



# YPLAN (YOUTH PLAN) 2019-2024



CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL  
WARATAH-WYNYARD COUNCIL

MARCH 2019

This YPlan (Youth Plan) was produced by The Social Yield Pty Ltd for Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard Councils in 2018-19.



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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 'YPlan', Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard Councils' Youth Plan 2019-2024.

This plan adopts many of the goals and strategies of the previous Circular Head YPlan 2016-2019, as well as those of the former Waratah-Wynyard Young Persons' Strategy 2011-2013, and it maps them onto the priorities identified in our recently developed joint Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2024. By aligning the YPlan in this way, we hope to foster even stronger wellbeing for our young people aged between 12 and 24.

The YPlan is five-year roadmap for promoting and improving the physical, mental and social wellbeing of our young people. It is based on the following eight priorities:

1. Reducing isolation
2. Supporting wellness
3. Valuing difference
4. Reducing socio-economic disadvantage
5. Improving access to the basics
6. Reducing harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
7. Building resilience
8. Empowering young people

The integrated nature of the YPlan reflects the ongoing close working relationship between Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard Councils, and the way in which we set our strategic goals in tandem. While the YPlan is a joint strategy, we will target our actions to meet the needs of our individual communities.

## MAYORAL MESSAGE

Local governments play an important role in enabling young people to enjoy good health and wellbeing and to realise their dreams and ambitions. Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard Councils are working to support our young people by implementing this joint YPlan (Youth Plan) 2019-2024.

This YPlan is a first for Waratah-Wynyard, and it expands upon the original Circular Head YPlan 2016-2019. It is informed by community aspirations (including those of young people), research data and the wisdom of our local community organisations and service providers.

Our vision is that Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard will be places in which all young people enjoy enhanced wellbeing; are valued for who they are; can access the opportunities, services and supports they need; can share in community decision-making; and are encouraged to fulfill their potential.

Over the coming years, the YPlan will guide our two Councils and our local partners in delivering on this vision. The YPlan will be implemented through annual action plans, and we will use a framework of indicators to track progress towards our objectives.

We would like to thank all who contributed to the YPlan, and we look forward to working to make Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard places where all young people can thrive



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. H. Quilliam".

Cr Daryl Quilliam

Mayor Circular Head Council



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. H. W. Walsh".

Cr Robby Walsh

Mayor Waratah-Wynyard Council

## ABOUT THE YPLAN

This YPlan (Youth Plan) is intended to ensure that Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard local government areas are places where young people feel included, enjoy optimum wellbeing, and can realise their dreams and ambitions.

The YPlan refreshes and extends Circular Head Council's original YPlan 2016-2019 and incorporates content from Waratah-Wynyard Council's Young Persons' Strategy 2011-2013. It is also closely aligned with the recently developed Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard Councils' Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

We see this YPlan as a living document. We look forward to tracking our progress towards our goals, learning from experience, and strengthening the plan over time.

### Developing the Plan

Development of this YPlan began with a review of the State and local planning and policy context, and a rapid scan of existing research and consultation findings relating to young people and their experiences and aspirations.

A dedicated program of youth engagement was beyond the scope of this project. However, we drew on a range of community sources to inform our thinking about the needs, experiences and aspirations of young people in Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard, including:

- Outcomes of consultation with young people aged 12-24 in the development of the original Circular Head YPlan 2016-2019;
- Input provided by Waratah-Wynyard young people during the Live Well Tasmania Young People's Forum, 2017;
- Video interviews with young people living in Wynyard and Yolla, 2008;
- Input from a health and wellbeing planning workshop held in May 2018 with 32 participants drawn from Council staff, community leaders, and local and regional service providers. While working through several health and wellbeing issues, participants identified a range of issues relating to young people. This included naming potential enablers and barriers to achieving positive change;
- Findings from Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard Councils' Annual Community Survey as well additional community consultation outcomes from internal research; and
- Community input into *Sustainable Murchison 2040*, a joint strategic planning framework for Circular Head, Waratah-Wynyard, West Coast, King Island and Burnie.

### Feedback on the Plan

The draft version of this YPlan was exhibited for community feedback between 26 September and 24 October, 2018.

Consultation on the draft YPlan was undertaken alongside consultation on the Councils' draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and Age-Friendly Communities Plan. The drafts and the invitation to provide feedback were disseminated through the following channels:

#### Print media

- The draft plans and the call for community feedback were featured in *The Advocate* newspaper on 29 September and in the *Circular Head Chronicle* on 4 October.



### *Council website*

- A media release about the draft plans and the call for community feedback were posted to both Council websites in the 'Latest News' and 'Have Your Say' sections on 26 September.

### *Social media*

- A notice about the drafts and invitation to provide feedback was posted to the Circular Head Council Facebook page on 1 October, with an additional reminder posted on 22 October.

### *Hardcopies*

- Hardcopies of the draft plans were placed in the Council foyer from 26 September and remained there throughout the feedback period.
- Hardcopies of the draft plans were distributed to the committees of the Service Providers Access Network (SPAN), Circular Head Education and Training Consultative Committee (CHETCC) and the Sport and Recreation Network.

### *Email*

- The plans were circulated by email to all participants of the original Health and Wellbeing Planning Workshop convened during the plans' development; as well as to the Service providers Access Network (SPAN) and the Sport and Recreation Network. A reminder email was sent to these recipients 22 October with links to the plans.

Community members and other stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the draft plans via letter, telephone, the 'Have Your Say' online facility or email. Circular Head Council Facebook posts about the drafts made on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October reached 1,412 and 451 people respectively; and generated 66 and 7 engagements respectively. By close of the consultation period, Council had received seven written submissions on the drafts.

The resultant YPlan is a five-year framework for action informed by community priorities. Annual implementation plans derived from each YPlan will be comprised of actions targeted to the needs and characteristics of individual communities.

## VISION

Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard will be places in which all young people enjoy enhanced wellbeing; are valued for who they are; can access the opportunities, services and supports they need; can share in community decision-making; and are encouraged to fulfill their potential.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### *Inclusivity*

Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard Councils take an inclusive view of wellbeing. We recognise that not everyone in our community shares the same advantages. Our collective wellbeing will be measured by how our most vulnerable young people are faring.

### *Place-based planning*

Our local government areas are comprised of diverse communities, each with particular needs. We recognise that a one-size-fits-all approach to supporting young people is unlikely to succeed. We aim to take actions that are targeted and responsive to local needs.

### *Collective impact*

While we recognise the importance of local government in community supporting young people, we cannot—and should not—try to solve complex social problems on our own. Instead, we see this YPlan as a platform to help us coordinate our efforts with others in pursuit of shared goals.

### *Understanding dynamics*

We recognise that youth wellbeing is a web of interrelated factors. Something that may seem like a cause may have its roots elsewhere. We are committed to gaining insight into complex youth issues so that we can better tackle problems at their source.

