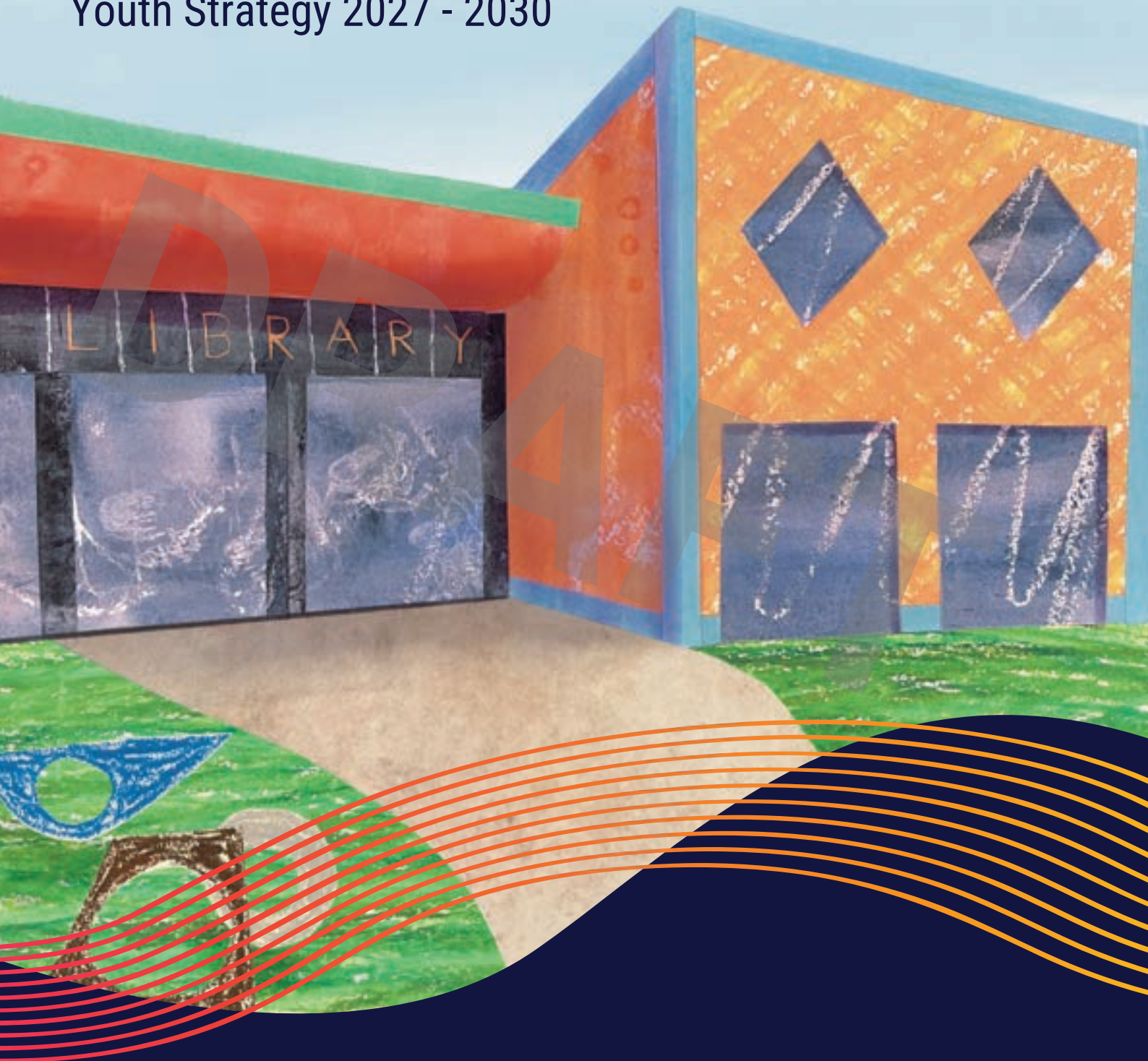


# Directions from Young People

Youth Strategy 2027 - 2030



# Contents

|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Acknowledgement of Country                  | 4  |
| Child Safe Melville statement of commitment | 4  |
| Thank you to our young people               | 5  |
| Message from the Mayor                      | 6  |
| Message from the Youth Steering Group       | 7  |
| Executive summary                           | 8  |
| Alignment to the Council Plan               | 8  |
| Snapshot of young people in Melville        | 10 |
| Consultation summary                        | 13 |
| Consultation findings                       | 14 |
| Youth Strategy                              | 16 |
| Action areas                                | 17 |
| Youth focus                                 | 18 |
| Wellbeing                                   | 22 |
| Communication                               | 26 |
| Making a difference                         | 30 |
| Glossary                                    | 35 |
| Report                                      | 35 |

