

YOUTH

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2013 – 2018

Gawler



Gawler **YOUTH**
AC



HENRY INAT

CEO Town of Gawler

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR & CEO FOR THE YOUTH PLAN

Direction not intention determines a destination. This Plan provides direction to assist our local young people in reaching the destination they have identified for themselves. The three focus areas identified of participation, health & well-being, and building capacity strongly reflects the wider community aspirations.

The Plan also highlights the importance Council places on the voices of our young people. It has been formed by the opinions and the priorities which have been received through consultation directly with local youths.

Gawler's young people are valuable citizens. The skills and abilities our young people have complement those of our older generations; they ensure Gawler is positioned for a strong, healthy, vibrant future.

We look forward in partnering with our young people to help achieve these positive outcomes.



BRIAN SAMBELL

Mayor Town of Gawler

WHAT IS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT?

Youth Development is about providing all young people with positive experiences and opportunities. These experiences and opportunities must enhance young people's strengths and capacity; affirm them as contributors to the Gawler community, as well as shapers of their own future. Through Youth Development, Gawler recognises, values, supports and encourages young people's contribution.

Youth Development provides a set of practices used by service providers, schools, programs and communities to empower young people to reach their full potential. These principles engage youth in a way that promotes positive and healthy transitions from the teenage years to adults. The Town of Gawler recognises young people as active citizens in our community. Youth are leaders today and leaders in Gawler's future. Gawler benefits when young people's voices are included in decision-making.

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YOUTH POLICY.



YOUTH POLICY.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT YOUTH POLICY

April 2010 saw the launch of the National Strategy for Young Australians by the former Minister for Youth, Hon. Kate Ellis MP.

The Government's vision is 'for all young people to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and to have the opportunities and skills they need to learn, work, engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them'¹.

The eight priorities are:

1. Improving the health and wellbeing of all young people
2. Equipping young Australians to shape their own futures through education
3. Supporting young Australians within their families
4. Empowering young Australians to take part and be active in their communities
5. Equipping young Australians with the skills and personal networks they need to gain, and be successful in, employment
6. Enabling young Australians to participate confidently and safely online
7. Strengthening early intervention with young Australian's to help prevent any problems getting worse and to help young people get their lives back on track
8. Establishing clear cut legal consequences for behaviours that endanger the safety of others

STATE GOVERNMENT POLICY CONTEXT

State Strategic Plan

The South Australian Strategic Plan 2011 is a pledge to making South Australia the best it can be. The Plan identifies six priorities: Community, Prosperity, Environment, Health, Education and Ideas.

The State Government recognises that 'young South Australians are energetic, dynamic and actively contribute to South Australia'².

Office for Youth

Youth Connect is South Australia's Youth Strategy 2010-2014. The Strategy provides an outline and action plan to direct the delivery of government programs and services.

The guiding principles outlined in Youth Connect are³:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Education, Employment and Skill Development
- Engagement & Participation
- Better Connections

Premier of South Australia

In 2011 Jay Wetherill became Premier and developed seven priorities for South Australia's future. Two of the seven priorities strongly focus on young people⁴:

- Every chance for every child
- Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods

YOUTH POLICY.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY CONTEXT

Our Future is NOW

On behalf of the Local Government Community Managers Group, Adelaide Hills Council undertook a research project to provide directions for youth development in local government.

The report states the best way forward for youth development in local government is to ensure the following points underpin a Council's youth strategy⁵:

- Engagement & Participation
- Capacity Building & Coordination
- Events & Programs

Town of Gawler Policy Context

The Town of Gawler Strategic Plan 2010-2018 highlights Council's priorities and direction of its operation. The basis of the Plan is⁶:

- Identity
- Growth
- Community
- Environment
- Leadership

The objectives of 'A Strong Community' include⁷:

- Outcome 2.2: Services and Facilities That Meets Community Needs
- Outcome 3.1: Well Informed Community
- Outcome 3.2: A Safe Community
- Outcome 3.3: A Resilient Community
- Outcome 3.4: An Active Community
- Outcome 3.5: A Community That is Engaging and Participating (Welcoming)
- Outcome 4.2: Good Quality Open Space that Responds to Communities and Attracts Use
- Outcome 5.2: Creating a Future

It is noted that Council is soon to commence a review of its Strategic Plan 2010-2018, by way of formulating a new Community Plan 2014-2024. Progress in preparation of the Community Plan relative to the Youth Development Plan will be monitored to ensure that both inform the other, leading up to each key strategic document being completed.