### *Measuring success*

We view this YPlan as a living document. We look forward to tracking progress towards our goals, learning from experience, and strengthening this plan over time.



## OUR PRIORITIES

The first seven priorities listed below are adapted from the Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2024; while the eighth priority, 'Empowering young people,' is specific to the YPlan.

*1. Reducing isolation*

*2. Supporting wellness*

*3. Valuing difference*

*4. Reducing socio-economic disadvantage*

*5. Improving access to the basics*

*6. Reducing harms from alcohol, drugs and tobacco*

*7. Building resilience*

*8. Empowering young people*

# 1. Reducing isolation

## What we know

**Being socially connected** has a positive influence on emotional, psychological and physical wellbeing. Conversely, experiencing social isolation—through living alone, having few social ties or little social engagement—is associated with poorer wellbeing<sup>1</sup>. In 2017, **friendships and family relationships** were named among the most valued aspects of life by Tasmanians aged 15-19<sup>2</sup>.

Service providers and community leaders report that isolation is a critical issue for people of all ages in Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard. There is the perception that young people lack **options for social activities**, especially during school holidays, and that outlying areas in particular lack programs and activities for young people.

When asked what they would keep or create in Circular Head, young people said they would keep ‘the sports culture and sports facilities’ and would create ‘cultural and activity-based innovations such as galleries, festivals and more whole-community activities’<sup>3</sup>. Waratah-Wynyard youth similarly value the recreation opportunities afforded by natural landscapes but seek more opportunities to participate in **arts and other organised recreation** beyond a skate park<sup>4,5</sup>.

Civic participation is considered an important measure of youth development in Australia. This participation can take many forms: volunteering, participation in team or groups events, participation in sports, religious or cultural activities. Between 2006 and 2016, Tasmania was the only State or territory to experience a **deterioration in youth civic participation**, with a 12% decline in the proportion of young people who had volunteered for an organisation in the 12 months prior to 2016<sup>6</sup>.

Tasmanian research has found that enhancing youth volunteer participation depends partly

on organisations being ‘youth ready’ and embracing digital platforms, creating meaningful volunteer roles, and effective leadership for young volunteers<sup>7</sup>.

Local service providers and community leaders see **transport disadvantage** as contributing significantly to the social isolation of young people. The Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS) defines transport disadvantaged people as those who cannot own or operate a vehicle due to age, disability, ill health or financial constraints<sup>8</sup>.

In 2016, 35% of Circular Head residents and 62% of Waratah-Wynyard residents agreed that public transport was adequate to meet their needs<sup>9,10</sup>. When Tasmanian children and young people were asked to name what was not working well for them and for other young people in their community, ‘Transport’ received the second highest number of responses. Respondents expressed a wish for increased transport options, particularly for those living in rural and remote areas<sup>11</sup>. Young people in Waratah-Wynyard have said that improved public transport connections would enable them to access the services and activities they seek<sup>12</sup>.

The internet can also provide opportunities for enhanced social connectivity and access to information. Service providers and community leaders have highlighted the importance of **digital literacy and access to the digital world** in Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard. In 2016, the proportion of Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard households with an internet connection was lower than the Tasmanian and Australian average, with 701 households in Circular Head and 1,275 households in Waratah-Wynyard reporting no internet connection<sup>13</sup>. When asked what they would create in Circular Head, the young people who contributed to the original YPlan said ‘access to free WiFi around the township’<sup>14</sup>.

## What we will do



## 2. Supporting wellness

### What we know

The Youth Development Index is a composite measure across the domains of education, health and wellbeing, employment and opportunity, political participation and civic participation. Tasmania ranked second to last in 2015 overall, and it was the only State or territory whose overall YDI had declined since 2006. This decline was driven by a large **decrease in youth health and wellbeing**<sup>15</sup>.

The main driver of this deterioration was a 62% increase in the rate of chlamydial infection<sup>16</sup>. **Sexually transmitted infections** are becoming more prevalent in Australia, with young people among those at highest risk. Australia-wide, around 70% of people aged 16 to 29 are sexually active. Sexual health includes not only STI prevention but a **positive and respectful approach to sexuality** and sexual relationships free of coercion, discrimination and violence<sup>17</sup>.

**Physical activity** is important to people of all ages. In 2016, an estimated 19.3% of Circular Head adults did not meet the guidelines for moderate/vigorous activity, and 84.6% did not meet the guidelines for muscle strengthening activity. In Waratah-Wynyard, an estimated 20.6% of residents did not meet the guidelines for moderate/vigorous activity, with 74.0% failing to meet the guidelines for muscle strengthening<sup>18</sup>.

**Mental illness** is one of the biggest health risk factors for Australian young people aged between 15 and 29 years<sup>19</sup>. Tasmanians of all ages showed a marked **increase in the prevalence of depression and anxiety** between 2009 and 2016. Compared to the total population, significantly more psychological distress was reported by young people aged 18 to 24 years. The north west adult population saw a significant increase in depression/anxiety during this period, from 20.0% to 29.4% between 2009-2016.<sup>20</sup>

Local service providers and community stakeholders have identified a lack of youth mental health services, especially in relation to crisis situations.

In a nationwide survey of young people aged 15-19 in 2016<sup>21</sup>, nearly **one in four respondents** met the criteria for having a probable serious mental illness, and this measure has risen over the previous five years. The top three issues of concern for these young people were **coping with stress, school or study problems and depression**. Females were around twice as likely as males to meet the criteria for having a probable serious mental illness.

In Tasmania, the majority (59.2%) of Kids Help Line calls in 2016 were related to mental health and emotional wellbeing. A majority of callers were female and were aged between 13-18. Between 2011-2015, Tasmania had a higher rate of deaths of children and young people due to intentional self-harm than nationally<sup>22</sup>. There is lack of information about young people's access to mental health services in Tasmania, as well as information on parental mental health issues or psychological distress, despite this being a risk factor for young people<sup>23</sup>.

In 2017, Tasmanians aged 15-19 named **mental health as one of the top three barriers** preventing them from achieving their goals after finishing school. More than four in ten respondents from Tasmania reported that they were 'extremely' or 'very' concerned about coping with stress, and nearly a quarter of respondents reported feeling 'extremely' or 'very' concerned about depression<sup>24</sup>. Young people with a probable serious mental illness have said that **friends, parents and the internet** are the top three sources they are likely to go to for help with important issues in their lives<sup>25</sup>.

## What we will do



### 3. Valuing difference

#### What we know

**Diversity is front-of-mind** for Tasmanian youth. When asked in 2017 to identify the three issues they considered most important in Australia, more than one quarter (27.6%) of Tasmanian young people identified ‘equity and discrimination’, and 6.7% named LGBTIQ issues<sup>26</sup>.