## Directions

from

Young

People

## Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Melville acknowledges the Bibbulmun people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the City stands today and pays its respects to the Whadjuk people, and Elders both past and present.

City of Melville nagolik Bibbulmen Nyungar ally-maga milgebar gardukung naga boordjar-il narnga allidja yugow yeye wer ali kaanya Whadjack Nyungar wer netingar quadja wer burdik.

Marie Taylor, Whadjack Balardong Nyungar Birdiyia



## Child Safe Melville statement of commitment



**As a child safe organisation**, the City is committed to providing welcoming, safe, and accessible environments where children and young people feel safe, valued, listened to, and considered in decisions that affect their lives. At the core of this commitment is our collective agreement to have a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Underpinned by a child-rights approach and based on the standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission), the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations are designed to build capacity and deliver child safety and wellbeing in organisations. The City is committed to upholding these principles.

## Thank you to our young people

*The City values the lived experience of young people.*



The City of Melville thanks all the young people who contributed to this Strategy by sharing their thoughts and ideas.

The City of Melville thanks all of the young people who contributed to this Strategy by sharing their thoughts and ideas. Thank you for being authentic with us and trusting us to listen and respect your input.

The City values the lived experience of young people. The design of the consultations with young people, the development of this Strategy and the included actions were shaped with help from our Youth Steering Group. These young people spoke with hundreds of their peers and ensured that their voices are at the forefront of this Strategy.



# Message from the Mayor

**I am so very pleased to see this new Directions from Young People (DFYP) Youth Strategy come to life here.** It builds on the achievements of past strategies, the first created more than 15 years ago, in 2010.

Since then, we've made enormous progress in the youth sphere; we've seen the inception of our first Youth Steering Group, our Youth Market Day has become an annual featured event, we opened a new and very popular Bike Park at Dyoondalup Point Walter and increasingly we host a number of youth-led events across the City.

This new Strategy and the priorities for young people it contains are strongly connected to the City's Council Plan for the Future 2024 - 2034, particularly in the key area of creating healthy, safe, and inclusive communities.

This new Strategy is the result of an extensive engagement process; asking young people what matters most to them through broad community consultation, spearheaded by the Youth Steering Group itself.

Drawing out some key figures in the report, there are approximately 18,000 young people aged 12 to 25 living in the City of Melville. They make up about 17.3% of the total population. Understandably, since it is our education and health hub, Murdoch is the suburb with the greatest percentage of young people, where they make up approximately 25% of the suburb's population.

There are other really important facts and findings about young people in this document, and I encourage you to read it thoroughly, particularly if you work in or provide services to the sector, or if you are a parent of a child in this age group. They have told us they value authenticity, inclusivity, and accessibility, and they call on us to continue our work in those areas. They want the City to include them as much as possible, and to see themselves represented in community life.

Finally, thank you to the young people who had their say and contributed to this Strategy. You've helped us draw a road map of how to get to a destination where young people see themselves represented, are valued, included, heard, and have opportunities to make a real difference.

**Mayor Katy Mair**



# Message from the Youth Steering Group

**Thank you to everyone who contributed their time to the community consultations for this Strategy.**

You told us that you really value the City of Melville, its places, people, your communities, and the land on which the City stands today. We want to acknowledge your pride in this place and that we share in this pride.

Our work is all about connection to community, shared interests and meaningful participation in Melville's programs and places. We want to help nurture people to grow in the community and become active members, contributing and growing in their own capacity.

This document is for all young people in Melville. We want to involve the 12-year-olds of today and see them still involved when they're 25. Together we can make Melville a better place for current and future generations. To do this means staying flexible and adaptable to the diverse and changing needs of young people.