SO WHAT DOES ALL THAT MEAN?

Youth voice, community connection and participation, wellbeing and building capacity in young people are all strongly emphasised through Federal, State and Local Government.

The Town of Gawler's Youth Development Plan embraces these priorities and provides local context and meaning.



THE FACTS.



THE FACTS.

There are 268,781 young people aged 12-25 that live in South Australia⁸. This is 16.83% of South Australia's population as at 2011 Census.

Greater Gawler incorporates smaller towns outside of its local government boundaries such as **Hewett, Roseworthy, Lewiston, Freeling, Sandy Creek and Williamstown among others.**

There are 3,848⁹ young people aged 12-25 living within the Town of Gawler.

- This is 18.84% of the Town of Gawler's population which is significantly higher than the state average
- 1715 are 12-17 years of age¹⁰
- 2133 are 18-25 years of age¹¹

The difficulty of becoming an adult and the responsibilities of becoming an adult include studies, work and independence.

Gawler is a regional hub. Its facilities and programs service a greater area than just the Town of Gawler.

Over 100 students are at risk of leaving early.

These students are engaging in school via Flexible Learning Options (FLO) which provides opportunity to achieve SACE points, Certificates or full VET qualifications.

Almost half the students that attend Gawler & District College B-12 **reside outside of the Town of Gawler boundaries¹².**

3,564 students enrolled in year 7 to year 12 across schools in Greater Gawler¹³.

73 young people identify as Aboriginal within our local government region¹⁴. 80 Aboriginal secondary students attend Gawler & District College B-12 alone.

90 young people within Gawler have need for assistance with core activities due to profound or severe disability¹⁵.

910, 15-25year olds are employed full time, 789 part-time. 240 young people identified as unemployed and looking for work.