In a separate survey, a majority of Tasmanian children and young people named ‘Equality and respect’ as the factor that made a good society for children and young people. Respondents said they [children and young people] **wanted to be treated with the same respect** as adults<sup>27</sup>. Young people in Waratah-Wynyard have commented that perceptions that all young people are destructive or ‘rebellious’ are inaccurate, and more could be done to value young people’s contributions<sup>28</sup>.

Local service providers and community leaders similarly noted that the contributions of young people can be undervalued and underutilised. They also underscored the **importance of diversity in tailoring services**. They report that diversity can add to the challenges in connecting with hard-to-reach or disengaged individuals.

**Disability** can result from accidents, illness or genetic disorders, and may affect a wide range of dimensions of a person’s life, including mobility, communication, learning and education, income, social activities and workforce participation. In 2016, a total of 60 young people aged 10 to 19 in the combined Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard areas reported needing assistance with core activities<sup>29</sup>. Local service providers and community leaders have flagged that public

spaces in both Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard are not always accessible to those with mobility issues.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Intersex (LGBTI)** Australians experience worse mental health outcomes and have higher risk of suicidal behaviours than their peers due to experiences of stigma, prejudice, discrimination and abuse, as well as a lack of specialised and accepting health services<sup>30</sup>. Trans and gender diverse people tend to have a worse health status than the general population as well as others in the LGBTI cohort<sup>31</sup>.

The total youth LGBTI population of Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard is unknown due to a lack of data. However, it is estimated that people of diverse sexual orientation, sex or gender identity may account for up to 11% of the general population<sup>32</sup>.

Australia-wide, there is a large developmental gap for **young Indigenous people**, including a higher suicide rate than non-Indigenous youth<sup>33</sup>. Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard is home to a relatively high proportion of people who identify as Indigenous, making up 15.7% and 7.6% of the population respectively

Consistent with the Australian average, the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population in Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard has a younger age profile, with a median age of 22 years and 24 years respectively<sup>34</sup>. Aboriginal children and young people in Tasmania have reported a desire for more respect for their culture and history, and the sharing of positive stories about Tasmanian Aboriginal people<sup>35</sup>.

## What we will do





## 4. Reducing socio-economic disadvantage

### What we know

In 2016, Circular Head local government area had a SEIFA score of 940, while Waratah-Wynyard had a score of 925, both indicating **higher levels of disadvantage** than the national average<sup>36</sup>. Local service providers and community leaders associate poverty and social inequity with intergenerational patterns of under- or unemployment, and with **low capacity for employment** due to low levels of literacy, numeracy, digital literacy and access to the digital world. When surveyed by Council in 2016, only 14% of Circular Head residents and 10% of Waratah-Wynyard residents agreed there were enough jobs available in the local area<sup>37,38</sup>.

Tasmanian young people score poorly on development scores relating to employment and opportunity<sup>39</sup>. However, when asked in 2017 to state how much they valued aspects of life such as financial security, getting a job, and school/study satisfaction, around seven in ten Tasmanian young people aged 15-19 said **school/study satisfaction was 'very' or 'extremely' important**. At the same time, school or study problems were named as major concerns for nearly one third of Tasmanian young people. Around four in ten Tasmanian young people **placed a high value on financial security and getting a job**<sup>40</sup>.

When asked what they would create in Circular Head, the young people said they would create 'opportunities for young people, primarily in the area of jobs and youth-run enterprise'<sup>41</sup>. Participants felt there was an opportunity for Circular Head to **become a community with opportunity** and potential for young people to be able to choose to stay or return; not just in search of jobs created by others, but also with the skills and attitudes to create their own jobs<sup>42</sup>. Some young people from Waratah-Wynyard reported that they expected to need to move away from the

region in order to pursue their chosen career<sup>43</sup>.

Being a young person from a low SES area can **affect experiences and perceptions**. For example, the top three most important issues for young Australians in 2016 across all SES groups were alcohol and drugs, equity and discrimination, and mental health. However, young Australians from low SES areas were more likely to identify **personal safety, bullying/emotional abuse, suicide and family conflict** as issues of personal concern. Young Australians from low SES areas also reported feeling less safe in public spaces, had lower levels of community trust, and were the least likely to have participated in a range of activities<sup>44</sup>.

**Problem gambling** is a significant public health issue. Problem gambling occurs more often in people aged between 18 and 30 than in other age groups, with poker machines the most common type, and sports betting also on the increase in this age group<sup>45</sup>. In 2016-17, 4% of clients accessing Gambling Help Online and Gambling Helpline Tasmania Services were aged 0-20 years<sup>46</sup>.

Across Australia, rural youth **have a lower participation rate** in education, employment or training than their urban counterparts<sup>47</sup>. In 2016, both Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard had a lower educational profile than both Tasmania and Australia, with significantly fewer people attaining a bachelor degree and above.<sup>48</sup>

When Tasmanian children and young people were asked in 2016 to name what was not working well for them and for other young people in their community, **'Education and Opportunities'** received the highest number of responses. Respondents said they wanted their education to be relevant, useful and practical and to give them the best preparation for gaining employment<sup>49</sup>.

## What we will do



## 5. Improving access to the basics

### What we know

Consistent with the data on socio-economic disadvantage (above), stakeholder consultation has **emphasised the importance of the basics**—good quality housing, food security and a healthy environment—to the wellbeing of people of all ages. Housing quality and security of tenure have been highlighted as particular priorities for Circular Head.

The **‘material basics’ have been named as a key domain** of the *Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework*<sup>50</sup>. This is defined as having access to: educational or training materials; healthy food in sufficient quantities, including increasing need for nutrients such as calcium and iron; appropriate housing and adequate heating/cooling; and access to adequate clothing and footwear.

When surveyed by Council in 2016, 70% of residents in Circular Head<sup>51</sup> and 74% of residents in Waratah-Wynyard<sup>52</sup> agreed there was good housing choice and availability in their local government area. However, the rental vacancy rate has declined in the north west since 2017, indicating more competition for tenants in securing lease. Falling vacancy rates typically put **upward pressure on rents**, which has a disproportionate effect on people on low or fixed incomes<sup>53</sup>.

Anglicare’s rental ‘Snapshot’ study found a 45% drop in advertised rental properties in the north west between 2017 and 2018, with no available properties advertised on the 2018 Snapshot weekend that would be affordable for a young person on Youth Allowance<sup>54</sup>.

1,622 people in Tasmania were **homeless** in 2016, with 20% of these people in the north west. Young people aged 12 to 24 comprised one quarter of all Tasmanian people experiencing homelessness. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were overrepresented in all sections of the Tasmanian homeless population<sup>55</sup>.