That means working with people across the age range of 12 to 25, and across all our different communities, different abilities, and different stages of connection. It means connecting people to resources, events, programs, services and facilities that they didn't know were available to them. There should always be opportunities for people to get involved for their first time, and for those who are already active and contributing so much.

We worked with the City to undertake a number of surveys as part of the community consultation that resulted in this Strategy. While a lot of good work has been done, and we've heard from a lot of young people, there's always more to do. We will keep listening to young people and involving them in the City's work. Reviews, updates and continued active engagement will keep the focus on them and ensure that this Strategy stays relevant.

Finally, we recognise the effort of the 550-plus people who committed their time and effort to the community consultation on this strategy. Thank you for helping shape a way forward for our youth community.

***The City should meet young people where they're at and provide opportunities for everyone to get involved in community life.***

# Executive summary

The City of Melville is excited to deliver our fourth iteration of the Directions from Young People (DFYP) Youth Strategy.

DFYP was first launched in 2010 and over the years has guided the City in responding to the needs and aspirations of young people who live, work, study, volunteer and spend time in our community.

Over the lifetime of the previous Strategy (2022-2025), the City delivered a number of successful initiatives with young people including:

- ♥ Creating our first Youth Steering Group – a group of young volunteers who work with us to deliver on our Youth Strategy actions.
- ♥ Launching the Melville Youth Collective Instagram page to promote everything we do for and with young people.

- ♥ Creating our first annual main youth event, the Youth Collective Market Day, which every year features young creatives as stallholders.
- ♥ Reviewing and relaunching the Youth Grants (previously Youth Development Fund) program with a focus on supporting young people to achieve their own goals.
- ♥ Opening the Dyoondalup Point Walter Bike Park.
- ♥ Dozens of youth events across the whole City, including National Youth Week, arts programs and exhibitions, youth-led events through the Youth Grants, programs in libraries and community centres and more.

## Alignment to the Council Plan

The DFYP supports the City’s vision as laid out in the Council Plan for the Future 2024-2034.

It aligns to the outcome area Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities and particularly action 1.1 ‘Facilitate a sense of community, wellbeing, social connection, and participation’.

*The City of Melville is committed to creating a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive future for its community.*

The Council Plan is inclusive of the whole community, with actions that align strongly with the interests of our young community.

Young people have emphasised the importance of inclusive communities and that belonging and connectedness are some of the most important ways to foster wellbeing. They seek that connectedness within their communities and with the City of Melville itself, and have told us they greatly value Melville, its places, the community and our facilities.

These themes are embedded throughout the strategy and the action areas detail the ways we can work with young people to achieve the City’s vision.

This new edition of the DFYP Youth Strategy includes a four-year road map for how the City will deliver actions in partnership with young people to support their health, wellbeing and connection to community. It builds on the previous Strategy following feedback from young people that the previous work remains highly relevant.

**The City’s role in delivering this Strategy is to support connection, participation, access to information, inclusive community spaces and partnerships.**



Healthy, Safe and Inclusive



Clean and Green



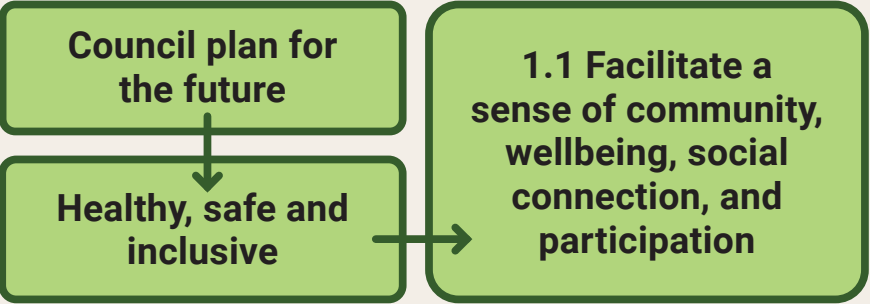
Sustainable and Connected Development



Vibrant and Prosperous



Good Governance and Leadership



The City is not a provider of clinical health services or emergency relief, and this Strategy does not contribute to broader social policy. Instead the Strategy includes actions to inform and connect young people with services they prioritise that are outside of the City’s service delivery roles.