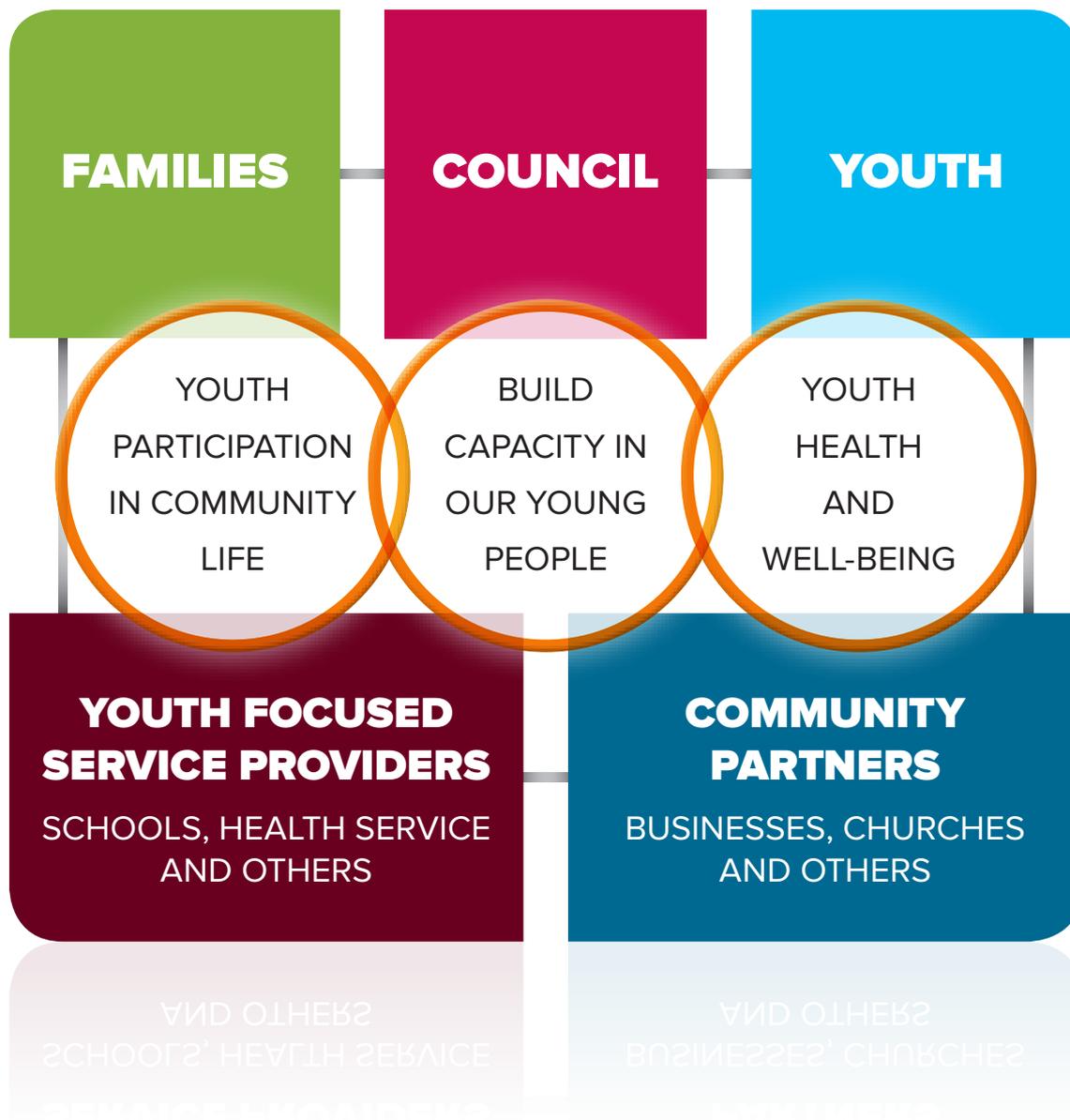
853 are unemployed¹⁶.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN TOWN OF GAWLER





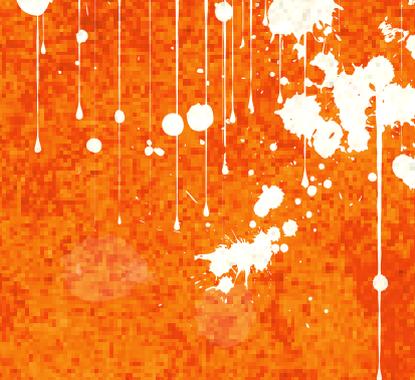
Youth Development is cross community approach and not solely the responsibility of one group.

To truly achieve positive Youth Development in the Town partnerships need to be formed between:

- Council
- Young People
- Families
- Youth Service Providers
- Other Community Groups

The following three outcomes have been identified to achieve successful Youth Development in the Town of Gawler. The outcomes overlap and work in synergy.





DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES.



DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES.

GAWLER YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN OUTCOMES

The identified outcomes for the Gawler Youth Development Plan have been established by closely working with the Gawler Youth Advisory Committee, and consulting with the Senior Student Leadership Committees at Gawler & Districts B-12, Trinity and Xavier Colleges.

The three outcomes are:

1. Youth participation in community life
2. Youth health & well being
3. Build capacity in our young people

Each outcome had three associated goals detailing how the Gawler community will ensure the plan guides decisions and is activated.

Each goal has an icon that reflects the Council's core principles:



Identity



Growth



Community



Environment



Leadership

When positive Youth Development is in action the benefits across the community are numerous, including increased:

- Participation & community pride
- Value for self, others and property
- Cross community partnerships
- Awareness & accessibility to services, programs and events
- Vibrancy in the Town
- Passive & active recreation
- Morale across the Town
- Empowerment