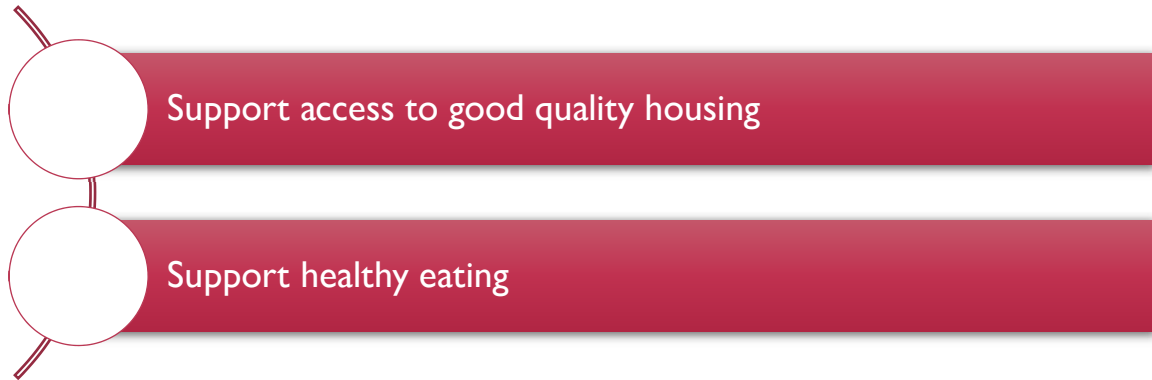
As Tasmanian children get older, the percentage of those who meet the recommended daily number of serves of fruit and vegetables decreases<sup>56</sup>.

According to healthy eating guidelines, Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard residents aged 18 and over are **eating insufficient fruit and vegetables**. In 2016, 71.2% of adult Circular Head residents did not meet the guidelines for fruit consumption, and 93.9% did not meet the guidelines for vegetable consumption. In Waratah-Wynyard, 67.2% of residents did not meet the guidelines for fruit consumption, and 90.6% did not meet the guidelines for vegetable consumption<sup>57</sup>.

Compared to the Tasmanian average, Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard residents **paid more for a standard basket of healthy foods** when utilising a minor supermarket or general/convenience shop in 2014<sup>58</sup>.

The prevalence of **running out of food** and being unable to purchase more increased across all socio-economic quintiles in Tasmania in 2009-2016. In the north west region in 2016, more than one in twenty (6.4%) of people reported that sometime in the past 12 months they had run out of food and had been unable to afford to buy more<sup>59</sup>.

## What we will do



## 6. Reducing harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs

### What we know

Harms from alcohol and illicit drugs are among the **biggest health risk factors** facing young Australians aged 15 to 29 years<sup>60</sup>. Service providers and community leaders in Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard have identified underage drinking and drugs and the drinking culture as key issues for the region.

When asked in 2017 to identify the three issues they considered most important in Australia, nearly one third (29.8%) of Tasmanian young people nominated 'alcohol and drugs'<sup>61</sup>. Nationwide, a greater proportion of respondents from regional areas (36.9%) than urban areas identified alcohol and drugs as an issue of concern<sup>62</sup>.

**Alcohol consumption** can cause harms to the individual drinker, their family and the wider community. There is no safe level for drinking alcohol. The lifetime risk guideline for alcohol consumption by healthy adults aged 18 and over specifies no more than two drinks on any given day. For single occasion harm, this level is no more than four drinks.

In 2016, 29.2% of Circular Head residents aged 18 years and over drank alcohol to risk levels for lifetime harm, with 48.7% drinking to risk levels for single occasion harm; while 18.2% of Waratah-Wynyard residents drank alcohol to risk levels for lifetime harm, with 33.3% drinking to risk levels for single occasion harm<sup>63</sup>.

**Smoking** causes more disease and injury in Australia than any other single risk factor. In

2004-05, smoking caused 14 times as many deaths as alcohol, and 17 times the number of deaths due to illicit drug use<sup>64</sup>. Smoking prevalence is significant in the Circular Head local government area. In 2016, nearly one-third (29.3%) of Circular Head residents aged 18 years and over were current smokers (daily and occasional combined), with nearly one-quarter (24.2%) estimated to be daily smokers. Smoking rates in Waratah-Wynyard were lower, with an estimated 9.0% of adults being current smokers (daily and occasional combined) and 8.1% daily smokers<sup>65</sup>.

Illicit drug use is associated with a range of short- and long-term physical and psychological harms to the user, as well as a range of social and relational harms. Drug dependency can also cause severe financial distress.

National wastewater monitoring data from 2017 names methylamphetamine (one form of which is known as 'ice') as the most commonly used illicit drug in regional Tasmania.<sup>66</sup> However, data collection limitations mean these findings should be treated with caution. Research from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) found **cannabis was the most frequently used illicit substance** across regional Tasmania in the same time period<sup>67</sup>.

When asked what they would change in Circular Head, the young people who contributed to the original YPlan said they would change the 'culture of drug use within the community'<sup>68</sup>.

## What we will do



## 7. Building resilience

### What we know

‘Resilience’ has been defined as **the capacity to cope, learn and thrive** in the face of change, challenge and adversity. Young people with higher levels of resilience are more likely to do well in their education and to suffer fewer social and psychological health problems<sup>69</sup>.

Research commissioned by the Victorian Government has shown that **schools can build resilience** by providing supportive learning environments, promoting positive teacher-student and peer relationships, providing emotional skills programs, providing tailored support for higher-needs individuals, and involving families and students in decision-making<sup>70</sup>.

Resilience can also be built outside of school environments. Local service providers and community leaders have reported that one of the most pressing issues in Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard is ensuring that every person (including every young person) has at least **one positive and responsive adult** in their lives. This recognises the critical role of the social networks in which we live, and that no individual can thrive without the care and affirmation of another. When asked to say what they liked about their lives in Waratah-Wynyard, young people described it as a friendly and supportive place to live<sup>71</sup>.

Feeling safe and secure is a key issue for young people. When Tasmanian children and young people were asked in 2016 to name what was not working well for them and for other young people in their community, **‘Safety, bullying, crime and violence’** was among the top-four responses. Respondents said they wanted to feel safe at home, at

school and in public<sup>72</sup>. Young people who contributed to the original Circular Head YPlan stated it was important to retain Circular Head’s strong sense of community and safety<sup>73</sup>. Young people in Waratah-Wynyard have noted that spaces for teenagers (e.g. skate parks) do not always feel like safe spaces for younger children<sup>74</sup>.

**Exposure to family violence** can have a detrimental effect on children’s mental and physical wellbeing, and these effects can impact behavior as well as school outcomes. In 2016, Tasmania Police recorded 453 juveniles present at family violence incidents in the Western district, which includes Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard. Tasmanian children and young people coping with family violence have emphasised their need to be listened to and actively involved in decision-making and finding solutions to their challenges<sup>75</sup>.