# Snapshot of young people in Melville

*Young people are a diverse population, intersecting all other communities in Melville.*

Of these ~18,000 young people, approximately:

- ♥ 4,500 young people were born overseas.
- ♥ 3,240 speak a language other than English at home.
- ♥ 3,420 live with a long-term health condition, including 1620 living with a mental health condition.
- ♥ 8,940 young people aged 15-25 are employed.

- ♥ Approximately 1,440 young people live with a disability.
- ♥ 300 young people are First Nations young peoples.
- ♥ An estimated 9.5% of young people aged 16-24 are LGBTIQ+

(ABS, Estimates and Characteristics of LGBTIQ+ populations in Australia).

The Census provides the most complete picture of that population, though not without gaps. Data here is from the 2021 Census – which did not include questions related to diverse genders and sexualities, where other estimates are needed to gather insights.

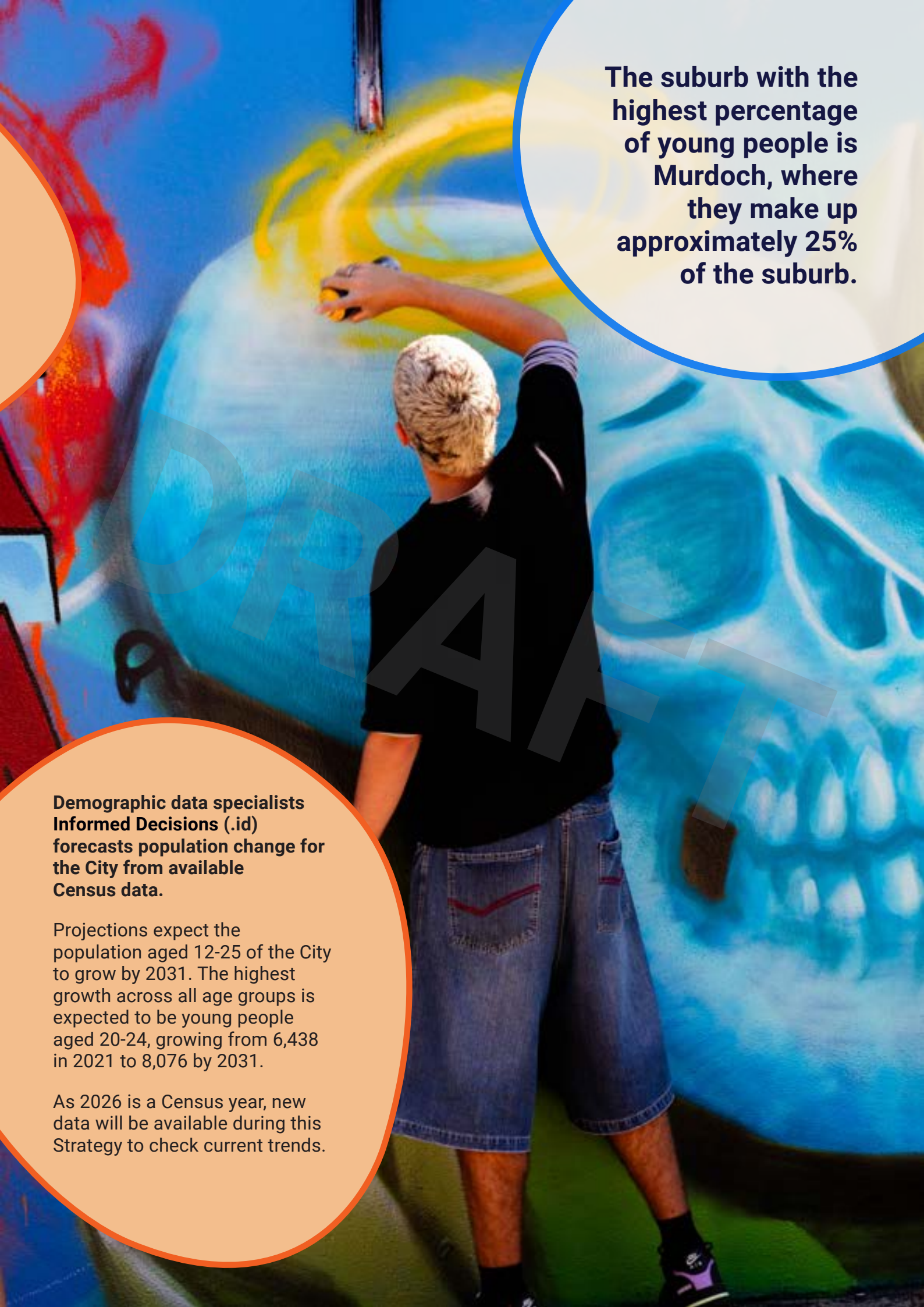
There are approximately 18,000 young people aged 12 to 25 living in the City of Melville. They make up about 17.3% of the total population.