OUTCOME ONE: YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY LIFE

Youth Development fosters a strong sense of belonging to the community, and ensures the community listens and responds to the voice of young people.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>GOAL ONE</p> <p>Gawler's young people are active citizens</p>  | <p>WHAT</p> <p>Empower young people to participate in their local community</p> <p>WHY</p> <p>Young people have gifts and abilities that can add significant value to the community. Participation opportunities increase the pride in the Town.</p> | <p>HOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have youth representation at local community events and networks • Provide an annual expedition for young people and their parents highlighting what is available for them and how young people can become involved • Support the Gawler in becoming more Child & Youth Friendly community through encouraging child and youth participation, community safety, health, education, belonging and play & leisure activities |
| <p>GOAL TWO</p> <p>Gawler's youth are leaders today and in the Town's future</p>  | <p>WHAT</p> <p>Youth can and do influence local decision making</p> <p>WHY</p> <p>Youth are resources and partners who can make important contributions in planning and implementing activities in Gawler</p> | <p>HOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Youth Advisory Committee is a voice for young people in the community • Provide annual tours of Council facilities to local schools & colleges Student Leadership Committees • Train and advise Council and the Community around emerging technologies to consult and involve youth in the community • Encourage young people to stand at Council elections |
| <p>GOAL THREE</p> <p>Celebrate young people, their diversity and creativity</p>  | <p>WHAT</p> <p>Celebrate the achievements of local young people</p> <p>WHY</p> <p>Youth events and programs add vibrancy to our community</p> | <p>HOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunity for expression and display of cultural diversity • Youth drive their events and programs in Gawler • Engage young people on their platforms including social media • Expand partnerships with agencies and community groups to align efforts and produce quality events & programs with positive outcomes for youth |

COUNCIL'S CORE PRINCIPALS



DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES.

OUTCOME TWO: YOUTH HEALTH & WELL BEING

Young people deserve every chance to be healthy and live in wellness.

GOAL FOUR

Listen to the needs of Gawler's Youth



WHAT

Provide accessible and sustainable youth services, programs and events

WHY

Services, programs and events must be relevant

HOW

- Develop key linkages with primary schools and secondary colleges to address local youth issues
- Provide annual consultation around 'what local young people want and need' to feed back into youth development planning
- Develop a central information platform so young people know where they can access support
- Partner with service providers to fill identified gaps

GOAL FIVE

Promote positive health within the youth community



WHAT

Raise awareness and break stigma around young people's health and wellbeing

WHY

Youth wellness is a community responsibility not just a job for professionals

HOW

- Provide education and training sessions for parents and care givers building their capacity to confidently to support their child's healthy development
- Advocate for mental health, disability and culturally and linguistically diverse issues
- Ensure services, programs and events are delivered in safe & secure environments

GOAL SIX

Connect young people to the community



WHAT

Promote sporting clubs, services, community and youth groups available to local young people

WHY

Provide a place of belonging in our community

HOW

- Promote passive and active recreation
- Progress relationships between Council, SAPOL, schools and local service providers to engage vulnerable youth
- Appreciate youth interests are diverse, thus all community groups have a place in providing recreation opportunities to young people
- Advocate for better public transport to reduce isolation and encourage community connection

COUNCIL'S CORE PRINCIPALS



Identity



Growth



Community



Environment



Leadership

OUTCOME THREE: BUILD CAPACITY IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Development is committed to partner with young people to become all they can be.

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| <p>GOAL SEVEN</p> <p>Embrace a success based approach</p>  | <p>WHAT</p> <p>To achieve positive outcomes it's important to start from what's strong, not with what seems wrong.</p> <hr/> <p>WHY</p> <p>Individuals are more likely to participate in Community when they feel like they're set up to succeed</p> | <p>HOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a vast range of opportunities and experiences • Develop better communications methods that connect with young people and highlight how they can get involved • Provide programs, activities and services that young people can further develop their passions, skills and abilities, building confidence to better other areas in their lives also |
| <p>GOAL EIGHT</p> <p>Provide holistic development opportunities</p>  | <p>WHAT</p> <p>Young people deserve to be provided with opportunities to fulfil their potential</p> <hr/> <p>WHY</p> <p>Preparing young people for adult life</p> | <p>HOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support students to increase education retention rates • Offer personal development and skill attainment workshops, courses and programs to ensure our young people have the basics required to successfully navigate adulthood, including but not limited to: resume development, interview skills, budgeting, goal setting, voting, reading bills and transitioning to independent living • Provide career development workshops, courses and programs to up skill our young people and prepare them for their futures including but not limited to time management, conflict resolution and business skills • Establish a mentoring model providing two way mentoring opportunities between adults and youth |
| <p>GOAL NINE</p> <p>Foster a supportive culture throughout the community</p>  | <p>WHAT</p> <p>Support young people in their successes and mistakes</p> <hr/> <p>WHY</p> <p>To ensure Gawler's young people succeed in adult life</p> | <p>HOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide educational sessions around youth needs and issues to parents, service providers and community groups • Develop cross community relationships to build individuals, groups and businesses capacity to provide employment, leadership development, mentoring and training opportunities |