Local service providers and community leaders have reported that there are **not enough foster carers** for children and young people in the region. Tasmania is home to a cohort of highly vulnerable teenagers who are not in the Out of Home Care system. Many of these teens have experienced violence, abandonment and abuse at home, and go on to experience continued adversity and trauma in adolescence. This adversity severely impacts their ability to survive independently and to avoid future disadvantage<sup>76</sup>.

Local service providers and community leaders also highlighted low levels of **emotional competency** among some young people. Improving emotional intelligence and healthy communication skills for young people were seen as key enablers of positive change in this domain.



## What we will do



## 8. Empowering young people

### What we know

In addition to voting in elections, non-electoral political participation—**feeling empowered to participate in public decision-making**—is considered an important measure of youth development in Australia. Between 2006 and 2016, Tasmania's Youth Development Index measure for political participation increased by 69%, due mainly to an increase in the proportion of youth sitting on Student Representative Councils<sup>77</sup>.

In 2017, 7.2% of young Tasmanians surveyed reported being involved with political groups or organisations, and 49.5% reported being involved in student leadership activities. A greater proportion of females than males participated in student leadership activities<sup>78</sup>.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges that **young people have much to contribute to governmental decision-making**. Benefits of effective engagement include: helping young people to understand the democratic process; developing young people's skills and confidence in engaging with institutions; sharing skills, experiences and knowledge; improving social connectedness, wellbeing and belonging in the community; providing government and organisations with access to the ideas and skills of young people; and developing a clearer understanding of each other's priorities, needs and expectations<sup>79</sup>.

Research by the Commissioner for Children and Young People in 2016 found that young Tasmanians aged 11 to 17 highly valued having opportunities to **share their opinions and influence adults' decisions**. The study found that young Tasmanians wish to have more of a say about the decisions that affect

their lives. These young people expect adults to not just listen to them, but also to take action on their behalf. When asked about the best ways for adults to listen to young people, most respondents said there should be more events/activities organised by young people, followed by more adults in support roles, and the establishment of student representative councils in all schools<sup>80</sup>.

Young people feel engaged when they enjoy a **strong sense of agency and are empowered** to make their own decisions about their education, employment and health. On the flipside, 'being told what to do' and having few options for decision-making is associated with disengagement<sup>81</sup>.

A series Australia-wide workshops found that government **decision-makers and young people see engagement differently**. To policy makers, youth engagement is about including diverse voices and influencing/improving decision-making. While young people agreed with this view, they also viewed engagement as an expression of respect and the intent to address unequal power relations<sup>82</sup>.

Facilitating youth empowerment and participation is not only valuable for young people—it is also **valuable for the wider Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard community**. Young Australian adults aged 18-29 display a strong track record in volunteerism and activism, have a higher rate of early-stage entrepreneurial behaviour, are more digitally networked and have higher literacy and education rates than their older counterparts<sup>83</sup>. Empowering young people and enabling these strengths and skills to flourish is likely to confer benefits on the broader population.

## What we will do



# YPLAN 2019-2024

*Note: Potential partners for co-delivering these actions will be identified as annual implementation plans are developed.*

Priority	Objectives	Actions	Indicator	Baseline
1. Reducing isolation	Increase opportunities for youth social and recreational participation	Ensure that young people's requirements are factored into Council's social, cultural, recreation and strategic land-use planning.	No. of Council strategies that account for youth-specific social and recreational participation.	None evident in 2018
		Within strategic land-use and recreational planning, prioritise the creation of youth-focused accessible public spaces and recreational facilities and spaces.		
		Explore options for supporting the operations of youth-focused service providers by subsidising their overhead costs (e.g. hydro, insurance)		
	Enhance the digital and geographic connectedness of young people	Support existing initiatives by community providers (e.g. Libraries Tasmania) to enhance young people's digital literacy.	No. of free publicly-accessible WiFi locations in NW townships listed by Tasmanian Govt (freewifi.tas.gov.au)	Total listed = 6 – Wynyard: 2 (incl. Libraries Tasmania) – Somerset: 1 – Waratah: 1 – Smithton: 1 (Libraries Tasmania) – Stanley: 1
		Advocate for increased provision of free WiFi in facilities, parks, shopping areas and other public spaces across Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard areas; and promote young people's awareness of existing free WiFi locations such as libraries.		
		Engage with young people to identify their transport needs and related issues.	% of residents who report that public transport is adequate to meet their needs (Council survey).	35% CHC in 2016 62% WWC in 2016
		Advocate to the Tasmanian Government and other providers for enhanced public transport options for young people.		
		Continue to support local driver mentoring programs to assist young people to gain their probationary drivers licence.		
	Support youth participation in arts and cultural activities	Work in partnership with community organisations and local service providers to increase the availability of, and young people's access to, social and cultural activities and programs.	No. of youth-focused arts/culture programs and activities supported by, or promoted, by Council.	CHC: Art About Town Youth Art/ Photography competitions, Smithton 7UP arts programming. WWC: Smith Family, Big hART, Guides Australia, Wynyard 7UP, Tasmanian Youth Week. Securing grants, e.g. from TMAG and Arts Tasmania.
		Promote arts and cultural production opportunities for young people in conjunction with schools, libraries, museums, galleries and arts organisations.		

Priority	Objectives	Actions	Indicator	Baseline
2. Supporting wellness	Support young people's mental health and wellbeing	Publicise and promote existing youth-focused mental health supports, including remote/online support services.	% of residents with anxiety/depression (DHHS Pop. Health Survey)	29.4% NW region in 2016
		Work with local service providers (including schools) to promote and facilitate access to youth-appropriate preventative and early intervention mental health initiatives.	% of residents reporting high/very high psychological distress (DHHS Pop. Health Survey)	11.7% NW region in 2016
		Take a 'no wrong door' approach and provide a referral process to participants in Council's youth programs who are seeking mental health supports.	No. of young people (Yrs 9 & 10) participating each year in Mental Health First Aid Training (Council data).	CHC N/A; WWC all Yr 9 students at Wynyard High in 2018
		Advocate for more youth mental health services and youth focused counsellors in the local area and confirm local delivery/outreach is occurring.		
		Investigate options for supporting students to maintain good mental health when transitioning to post-secondary education, e.g. mentoring, pathways information, life skills instruction, etc.		
		Assist people in the community (including young people) to recognise mental health risks and to know how to respond to mental illness in themselves and others.		
	Support young people's physical health and wellbeing	Provide a range of accessible and affordable recreational facilities and programs (both structured and unstructured) for young people, and address potential barriers to participation.	% people not meeting the guidelines for moderate/physical activity (DHHS Pop. Health Survey)	19.3% Circular Head; 20.6% Waratah-Wynyard in 2016
		Ensure youth perspectives are included in Council's recreation planning and service delivery.	% people not meeting the guidelines for muscle strengthening (DHHS Pop. Health Survey)	84.6% in Circular Head; 74.0% Waratah-Wynyard in 2016
		In partnership with local organisations and service providers, explore options for providing low-cost, high participation sports and physical recreation activities for young people.		
	Support young people's sexual health and wellbeing	Support Family Planning and/or advocate for agencies to provide sexual health checks and sexual health information to young people in CHC and WWC.	Notification rates (per 100,000) of chlamydial infections in the NW region, (DHHS Notifications data).	340 in 2016