The suburb with the highest percentage of young people is Murdoch, where they make up approximately 25% of the suburb.

Demographic data specialists **Informed Decisions (.id)** forecasts population change for the City from available Census data.

Projections expect the population aged 12-25 of the City to grow by 2031. The highest growth across all age groups is expected to be young people aged 20-24, growing from 6,438 in 2021 to 8,076 by 2031.

As 2026 is a Census year, new data will be available during this Strategy to check current trends.



# Consultation summary

**Between March and August 2025, the City undertook a comprehensive engagement process involving 555 participants through surveys, pop-up events and peer research, co-designed with the Youth Steering Group.**

Our community engagement process is guided by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum. Engagement was delivered at both the Consult and Collaborate levels of the IAP2 Spectrum, ensuring young people were not only heard but directly involved in shaping the process.

The City's Youth Steering Group played a key part of the engagement process. It worked with city officers to create the surveys, inform the overall engagement including promotions, and members undertook peer surveys. Together they surveyed 236 community members, forming a significant contribution to the overall result.

The engagement confirmed that young people want safe, affordable spaces, strong mental health supports, opportunities to shape decisions, and practical pathways into study, work and community life. These insights have directly informed the new Strategy.

**Comments young people submitted to the engagement are included throughout this document. To preserve the authenticity of community feedback, comments have been included as submitted and may contain minor spelling grammar, or punctuation errors.**

## The engagement process included:

- ♥ Ideas gathered at the 2025 Melville Youth Collective Market.
- ♥ Follow-up with past youth strategy participants.
- ♥ Co-designed survey and approach with the Youth Steering Group.
- ♥ Community survey online, in-person, and over the phone.
- ♥ Youth Steering Group members conducting surveys.
- ♥ Eight pop-up events across the City of Melville.

## Consultation was held with five key groups:

1. Melville's Youth Steering Group.
2. Young people aged 12 to 25.
3. Parents / caregivers of young people aged 12 to 25.
4. Organisations and service providers.
5. City staff and stakeholders.



# Consultation findings

A total of 476 responses were received across the youth and parent surveys, with some parents completing surveys for multiple young people.

Responses reflected a broad diversity of the young Melville community, allowing for accurate information and targeted actions in this Strategy.

An overview of survey responses demonstrates the range of input we received:

Of note is the fact that the consultation findings showed larger response rates from some communities of identity than were expected from the Census data.

This representation of the young Melville community provides useful insight into shared values, diverse needs and priorities.

Young people value authenticity, inclusion, accessibility and belonging and encourage the City to continue work in those areas. This Strategy represents the opportunity young people have given us to work with them and enhance outcomes for the wider Melville community.

## Quotes from our participants:

"Mental health awareness is so important and there can never be too much of it, just more awareness and telling young people where they are able to safely and easily seek help whenever they need and how to do so. Also creating spaces that are completely inclusive of everyone and ensuring the young people attending feel safe and welcome to be whoever they are."

"I think it is important that people are comfortable in themselves and that our society is respectful to everyone and treat everyone the same even if they are living on the streets or live in a fancy house or wear fancy clothes."

