

**WARATAH - WYNYARD COUNCIL**

**YOUNG PERSONS'  
STRATEGY**

**2011 - 2013**



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# Forward



The 2011-2013 Young Persons' Strategy and action plan for Waratah-Wynyard Council forms the foundation of a strategic direction for the development and co-ordination of Youth programs in the municipality.

This strategy and action plan establishes a whole of Council framework for the development of youth programs in the municipality and within a wider social, cultural, economic, political and environmental framework.



This strategy will assist Council and the community to prioritise resources and services to young people and assist in the development of community connectedness and social capital.



This strategy will provide a framework to the development of a sense of belonging among young people in the Waratah-Wynyard municipality.

# Rationale & Overview



Young people have special needs, and the purpose of this strategy is to provide services and programs that will focus on the challenging and changing period for young people aged 12-20 years. For practical purposes Council is adopting 20 as the upper age for young people. This reflects the demographic profile of our community, with a significant movement of young people from our municipality once they turn 20 years of age.



The following framework will provide a new direction for the future with a consolidation of existing services and programs provided for young people a continued commitment to provide opportunities and offer choices that entice young people to be active and engaged in the community.



# Framework



The following legislative and planning frameworks have been taken into account in the development of this strategy.

- Waratah-Wynyard Council Strategic Plan 2009-2014
- Tasmania Together Plan
- Australian 2020 Youth Summit Communiqué
- United Nations – World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond
- Tasmanian Youth Policy Framework For Local Government 1999
- Talking Participation – Taking Action: A Local Government Guide to Youth Participation 2006
- Youth Transport Guide
- National Goals for Schooling in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



# Budget Considerations



The strategic priorities, actions and programs identified in the Young Persons' Strategy that require financial support will be directed to the Waratah-Wynyard Council for consideration in the context of its Annual Budget deliberations. External funding will be sought for the implementation of the plan where available and appropriate.

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## Reporting



There will be periodic reporting to the Council on actions from the Young Persons' Strategy through Council's standard reporting mechanisms.

There will be annual reporting to the community on the progress of the Young Persons' Strategy through the Waratah-Wynyard Council's Annual Report.

# Key Principles



The following key principles underpin the Young Persons' Strategy and provide a shared belief in relation to young people's rights:

**ACCESS** – Enhance young people's accessibility to a range of affordable and diverse social, cultural, sport and recreational activities and events. Support and strengthen information services available within the municipality including information services available to young people.

**PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION** – Value the contributions of young people in planning, delivery and evaluation of services and development of policies. Ensure a range of inclusive and accessible opportunities and spaces are available so young people can actively participate in community life.

**COMMUNITY INCLUSION** – Ensure young people feel connected and valued by their community and feel a sense of belonging. Recognition of the importance of encouraging the community to value and engage young people and strengthening the interconnectedness of social networks.

**EQUITY** – Ensure equality of access to outcomes by supporting and promoting non-discriminatory policies and practices.

**ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING** – Ensure young people's knowledge, skills and ability to access available support and to make informed choices, particularly in relation to life skills, education, training and employment.

**EMPOWERMENT** – Support and encourage through participatory approaches in the development of skills. Ensuring diversified experiences that provide progressive opportunities for personal development and leadership.

**PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY** – Identify, lead and support the development of initiatives and advocacy actions that improve outcomes for young people.



# Key Theme Areas

## Key Theme 1

**Consultation & Participation**

## Key Theme 2

**Community Attitudes**

## Key Theme 3

**Engagement & Learning**

## Key Theme 4

**Transport & Mobility**

## Key Theme 5

**Health, Lifestyle & Culture**



# Key Theme 1

## Consultation & Participation

### **Objective:**

To acknowledge the importance of young people and the unique contribution they make to the community and to actively engage young people through a range of inclusive and accessible opportunities and available spaces so young people can actively participate in community life.