Priority	Objectives	Actions	Indicator	Baseline
3. Valuing difference	Enhance inclusivity for young people	Promote a positive image of young people; champion and raise awareness of young people's positive contributions to society.	No. of Council activities annually that champion and raise awareness of young people and their positive contributions (Council data)	CHC: Australia Day Young Citizen of the year, CHYL has an Emerging Leader Award at each High School, Circular Head Youth Facebook page recognises young people doing great things in our community; WWC: Australia Day award for Young Citizen of the Year.
		Work with young people to develop an annual youth festival during National Youth Week to celebrate young people's contributions.		
	Enhance gender inclusivity	Work in partnership with diverse local stakeholders to challenge stereotypical views and to challenge violence against girls and young women.	No. of family violence incidents in the Western district of Tasmania (Tasmanian Police data)	589 in the year to February 2018.
	Enhance inclusivity for LGBTI youth	Work in partnership with local service providers and youth leadership to improve the range of LGBTI-positive youth programs, activities and services in the community.	No. of people/organisations served through Council-hosted LGBTI training (Council data)	None in 2018.
		Promote and host LGBTI training opportunities for service providers and highlight the organisational benefits of participation.		
	Enhance inclusivity for young Indigenous and CALD people	Continue to work in partnership with local service providers and youth leadership to provide a range of culturally appropriate services and supports for Aboriginal and CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) community members.	No. of people/organisations served through Council-hosted cultural diversity training (Council data)	None in 2018.
		Promote and host cultural diversity training opportunities for service providers and highlight the organisational benefits of participation.	Presence of Aboriginal flag outside Council buildings (Council data).	In 2018, only displayed during NAIDOC week.
		Celebrate Aboriginal heritage by formally recognising Aboriginal custodianship within Council documents, by flying the Aboriginal flag on Council buildings, and by formally acknowledging country at all official events.		
	Enhance inclusivity for young people with a disability	Ensure Council events, festivals, programs and facilities are accessible to young people with physical, psychological, intellectual and sensory disabilities.	% of Council events, programs, festivals and facilities deemed accessible to people with disabilities (Council data)	0 in 2018
		Assist local businesses to achieve high standards of disability accessibility through advocacy and information provision.		

Priority	Objectives	Actions	Indicator	Baseline
4. Reducing socio-economic disadvantage	Improve the capacity and socio-economic wellbeing of young people	Support programs already working to improve the capacity of young people facing multiple barriers to employment, including literacy and numeracy programs.	No. of people aged 15-24 who are disengaged from employment and education (ABS data)	13.6% in Circular Head; 12.8% in Waratah-Wynyard in 2016.
		Establish a buddy/mentor 'register' to connect skilled volunteers with young job-seekers requiring extra help with job-readiness (e.g. resume-writing, interviews, confidence-building).	No. of adults (post-school-age) receiving regular one-to-one literacy support at Smithton and Wynyard libraries (Libraries Tasmania data)	42 in Smithton; 9 in Wynyard in 2018
		Explore ways to promote youth-led enterprise (e.g. dedicated or 'pop-up' spaces, training, activities, mentorship guest speakers).		
		Support public education campaigns working to combat problem gambling via education and awareness-raising.		
	Boost local education and employment opportunities	Ensure young people's education and employment aspirations are reflected in Council's economic development activities.	Youth unemployment rate (ABS data).	8.9% in Circular Head; 13.8% in Waratah-Wynyard in 2016.
		Work in partnership with industry and business organisations and regional bodies to identify emerging employment trends and opportunities for young people in the NW.		
		Create and promote work experience and traineeship/cadetship opportunities for young people across diverse areas of Council employment.		
		Investigate the possibility of Council staff members serving as referees/character references for young job seekers.		
	Strengthen local education and employment pathways	Support education providers, local agencies and industry networks to closely align training and industry trends/demand.	Year 12 completion rates for people aged 15 years and over (ABS data).	22.6% in Circular Head; 26.7% Waratah-Wynyard in 2016
		Support schools to encourage Year 12 completion.		
		Support local employers to provide vocational 'tasters', pathways information, connections, vocational assessments and experiences to assist young people to identify career options.		



Priority	Objectives	Actions	Indicator	Baseline
5. Improving access to the basics	Support access to good quality housing	Support existing and future initiatives by other agencies to ensure property owners/managers are aware of, and complying with, guidelines for rental property amenity, and are not discriminating against tenants based on age.	No. of available properties in the NW identified during Anglicare's 'Snapshot' weekend deemed affordable for a young person on Youth Allowance (Anglicare).	0 in 2018.
		Promote young people's awareness of renters' rights and tenancy law, and the process of applying for rental housing.		
		Improve Council's understanding of the housing needs of young people in the community so it can respond to changes in supply/demand.		
		In conjunction with Youth Homelessness Day, raise Council and community awareness of the nature and complexity of youth homelessness.		
		Advocate for youth-focused crisis accommodation options in the region.		
		Seek opportunities to refer young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to appropriate services and supports such as Housing Connect.		
		Investigate the feasibility of converting Council-owned dwellings to transitional housing for young people.		
	Support healthy eating	Actively contribute to existing regional healthy eating initiatives and awareness-raising activities.	% people not consuming the recommended quantity of vegetables (DHHS Pop. Health Survey)	93.9% CHC in 2016 90.6% WWC in 2016
		Encourage businesses and other agencies serving food to young people (including clubs and schools) to provide healthy food options to their customers; and continue to provide attendees of 7UP centres with health food options.	% people not consuming the recommended quantity of fruit (DHHS Pop. Health Survey)	71.2% CHC in 2016 67.2% WWC in 2016
		Ensure all Council-run events are catered for with healthy foods, including minimal sugars and trans fats, e.g. by implementing a Healthy Catering Policy or No Soft Drink Policy	No. of high schools with 'Gold Star' rated canteens, as awarded by the Tasmanian School Canteen Association (Council data).	None in CHC; 2 in WWC in 2018.