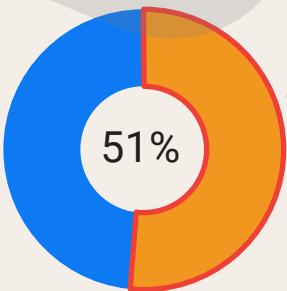
"What's missing? Inclusivity and normalisation of mental ill health and challenges, disabilities (not just physical), and the LGBTQIA+ community."

"De-stigmatise mental health, disability, and the LGBTQIA+ community in Melville."

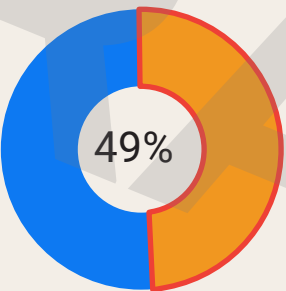
### Respondent age:

A small number of responses were received for under 12s and over 25s

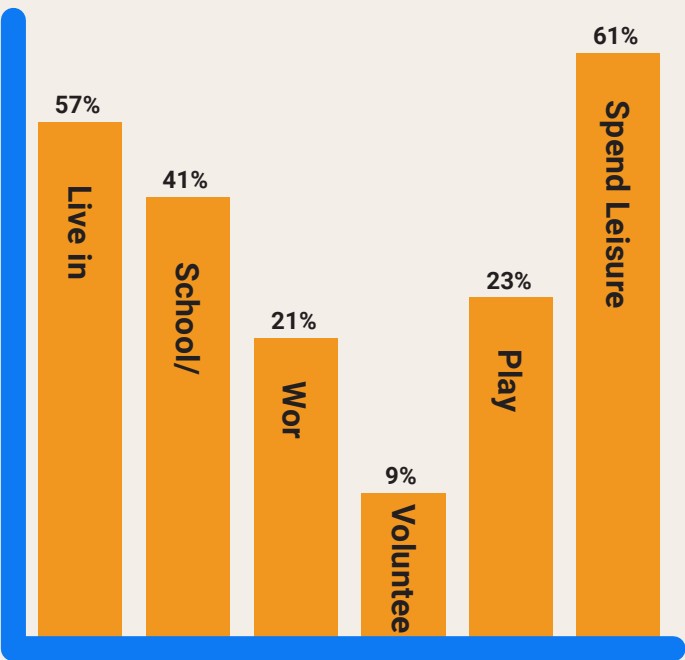
Average age was 18



18 to 25

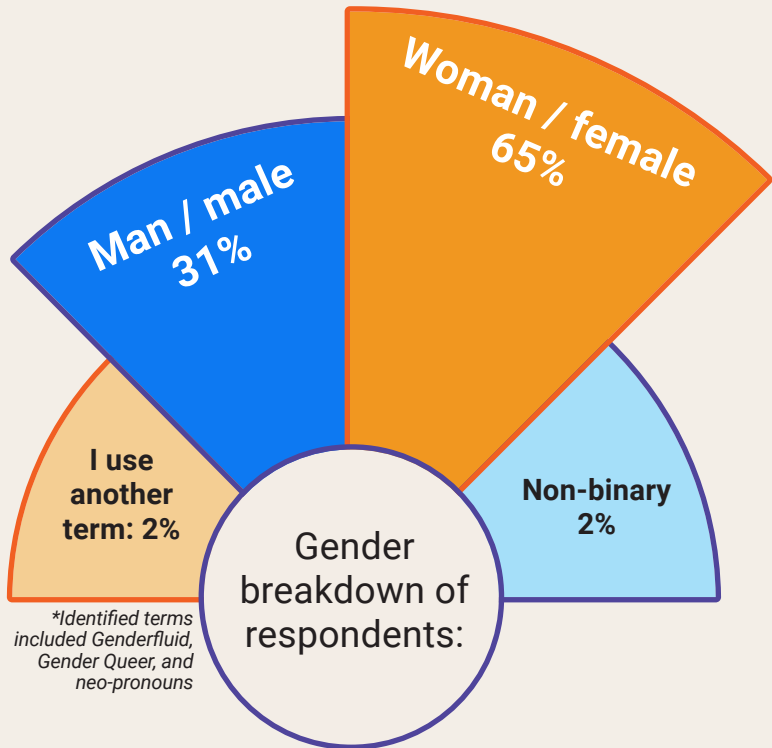
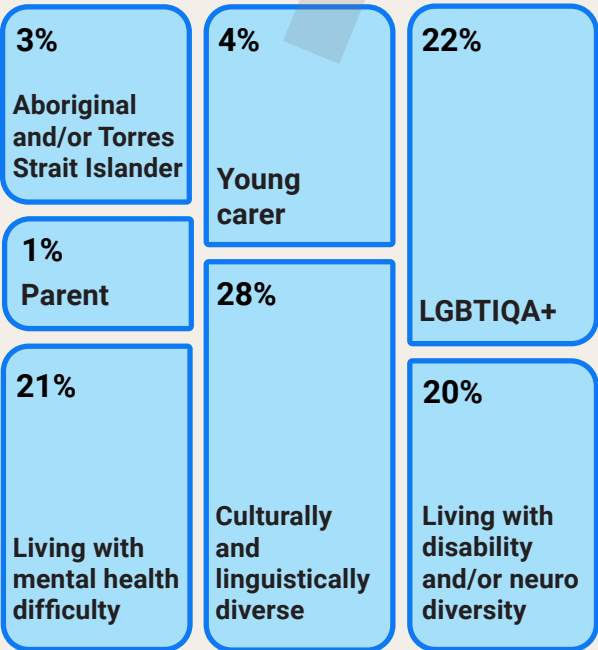