COUNCIL'S CORE PRINCIPALS



YOUTH POLICY.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Youth Development Officer will develop an action plan to accompany this plan. The action plan will identify priorities, time-frames, key performance indicators, partners and responsibilities. The action plan will be reviewed annually by the Youth Advisory Committee.

The Town of Gawler believes community partnerships are key in ensuring the Youth Development Action Plan takes place. To action this Plan, partnerships will be established with young people, families, youth service providers, government agencies and other community groups. Many collaborations are already underway through existing services and programs.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

The Youth Development Officer provides written and verbal detailed progress reports on activities, programs and services to the Gawler Youth Advisory Committee (Gawler Youth AC). The formal Committee meetings usually take place once a month. The mission of Gawler Youth AC is to recognise and voice the issues, views and ideas of young people and promote a positive image of youth within the Gawler community.

Gawler Youth AC aims to serve the community and act in an advisory capacity to the staff and elected members of the Town of Gawler to acknowledge the purpose and place of young people in Gawler. Gawler Youth AC makes recommendations to Council for their consideration. Gawler Youth AC drives the development and implementation of programs and services for youth in Gawler.

Key performance indicators which are written into the Youth Action Plan will be used as a means of evaluating progress in relation to the Development Plan. The Gawler Youth Workers Network will also be a forum to discuss the Plan and its progress.

Once a year, a youth forum will be held inviting numerous youth representation from schools and other groups to receive a progress update on the Plan, and conduct a consultation on any updates that the youths feel need to take place, as well as qualitative evaluate existing programs.

CONCLUSION

Young people are leaders in our community today. Their voices count, and influence decision making.

Local young people have identified participation in community life, health and wellbeing and building capacity in young people as the core outcomes for this Plan. The Town of Gawler will assist in facilitating, monitoring and evaluating this Plan through its Youth Development Officer.

The implementation of the Plan is not the sole responsibility of Council, Young People, Families, Youth Service Providers or other Community Groups. We must have a whole of community approach to a whole of community responsibility.

REFERENCES

- 1** Executive Summary - National Strategy for Young Australians, page 1-3
- 2** http://saplan.org.au/my_plan_categories/young-people, Tuesday, 9 July 2013
- 3** Youth Connect, South Australia's Youth Strategy 2010-2014 (Page 2)
- 4** <http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/index.php/seven-strategic-priorities>, Tuesday, 9 July 2013
- 5** Our Future is NOW, Directions for youth development in local government, page 50-53
- 6** Town of Gawler, Strategic Plan 2010-2018, page 9
- 7** Town of Gawler, Strategic Plan 2010-2018, page 16-18
- 8-11, 14, 15** 2011 Census of Population and Housing, Tuesday 9 July 2013
- 12** Statistics provided by Gawler & District College B-12, 25 October 2013
- 13** Numbers obtained by calling the education facilities, June 2013
- 16** 2011 Census: Labour Force Status by Sex, Tuesday 9 July 2013



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all of the local youth, parents and service providers that assisted in the development in the Gawler Youth Development Plan 2013-2018. Many people engaged in various ways including workshops, network meetings, online survey and forums. Each platform was as valuable as the other.

We appreciate all the effort and time each person and service gave during this process. You have ensured the Plan is reflective of what Gawler's young people want.

Thank you.



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Gawler YOUTH AC