



youth strategy

2023-2025

Snapshot



> WHAT IS THE YOUTH STRATEGY?

The *Shire of Ashburton Youth Strategy 2023-2025* (the Strategy) is a document which outlines how **your local Government** will work with others over the **next three years** to make sure that **young people have more opportunities** and are helped by a community that cares about them.

> HOW DID WE CREATE THE STRATEGY?

We talked with **165 young people** about the **issues important to them** and what **changes they wanted to see** in their Town. We did this through a survey, workshops, and a postcard campaign. We also talked to parents/caregivers, organisations that work with young people and Shire staff.

1

SPACES AND ACTIVITIES



YOU TOLD US

young people want safe and fun places to hang out with friends, and more things to do, especially when it's hot.

2

HEALTH AND WELLBEING



YOU TOLD US

young people want more mental health support and to feel safe from bullying.

3

CAREER PATHWAYS AND DEVELOPMENT



YOU TOLD US

young people want more opportunities for career pathways as options are limited.



WE HEARD

that community buildings could be made more welcoming and suitable for young people.



WE HEARD

that everyone needs to work together to make sure young people know where to go for help and what services are available.



WE HEARD

that there are significant knowledge gaps around programs that support young people's skills, study, and career development.



WE WILL

- Work towards getting a youth worker to run the Pannawonica Youth Space
- Make it easier for young people to use community facilities like gyms and recreation centres
- Create more safe and fun spaces for young people in Shire buildings and other places
- Plan more programs that include art, culture, and life skills
- Offer teen only zones and activities at Shire and community events



WE WILL

- Encourage good, culturally appropriate mental health services for young people in all Towns
- Help attract more health professionals to the Towns
- Support campaigns and resources that help the community learn more about mental health
- Work with organisations that stop bullying between young people
- Make sure everyone knows how to find health services and support



WE WILL

- Run programs to teach young people employment and business skills
- Make an online resource with information about education, jobs and starting a business for young people
- Start a fund to help young people pay for training and development outside of the Shire
- Encourage local businesses to hire young locals
- Look at different education models for young people who find school difficult
- Create a mentorship program to help Aboriginal young people explore careers and education opportunities

SHIRE OF ASHBURTON YOUTH STRATEGY 2023-2025

> OUR VISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE


We want young people to feel a **sense of belonging** to their Town, be empowered to **engage in opportunities** and be supported by a **connected and caring community**.

> THE YOUTH STRATEGY

The Strategy has **five focus areas** and a list of **actions** that the Shire will do to achieve progress in each of these areas. We also have a list of things we will do to make sure the Strategy works.


4 YOUTH EMPOWERMENT


 **YOU TOLD US**
young people feel like their opinions don't matter.


 **WE HEARD**
that there should be more opportunities for young people to be involved in decision-making and more help for them to develop those skills.

-  **WE WILL**
- Help the community learn how to involve young people better in plans and decisions
 - Find small and project-based opportunities for young people to get involved in their Towns
 - Choose two Youth Ambassadors each year to talk to other young people and give advice on projects and issues
 - Keep up to date with social trends and communicate more with young people
 - Check in with young people every year to see how we are doing with the Youth Strategy

5 YOUTH REPRESENTATION AND IDENTITY

 **YOU TOLD US**
young people sometimes feel excluded and misunderstood by adults in their communities.


 **WE HEARD**
that the transient nature and small populations of Towns means some young people struggle to feel connected and explore their identity.

-  **WE WILL**
- Create ways for young people to connect and get help from older peers or mentors
 - Involve young people in designing merch or art work about their Town's identity
 - Talk more about the great things that young people in our Shire do
 - Create fun activities and events that help young people explore and enjoy the unique things about their Town

DOING THE WORK



WE ALSO
have things that we will do to make sure that the Strategy works. The Shire doesn't do all of the work, and so other people in the Towns such as schools, youth centres, health organisations and businesses need to help.

-  **WE WILL**
- Employ a full-time Youth Development Officer
 - Start Youth Activation Groups (YAGs) in each Town for people to share ideas and plan
 - Write an easy read report on how well we are doing each year and share this with young people
 - Talk to business that provide money for things in the Shire about what is important to young people

MORE INFORMATION

If you want to find out about how you can get involved in the Youth Strategy 2023-2025 or provide feedback, contact the Shire of Ashburton on **(08) 9188 4444** or e-mail soa@ashburton.wa.gov.au



shire of Ashburton
opportunity to community

Lot 246, Poinciana Street, Tom Price WA 6751

PO Box 567, Tom Price WA 6751

Ph: (08) 9188 4444

E: soa@ashburton.wa.gov.au

www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