12 to 17



### Connection to Melville:

### Identity:



\*Identified terms included Genderfluid, Gender Queer, and neo-pronouns

Gender breakdown of respondents:

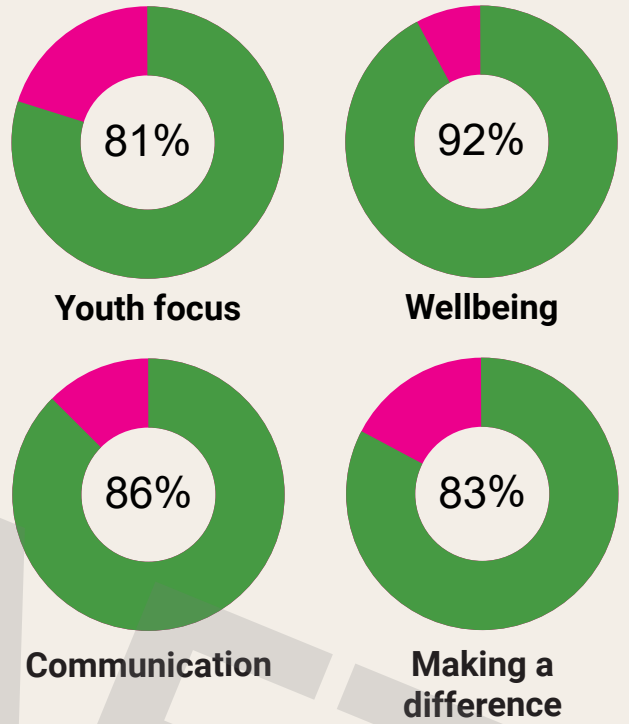
# Youth strategy

To develop this Strategy, we used information from our work with young people on the Youth Steering Group alongside the feedback we gathered in the survey.

Both sources helped us review the relevance of the previous DFYP 2022-2025 to better understand what's changed since then, what's working well, and what we needed to add or do differently.

Young people strongly affirmed that the previous DFYP themes were still highly relevant in 2025. We've incorporated those themes into this new edition of the DFYP, with updated actions that take on board young people's input from throughout the engagement.

## Support for DFYP action themes:



## Our aim for young people:

Our aim is that young people are a connected and empowered part of the City of Melville

Young people expressed a clear vision to us about their priorities for community life in Melville. They emphasised the importance of wellbeing, especially mental health. They want community connection and a sense of belonging in Melville. And they want the skills and opportunities to lead on topics that matter to them.

## Youth Strategy priorities:

There are five core priorities that underpin this Strategy. Staff who deliver actions within this Strategy should reflect these in their work with young people.

### Equity.

This is a Strategy for all young people who live in, study in, work in, volunteer in or visit the City. The City will seek to reduce barriers to participation and ensure programs and information are accessible to young people with different needs, experiences and levels of connection to community.

