways to mutually promote services and resources
	Work with other services to find gaps in the system and develop stronger pathways for youth health services to better meet the needs of young people
<i>Improve knowledge and awareness around health and wellbeing issues that impact young people</i>	Continue to run personal development programs with primary and secondary students e.g. Resilience Program, Girls and Boys Groups
	Explore ways for young people and their parents/carers to access the services and information they need e.g. Parent Advisory Groups, snapshot/pop-up 15 minute education sessions, school assembly
	Run focus groups with young people to develop strategies and ideas
	Continue to work with students from local secondary schools in setting up and running youth health promotion events within the school setting
<i>Increase parent and carer awareness of what young people experience, feel and need</i>	Explore possible partnerships with service providers to enable better support for parents
	Explore partnerships with local Parent Associations
	Run focus groups with young people to develop strategies and ideas around communicating effectively within the family
<i>Create community awareness around health issues which impact on young people</i>	Speak on behalf of young people to make sure their needs are being met
	Support and lead activities and campaigns within public spaces
	Partner with other services and Local and State Government on existing and new campaigns around youth health issues
	Support, plan and lead activities with other Clarence City Council services as outlined in other Council Plans e.g. Community Safety Plan, Health and Well Being Plan

Feeling Safe

GOAL To assist young people to feel safe in their relationships, home, community and public spaces

<i>Strategies</i>	<i>Actions</i>
<i>Raise awareness about how young people feel about personal safety</i>	Continue to attend local and regional meetings e.g. One Community Together, Trail Bikes Working Group
	Continue to consult with young people from across Clarence around feeling safe (Youth Network Advisory Group)
	Provide information to parents and carers, teachers and schools through activities and events, displays, newsletters and social media
	Continue to have input into Council plans and activities which address safety e.g. Community Safety Plan, Open Spaces
<i>Engage with and seek input from young people to develop plans around personal safety at home, in the community and public spaces</i>	Work with young people and other services to address graffiti, vandalism and family violence issues
	Involve young people in consultations around Council plans which impact on them e.g. public facilities, street scaping etc
	When possible, involve young people in local and regional meetings to address safety issues and concerns e.g. school based health and wellbeing groups, Facing Up To It, One Community Together

Feeling Safe

<i>Develop connections and programs with other services that deal with the safety concerns and needs of young people</i>	Continue to work on educating young people about law designed to keep people safe, especially the legislation around graffiti and (safe) use of motorised and pedal bikes
	Continue to develop the Graffiti Reduction Education Program to include a more structured and comprehensive educational component for the school setting
	Work with others to source funding and develop programs around community education and early intervention, especially around graffiti and safe use of motorised and pedal bikes
	When possible, involve young people in local and regional meetings to address safety issues and concerns e.g. Clarence Stronger Communities Partnership, Clarence Council Community Safety Plan, FUTI, One Community Together
<i>Support and defend the safety needs of young people</i>	Continue to work with other service providers including Tasmania Police, Youth Justice, Crime Stoppers and primary and secondary schools
	Provide information about existing campaigns and up to date research through social media, activities and events, displays
	Run focus groups with young people to develop strategies and ideas

Employment, Education and Training

GOAL To provide support, encouragement and opportunity for young people to develop the necessary skills to work in their area of choice – without judgement

<i>Strategies</i>	<i>Actions</i>
Support young people to access skills, training and employment opportunities in the field of their choice	Provide opportunities for young people to develop the skills they need to work in their area of choice through participating in the Youth Services Young Leader Program, Workshop and Bike Programs
	Promote current programs and pathways to young people and their parents
	Research and develop pathways for young people to experience work, training and employment opportunities both within Council and local industry including tours and site visits to prospective work locations
	Work with schools, service providers and local industry to find ways to promote information about education pathways and employment opportunities
	Partner with other services such as Neighbourhood Centres and Community/Men's Sheds on programs which will enhance a young person's employability skills
	Provide referrals to service providers who offer support, information and advice to job seekers
	Provide youth employment opportunities through promoting Council's Traineeships

Employment, Education and Training

<i>Provide access to alternative education programs for at risk, disengaging or disengaged students</i>	Continue to operate and resource the Workshop Program as a community and school based program
	Develop a program structure for the Workshop Program and Vocational Education and Training courses in line with the National Curriculum
	Continue the school and community based Graffiti Reduction Programs e.g. educational and skill development, Free Spray
	Continue to work with Rose Bay High School students from Risdon Vale on the Resilience Program (in collaboration with other service providers)
	Continue to facilitate and resource the girls and boys personal development program that also highlights the importance of life skills such as financial independence
	Work with young people to support them in considering their options for staying in school and alternatives to truancy (in partnership with schools)
<i>Create and lead opportunities for employability skill building</i>	Develop a young leaders program based on employability criteria (soft skills) and information sourced from Curriculum and local industry partners
	Engage young leaders through graded leadership opportunities on the Recreation Program, Workshop, Resilience and Bike Programs (young leaders program)
	Provide opportunities for young people to volunteer on the Homework and Literacy Programs
	Develop a graded Young Leaders Program where young people can transition from participant to Leader on outreach and recreational programs
<i>Provide mentoring and support programs that assist young people to find and pursue employment pathways</i>	Talk to young people in schools about creating programs that can help them identify pathways to employment
	Explore partnerships with local industry and businesses
	Explore partnership programs with students and staff from primary and secondary schools



Acknowledgements

Many hands, minds and hearts contributed to the development of this Youth Plan. Council would like to thank the young people who contributed to the development of the Youth Plan, as well as the parents/carers, community members, schools, service providers and Council staff who took the time to provide feedback and input.

In particular, Youth Services would like to thank the staff at Rosny College, Bayview Secondary College, Clarence and Rose Bay High Schools for allowing us to pick the brains of your students during class time and also local Primary Schools who participated in our consultations. Without these schools' assistance, flexibility and perseverance we would not had access to the insights and rich source of information provided by your students.

We especially thank the young people who have worked alongside Youth Services on our various programs and projects, including the development of this strategy. Without your voice, our work and this Youth Plan would not be possible.

