



Port Stephens Youth Strategy 2015-2018

Part C

Action Plan

The appreciative inquiry was an incredible and eye opening experience..... It allowed people who were usually more reserved and quiet to share and openly discuss their thoughts, ideas and opinions about Port Stephens, showing how when given the right opportunity local young people are able to bloom with confidence, able to make the most of the situation and many were able to make new friends and connections along the way.

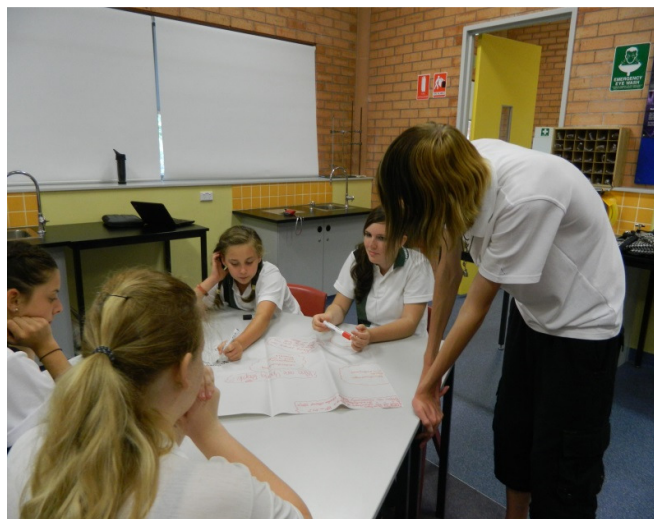
Ryan Cox: Member of Youth Advisory Panel

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INTRODUCTION

Council's aim is for young people to have safe and appropriate places to learn, develop and interact and to provide resources and support for young people appropriate to their needs. This Action Plan has been formulated from the research data and recommendations developed as part of the Port Stephens Youth Strategy 2015-2018 (see Port Stephens Youth Strategy 2015 -2018 Part B Research Report).

Consultation has been undertaken with relevant Council groups, in the development of the Action Plan ensuring that it is realistic, achievable and within current resources.



Objective 1

Further education and training opportunities the Port Stephens area			
Participation	Timeframe		
	Short	Medium	Long
1.1 Create opportunities to participate in education, especially higher education		X	
1.2 Promote and enhance Mayoral Scholarship program	X		
1.3 Investigate the need for young professional networks in Port Stephens			X
1.4 Advocate with local businesses for regular youth representation at business and industry associations and promote work experience and training opportunities.		X	

Objective 2

Promote and enhance small business development and employment opportunities for young people			
People	Timeframe		
	Short	Medium	Long
2.1 Improve access to council employment by offering program and information sessions		X	
2.2 Provide business coaching programs for young people		X	
2.3 Consult and communicate with young people in identifying skills gaps			X
2.4 Promote Council's employees who were employed as trainees	X		

Objective 3

Improve opportunities for young people to participate in, plan for and maintain the amenity of public places and the environment			
Place	Timeframe		
	Short	Medium	Long
3.1 Link programs that enable young people to participate in maintaining public places		X	
3.2 Involve young people in the development of open and public space planning		X	
3.3 Increase awareness around illegal dumping and littering			X
3.4 Investigate and implement a youth specific online channel for young people to communicate issues to Council		X	
3.5 Youth Advisory Panel to partner with waste services and communicate key messages in high schools		X	

Objective 4

Address limited transport options and geographic isolation through the development and promotion of localised initiatives				
Participation		Timeframe		
		Short	Medium	Long
4.1	Develop an integrated community transport map that also promotes safe cycling on low volume traffic routes			X
4.2	Youth to be represented on Transport Committee meetings and to participate in the State Government Regional Transport Forum	X		
4.3	Promote council grants and funding programs to encourage youth-specific events and competitions in localised areas, rather than large events in central locations			X
4.4	Investigate and implement ways for support services and local networks to be promoted and utilised by young people across the LGA		X	
4.5	Facilitate opportunity for community and youth sector organisations to develop place based youth initiatives including youth week program			X

Objective 5

Improve opportunities for young people to make a meaningful contribution to public life and decision making processes			
People	Timeframe		
	Short	Medium	Long
5.1 Support the Youth Advisory Panel to advocate and lobby on issues that are important to them	X		
5.2 Promote the role of the Youth Advisory Panel	X		
5.3 Council help to build volunteering network and opportunities for young people; target specific community organisations and local businesses		X	
5.4 Encourage youth leadership with local community groups		X	
5.5 Investigate Youth Advisory Panel to be made a 355c committee of Council			X