Priority	Objectives	Actions	Indicator	Baseline
6. Reducing harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs	Enhance young people's ability to make safer and healthier choices around alcohol, tobacco and other drugs	Encourage local youth service providers to provide access to Quit Tasmania resources and materials.	% of current smokers (daily and occasional combined) (DHHS Pop. Health Survey)	29.3% CHC in 2016 9.0% WWC in 2016
		Encourage secondary schools to implement measures to dissuade young people from taking up smoking and help them to quit.	% of people drinking to single occasion harm (DHHS Pop. Health Survey)	48.7% CHC in 2016 33.3% WWC in 2016
		Promote youth-focused alcohol and drug harm reduction programs hosted by service providers and other third parties.		
		In partnership with schools and other youth organisations, facilitate and encourage harm minimisation information sharing and education.		
	Combat cultures of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use	Hold and promote events for young people that are drug- and alcohol-free and/or that promote safe consumption of alcohol.	% of people drinking to lifetime harm (DHHS Pop. Health Survey)	29.2% CHC in 2016 18.2% WWC in 2016
		Encourage local education providers to incorporate education and awareness-raising around the harms of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.		
		Encourage local facilities with high youth participation to adopt voluntary harm minimisation codes around alcohol and drugs, e.g. the Good Sports program	No. of organisations currently renting Council facilities who are on the Good Sports register (Council data).	11 in CHC; Unknown WWC in 2018.
		Make Good Sports accreditation a condition of hiring Council premises.		
		Encourage Good Sports and other harm reduction educators to conduct community outreach and build accountability amongst organisations.		
	Improve local access to specialist services and supports	Advocate for increased drug and alcohol addiction treatment and rehabilitation options for young people in the region.	No. of alcohol rehabilitation places/beds in the NW (Community data).	17 Total in 2018 – 5 at Serenity House, Burnie – 12 at Salvation Army, Ulverstone At time of writing, Serenity House had been funded to increase the total beds by another 5.

Priority	Objectives	Actions	Indicator	Baseline
7. Building resilience	Help young people to develop emotional intelligence	Encourage local primary and secondary schools to implement emotional intelligence teaching.	No. of schools in which teachers have completed RULER training (RULER Health Tasmania data).	3 in CHC; 2 in WWC in 2018
		Support programs outside the school system (e.g. parent info sessions) that assist young people to build emotional intelligence and active engagement.		
	Help young people to have access to a safe, secure family life	Promote and publicise existing supports available for young people living with/exposed to family violence.	No. of young people present at family violence incidents in the Western police district (Tasmania Police data).	453 in 2016
		Encourage collaborative and awareness-raising initiatives that prevent or reduce family violence.		
		Encourage and work with education providers to deliver parent/carer information sessions to encourage positive relationships between parents/carers and young people.		
		Work in partnership to grow the number of available Out of Home Care places available in the region.		
		Seek opportunities to support service providers to deliver assertive outreach support services to at-risk young people.		
	Encourage and create opportunities for young people to excel	Promote and celebrate the successes of high-achieving young people in CHC and WWC, including within the education, community, arts/culture, sports and business/employment sectors, including through the Young Achiever Awards.	No. of Council activities in which the successes of high-achieving young people are promoted and celebrated.	CHC: Mayor's Education Fund Scholarship, Celebration of Education; WWC: Bill French Tertiary Education Scholarship.
		Work in partnership with the business sector to develop and promote local opportunities for young people to engage in innovation and entrepreneurship.		
		Continue to support youth innovation and entrepreneurship through Council's economic development activities.		

Priority	Objectives	Actions	Indicator	Baseline
8. Empowering young people	Support young people's decision-making	Provide a range of accessible/plain English youth-specific information via a range of appropriate communication strategies, including (but not limited to) a youth services section of the Council website and social media.	Evidence of a youth-themed section of CHC and WWC websites	CHC youth info page; WWC page for children and youth services due for renewal as of 2019.
	Ensure Council understands, and acts on, the needs and aspirations of young people	Advocate for the needs and aspirations of young people to all levels of government as well as the education and community sectors.	Evidence of a youth engagement policy, or of a youth focus within Council's engagement policy.	No policies in 2018
		Incorporate principles of best practice in youth engagement in Council community engagement.		
		Regularly update Councillors, Council Officers and partner agencies about youth policy and research trends.		
		Support the input of diverse spectrum of young people into the design of Council youth activities and programs.		
		Actively seek the input of young people in the creation of Council plans and strategies, including future iterations of this YPlan.		
	Support youth leadership opportunities	Reinstate the Circular Head Youth Network and initiate a Waratah-Wynyard Youth Network.	Evidence of a functioning Circular Head Youth Network and Waratah-Wynyard Youth Network	Neither operating in 2018.
		Explore opportunities to develop the leadership capacity of young people, in which 'leadership' includes a variety of forms such as peer mentoring and coaching.		
		Explore opportunities to subsidise local youth leadership training.		
		Encourage young people to access opportunities for consultation and leadership through the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT), including participation in the Tasmanian Youth Forum.		
	Enable participation in youth programs and activities	Encourage the organisers of youth programs and activities to embrace a culture of inclusion—saying 'yes' to everyone who wishes to participate.	Participation rates in Council-led youth activities and programs.	WWC: School holiday program, leaders program and Try Skills program all well supported; CHC: School holiday program reasonably well supported; CHYL very well supported; I AM and Work Inspirations programs well supported.
		Explore IT and mobile-based options for making Council's activities for young people more accessible and open to spontaneous participation.		
		Engage young people in evaluating Council's youth services and activities against the principles of youth-focused delivery to ensure continuous improvement.		

# APPENDIX—POLICY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

## State policy and planning context

### Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework

The *Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework*<sup>84</sup> recognises that wellbeing is a complex and multi-dimensional concept that encompasses physical, social and psychological aspects. It notes that when a child or young person has a strong sense of wellbeing, they will be more resilient, more confident, able to enjoy positive social interactions, and able to learn better.

The Framework provides the following definition of child and youth wellbeing: ‘Wellbeing refers to a state where a child or young person feels loved and safe; has access to material basics; has their physical, mental and emotional health needs met; is learning and participating; and has a positive sense of culture and identity.’