### **Key Focus Areas:**

- Effective consultation and participation processes with and for young people
- Increase accessibility, inclusion and relevance of Council's services, programs and initiatives for young people
- Explore partnerships and initiatives that seek to increase young people's access to, and participation in, community and broaden activities

## Waratah-Wynyard Council Young Persons' Strategy 2011 – 2013

Key Theme 1: Consultation and Participation	
<b>Objective:</b> To acknowledge the importance of young people and the unique contribution they make to the community and to actively engage young people through a range of inclusive and accessible opportunities and available spaces so young people can actively participate in community life.	<b>Key Focus Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective consultation and participation processes with and for young people</li> <li>Increase accessibility, inclusion and relevance of Council's services, programs and initiatives for young people</li> <li>Explore partnerships and initiatives that seek to increase young peoples' access to, and participation in, community and broaden activities</li> </ul>
Action Plan	
Key focus Area	Actions
Effective consultation and participation processes with young people	Actively seek young peoples' views and participation by facilitating a range of consultative forum and activities. Support the attendance of young people at regional and State forums organised for their benefit.
	Continue to provide a range of Council youth services and initiatives that support young people and maximise opportunities for participation.
	Extend existing opportunities for the youth team to meet with Councillors on a regular basis.
	Arrange for students from local schools to visit Council Chambers and learn about Local Government.
	Strengthen communication with schools using existing school mechanisms.
	Facilitate consultation processes with key stakeholders to ensure the needs of young people are taken into account in the design and development of public spaces and facilities.
	Provide support across Council to ensure all Departments actively engage young people in their consultation process.
	Continue to establish and support Council's Youth Team and actively seek input and views of members in decisions which affect young people in the community. Formal and informal meetings with Councillors at least one a year.

Key focus Area	Actions
Increase accessibility, inclusion and relevance of Council's services, programs and initiatives for young people	Monitor and measure the participation of young people from diverse backgrounds and abilities.
	Council Officer to provide presentations on progress of Council's youth services at bi-monthly North-West Action for Youth meeting.
	Volunteering opportunities for young people encouraging young people to be involved in a variety of community organisations.
	A senior member of the Youth Team to have non-voting membership on the WWC Recreation Advisory Group.
Explore partnerships and initiatives that seek to increase young peoples' access to, and participation in, community and sporting activities	Encourage local community groups to involve young people in their activities.
	Promote opportunities for young people to be involved in their community through Council's website and community board.
	Develop strong links with youth services to assist in facilitating programs to create a more supportive youth environment.

## Key Theme 2

### **Objective:**

Create positive community attitudes and strengthen the relationship between the wider community and young people providing a foundation to create a more sustainable, healthy and prosperous community.

Achieve a mutual and supportive relationship between young people and the community that is based on respect and acceptance. Demonstrated commitment to young people through actively and visibly promoting young people as an integral part of the community.

### **Key Focus Area's:**

- Profile and awareness of young people and their positive contributions to the community
- Promote and support collaborative efforts and partnerships by local community groups and schools in providing services to young people

Key Theme 2: Community Attitudes

**Objective:**  
 Create positive community attitudes and strengthen the relationship between the wider community and young people providing a foundation to create a more sustainable, healthy and prosperous community.  
 Achieve a mutual and supportive relationship between young people and the community that is based on respect and acceptance. Demonstrated commitment to young people through actively and visibly promoting young people as an integral part of the community.

- Key Focus Area's:**
- Profile and awareness of young people and their positive contributions to the community
  - Promote and support collaborative efforts and partnerships by local community groups and schools in providing services to young people

Action Plan

Key focus Area	Actions
Profile and awareness of young people and their positive contributions to the community	Identify, lead and support community initiatives that improve young peoples' and the broader community's safety and perception of safety in collaboration with young people, government and non government organisations.
	Develop community projects that target health, wellbeing and physical activity.
	Undertake youth related research that seeks to extend the current evidence base, with a focus on collection of local data, for the purpose of planning, decision making and advocacy.
	Continue to hold 'whole of community event's that provide relevant, targeted opportunities aimed at ensuring young people are included.
	Support young people to develop and implement initiatives through the provision of Council's Community Grants Program with a range of relevant initiatives funded through the Grants Program and target training for youth to apply for grants provided. Consider a special round of Community Assistance Grants solely for Young People.
	Actively support youth organisations and groups seeking grants and sponsorship.
Promote and support collaborative efforts and partnerships of local community groups and schools in providing services to young people	Regular promotion of young peoples' community contribution through a range of media.
	Continue to support the Co-Pilots mentoring program for local school students.
	Development of a partnership with BighArt and the Wynyard Community Arts Centre.
	Continue to provide financial support to the Home Help program. Consider this program becoming a line item in Council's budget.

## Key Theme 3

### Objective:

To work in collaboration with stakeholders undertake actions that increase young people's knowledge, skills and ability to access available support and to make informed choices, particularly in relation to life skills, education, training and development. Contribute to the growth of a diverse economy that provides sustainable employment, education and training opportunities for young people.

### Key Focus Area's:

- Mentoring and support programs that assist young people to identify and pursue education and employment pathways
- Employment, education and training opportunities for young people
- Improve the relevance and accessibility of information to increase young people's knowledge and skills
- Actively promote to young people the services, activities, events and programs occurring in the municipality
- Participation in the development of sustainable employment opportunities for young people and support efforts that contribute to the engagement and retention of young people in education and training

Key Theme 3: Engagement & Learning

Objective:

To work in collaboration with stakeholders undertake actions that increase young peoples’ knowledge, skills and ability to access available support and to make informed choices, particularly in relation to life skills, education, training and development. Contribute to growth of a diverse economy that provides sustainable employment, education and training opportunities for young people.

Key Focus Area’s:

- Mentoring and support programs that assist young people to identify and pursue education and employment pathways
- Employment, education and training opportunities for young people
- Improve the relevance and accessibility of information to increase young peoples’ knowledge and skills
- Actively promote to young people the services, activities, events and programs occurring in the municipality
- Participation in the development of sustainable employment opportunities for young people and support efforts that contribute to the engagement and retention of young people in education and training
- Advocacy and lobby Commonwealth and State Government

Action Plan

Key focus Area	Actions
Mentoring and support programs and projects that assist young people to identify and pursue education and employment pathways	Explore partnership options to access funding, resources and mentoring to develop and deliver basic life skills programs.
	Support the development of a range of innovative and creative projects for young people to develop skills and employment opportunities.
	Continue to operate Council’s Men’s Shed and provide opportunities for young males to develop skills and knowledge that will assist in the education and employment decision making process.
Improve the relevance and accessibility of information to increase young peoples’ knowledge and skills	Ensure accessible and relevant information is available to young people on how to increase knowledge and skill through a variety of mediums.

Key focus Area	Actions
Actively promote to youth the services, activities, events and programs occurring in Waratah Wynyard municipality in a variety of mediums	Promote services, events and programs in a variety of forms, including Council's website.
	Explore the establishment of a youth communication and engagement system in conjunction with Council's Communications Officer.
Participation in development of sustainable employment opportunities for young people and support efforts that contribute to the engagement and retention of young people in education and training	Strengthen Council's link with local schools and tertiary institutions.
	University of Tasmania scholarship program annually recognising the achievement of a young person from this municipality.
	Support the development of sustainable employment opportunities for young people through Council's own employment practices including work experience.
Advocacy and Lobby Commonwealth and State Government	Explore funding opportunities and potential partnerships to enable coordination and implementation of a range of information, training and awareness activities designed to break-down attitudinal barriers and promote tolerance, understanding and respect amongst young people.
	Attend appropriate meetings/networks with Government Departments and advocate the needs of young people in the municipality.
	Raise issue related to young peoples' service provision at local parliamentarians meetings with Councillors.
	Advocate with and on behalf of young people to other levels of government in relation to service provision.

# Key Theme 4

## Transport & Mobility

### **Objective:**

Council will work with key stakeholders within available resources taking into consideration legislation obligation to address the transportation needs of young people to ensure safe, assessable reliable transport opportunities.