The Framework sets out six domains of wellbeing for children and young people, as well as a range of developmental indicators for each age group. The domains and their indicators for young people aged 13 and over are as follows:

Domain	Developmental Indicator
Being loved and safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young person feels safe in their home and community environment</li> <li>• Although conflict with family may be more likely, this does not turn into violence or aggression</li> <li>• Young person has a growing level of independence from caregivers</li> <li>• Young person is able to identify at least one person who they can rely on for support and assistance</li> <li>• Young person has access to a safe, stable and nurturing environment</li> <li>• Young person is provided opportunities to raise concerns and have their concerns addressed</li> </ul>
Having material basics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young person has access to educational or training materials</li> <li>• Young person has access to healthy food in sufficient quantities, including increasing need for nutrients such as calcium and iron</li> <li>• Young person has access to appropriate housing and adequate heating/cooling</li> <li>• Young person has access to adequate clothing and footwear</li> </ul>
Being healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young person is a healthy weight for their age and height</li> <li>• Young person is physical and socially active</li> <li>• Young person is emotionally and mentally well, happy and supported</li> <li>• Young person is able to access health services, including oral health services, when needed and is supported to do so</li> <li>• Young person is fully immunised</li> <li>• Young person avoids smoking or engaging in risky alcohol/drug use; or is supported to give up smoking or risky alcohol/drug use</li> </ul>
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young person is receiving an education</li> <li>• If attending school, the young person attends regularly, with minimal unexplained absences</li> <li>• Young person is developing age-appropriate language and literacy</li> <li>• Young person demonstrates positive and ethical behaviour</li> </ul>
Participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young person is able to engage in organised activities, including sport</li> <li>• Young person is able to satisfy emotional or social needs outside of family group (e.g. by spending time with peers)</li> <li>• Young person is permitted and encouraged to engage with their community</li> </ul>

Domain	Developmental Indicator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young person is provided with opportunities to meaningfully participate in decisions</li> <li>• Young person is encouraged to have a voice</li> </ul>
Having a positive sense of culture and identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young person's sense of personal identity is supported</li> <li>• Young person is supported to understand their family history</li> <li>• Young person is supported to satisfy any interest in their identity or culture</li> <li>• Young person's environment, including educational environment, is culturally appropriate</li> <li>• Young person's environment is free from bullying or victimisation</li> </ul>

## Youth at Risk Strategy

The aims of the State Government's *Youth at Risk Strategy*<sup>85</sup> are to provide the Tasmanian Government with a long term, financially sustainable, whole of government, strategic direction for responding to the safety and rehabilitative needs of young people.

The Strategy defines 'youth at risk' as being any young person aged between 10 and 17 experiencing or displaying the following indicators of vulnerability (risk factors) which, if not addressed, would expose the individual, family or community to significant harm (actual or potential):

- Legal problems;
- Educational disengagement;
- Homelessness;
- Family violence;
- Family troubles that require significant family supports;
- Social and familial isolation or exclusion;
- Drug and alcohol addiction;
- Culture, identify and gender-related issues;
- Mental health issues/ mental illness;
- Disability, leaning, speech impairments, etc;
- Violent or self-harming behaviours;
- Offending behaviours;
- Problematic sexualised behaviours;
- Abuse, neglect and exploitation;
- Sexual health issues;
- Trauma; and
- Suicidal thoughts.

The Strategy's seven key actions areas are to:

1. Build a strong foundation for the Youth at Risk service system through the development of a vulnerability assessment tool and the formation of agreed outcomes based on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework;
2. Provide timely and appropriate safety and supports for young people in out of home care and those engaged in the Youth Justice System;
3. Increase awareness and create alternative pathways within the homelessness and housing system for young people at risk;
4. Improve the education and employment opportunities for vulnerable young Tasmanians;
5. Improve the health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable young people;
6. Create safe and inclusive communities for young people; and
7. Establish system wide overarching enablers to support the youth service sector.

## Tasmanian Youth Policy Framework for Local Government

The *Tasmanian Youth Policy Framework for Local Government*<sup>86</sup> is intended as a guide for Councils in developing a role in youth affairs (for people aged 12 to 25). It provides a suite of policy statements that Councils may wish to adopt.

The policy statements relate to a variety of elements Council may consider in developing their role in youth affairs, such as: planning; services and strategies; roles and responsibilities; policy; diversity; funding; participation; partnership; and research.

The Framework also identifies some common youth issues identified through the consultation process: transport; arts and culture; housing; public space; education and training; recreation/entertainment; health and wellbeing; community pride; employment; justice/law; and safe community.

The Framework notes that defining a role in youth affairs does not mean that all Councils will have to take on a whole new set of responsibilities. Rather, it is about building youth needs and issue into existing function of Council and ensuring young people's needs are recognised and addressed.

### Legislative context

Section 20 of Tasmania's *Local Government Act 1993* requires local governments to provide for the health, safety and welfare of its community.

### Local policy and planning context

The policy and planning context at the local level is set by each Council's 10-year Corporate Strategic Plan, which is in actioned through each Council's four-year delivery program and annual operating plans. Each Corporate Plan is intended to be adaptable to changing social, economic, environmental and regulatory circumstances.

### Waratah-Wynyard Corporate Strategic Plan

The *Waratah-Wynyard Council Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2027*<sup>87</sup> is founded on Council's mission, vision and values. The vision of Waratah-Wynyard Council is 'to deliver innovative, sustainable services to our community through strong leadership, clear direction and collaborative relationships'.

The Plan is based around seven thematic goals: 1. Leadership and Governance; 2. Organisational Support; 3. Connected Communities; 4. Community Recreation and Wellbeing; 5. Economic Prosperity; 6. Transport and Access; and 7. Environment. In part, the Plan states that:

- 'Waratah-Wynyard community members will feel a sense of inclusion, belonging and value within a thriving, innovative and diverse population. They will be actively engaged in developing Council facilities, services and programs, and will be encouraged to provide input to planning for community needs'; and
- 'Waratah-Wynyard will be a healthy community with access to more recreational choices in safe and welcoming environments. It will enjoy programs and recreational spaces that are



inclusive, thriving and energetic, and will have access to high quality facilities, services and equipment’.

### **Circular Head Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2027**

The *Circular Head Council Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2027*<sup>88</sup> is founded on Council’s mission, vision and values. The vision of Circular Head Council is ‘to provide leadership excellence focused on strategic objectives through local and regional engagement to deliver value for money and services to meet community needs’.

The Plan is based around seven thematic goals: 1. Leadership and Governance; 2. Organisational Support; 3. Connected Communities; 4. Community Recreation and Wellbeing; 5. Economic Prosperity; 6. Transport and Access; and 7. Environment. In part, the Plan states that:

- ‘The Circular Head community will be inclusive and resilient with a strong sense of belonging. People will be connected to one other and the world around them. The Circular Head community will be connected to its past and engaged in its present, creating a vibrant shared future’; and
- ‘Circular Head will be a place where services, facilities and open space provide opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages and abilities to participate in recreational activities that encourage health and wellbeing’.

### **Circular Head Youth Statement 2016**

The *Circular Head Youth Statement* is a policy that sets out Council’s goals for supporting young people.

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|---------|--|
| Goal 1: | To make youth participation the core approach to youth leadership and youth development.   |
| Goal 2: | To develop a positive Circular Head identity that encourages diversity, creativity and opportunity.  |
| Goal 3: | To embed local youth initiatives in a cooperative and strategic regional approach.   |
| Goal 4: | (a) To achieve best practice in governance and administration of youth services;<br>(b) To bring alive the ‘Council Vision’ with input from young people; and<br>(c) To ensure that the YPlan’s implementation is continuously informed by leading edge policy trends. |

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