### **Key Focus Area's:**

- Identify the young people's transport needs and related issues through consultations as appropriate
- Liaise with public transport providers and promote young people's transport needs within our municipality

Key Theme 4: Transport & Mobility

**Objective:**  
Council will work with key stakeholders within available resources taking into consideration legislation obligation to address the transportation needs of young people to ensure safe, assessable reliable transport opportunities.

- Key Focus Area's:**
- Identify the young peoples' transport needs and related issues through consultations as appropriate
  - Liaise with public transport providers and promote young peoples' transport needs within our municipality

Action Plan

Key focus Area	Actions
Identify the young peoples' transport needs and related issues through consultations as appropriate	Consult Council's Youth Team on young peoples' transport needs and related issues.
	Consult youth service providers and other community service providers on issues related to young people including transport.
Liaise with public transport providers and promote young peoples' transport needs within our municipality	Facilitate a dialogue between young people and public transport services to discuss transport issues of young people.
	Issue relating to young peoples' transport needs and safety will be brought to the attention of the State Government through Council's Health and Safety Committee.
Advocacy and Lobbying Commonwealth and State Governments	In partnership with key stakeholders undertake advocacy at the Commonwealth and State Government level for improved public transport.
	Consultations, meetings, forums, submission and media releases including the development of grant applications and delegations to Members of Parliament.
	Advocate to other levels of government for resources to fund initiatives that improve young peoples' safety and access to public transport.

# Key Theme 5

## Health, Lifestyle & Culture

### **Objective:**

Promote youth health and enhance young people's accessibility to health services and health information.

Develop and support the growth of a strong arts and cultural community that creates opportunities for young people to express themselves and be valued and included.

### **Key Focus Area's:**

- In collaboration with local/regional service providers, Council will assist in addressing young people's health needs
- Young people's health needs will be considered in organising special events
- Programs and events to develop youth arts and cultural opportunities in the municipality
- Engage young people in natural and built environments
- Support programs and initiatives that encourage a healthy lifestyle including exercise and wellbeing
- Investigate the provision of alternative exercise options

Key Theme 5: Health, Lifestyle & Culture

Objective:

Promote youth health and enhance young peoples' accessibility to health services and health information.  
 Develop and support the growth of a strong arts and cultural community that creates opportunities for young people to express themselves and be valued and included

Key Focus Area's:

- In collaboration with local/regional services providers. Council will assist in addressing young peoples' health needs
- Young peoples' health needs will be considered in organising special events
- Programs and events to develop youth arts and cultural opportunities in the municipality
- Engage young people in natural and built environments
- Support programs and initiatives that encourage a healthy lifestyle including exercise and wellbeing
- Investigate the provision of alternative exercise options
- Council will lead and participate in advocacy campaigns to improve the health, lifestyle and culture of young people in the municipality

Action Plan

Key focus Area	Actions
In Collaboration with local/regional service providers, Council will endeavour to address young peoples' health needs	Investigate funding resources available for the development and implementation of health programs for young people.
	Examine specific health needs of young people in the municipality.
	Advocate and lobby to other spheres of Government on the needs of young people living in the municipality.
Programs and events to develop youth arts cultural opportunities in our municipality	Facilitate the development of a partnership with youth based arts organisation BighArt.
	Support applications for funding to attract and/or create additional arts, music and cultural festivals and events.
	Assist young people to access Council venues and resources.
	Create a process to increase awareness of individual artists and arts and cultural groups.
	Facilitate a range of incentives to encourage young people to become involved in arts and culture.

Key focus Area	Actions
Engage young people in natural and built environments	Involvement in environmental initiatives including Clean Up Australia Day, Planet Ark Plant a Tree and Recycling programs.
Encourage a healthy diet and exercise	Promotion of the 'Move Well Eat Well' program to local schools.
Investigate the provision of alternative exercise options	Promotion of proposed and existing community pathways.
Council will lead and participate in advocacy campaigns to improve the health, lifestyle and culture of young people in the municipality	Lobby Commonwealth and State Governments for funding to implement initiatives to improve the health and lifestyles of young people in the municipality.
	Active participation in government and other relevant youth related reviews and forums as an advocate for young people.