### Evidence-based.

To best meet young people's needs, all decisions made should be evidence-based with staff referring to the DFYP consultation findings, seeking input from young people, and using contemporary research where necessary.

### Inclusion.

Young people's views should inform planning, service design and delivery on relevant projects wherever possible. This will help ensure the actions remain relevant, contemporary and responsive, while recognising Council's decision-making role and the City's responsibility to balance community needs.

### Accountability.

Young people told us that it was important for them to see the City delivering on their commitments. Employing robust evaluation and providing clear communication back to young people is essential.

### Collaboration.

Making the best use of resources and delivering coordinated initiatives requires regular exploration and strengthening of partnerships. This should include working in collaboration internally across City teams and externally with groups, organisations, and young people themselves.

## Action areas

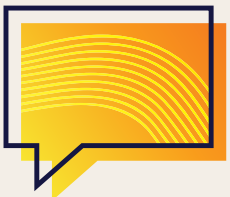
Our key findings have been grouped into four focus areas, with goals and actions outlined for each.



Youth focus



Wellbeing



Communication



Making a difference

*This work and the input from young people were used to create the youth strategy's aim and priorities.*

# Youth focus

## What they said

Young people have consistently told us that they value living in the City of Melville but don't often see themselves represented in community life or feel connected to the broader Melville community.

They want connection with the City and especially community places, where they call for a

return to 'third spaces' – spaces where they share in a sense of belonging.

The youth focus action area is our response to this disconnection and the actions included are about bridging the gap between young people and the City of Melville community.

Key to this is incorporating young people's feedback into everything we do for and with them.

The youth focus actions are about delivering initiatives that young people want to see, connecting them with their peers and communities, and increasing their involvement in planning and decision making.

## Key themes from the consultation:

- ♥ Young people highly value the places in the City.
- ♥ There is a lack of youth specific places across Melville.
- ♥ Inclusion and social connectedness are very important to young people.
- ♥ Young people want to work with us to achieve the things they want done.

"I think that Improving the way that the community welcomes you to be part of them is essential for young people to feel like they belong."

"Easier opportunities for young people to feel equal and involved and respected, as well as listened to."

"More safe spaces such as youth centres or drop ins."

"Free events which provide a third space for young people. cost of living is a huge issue so having fun events where people can naturally build community is so important and successful."

"Make it more accessible for younger people (esp. teens) to be involved and truly listened to, as well as given the same opportunities as adults."



## Goals:

1. Young people can access and engage in a variety of youth-friendly spaces, programs and events in the city.
2. Young people can contribute to the design and implementation of youth projects, events and places.
3. Young people have a greater sense of connection to the Melville community.

## What we're doing:

- ♥ Regular events including social and arts events, wheeled sports and more.
- ♥ Co-design events and/or programs for young people aged 18+.
- ♥ Actively work with young people to use their services and skills for City work, for example, young artists, young musicians, young businesses. Promote their work and provide opportunities for professional development.
- ♥ Work with internal teams to share information, resources, and collaborate on events for young people.



## Youth focus

| What we will do:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | Measurements:                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.1</b><br>Increase young people's sense of belonging and connectedness to Melville by providing regular social, low-barrier-to-entry events. Work with internal teams and youth organisations to partner on events.                                          | ⚡    | ⚡    | ⚡    | ⚡    | -Events provided.<br>-Participants report high satisfaction and increased sense of belonging.               |
| <b>1.2</b><br>Explore a format for youth-friendly space(s) in existing Melville facilities and, subject to feasibility, resourcing and annual budget consideration, progress options for a youth place in Melville during the life of this Strategy.             |      |      | ⚡    | ⚡    | -Format developed.<br>-Options for youth-friendly spaces tested and progressed, where feasible.             |
| <b>1.3</b><br>Ensure large-scale community events are appealing to young people. Review events to include youth activities, young artists and performers.                                                                                                        |      | ⚡    |      |      | -Review conducted.<br>-Events promoted.<br>-Increase in youth attendance.                                   |
| <b>1.4</b><br>Improve young people's access to our community facilities such as libraries and community centres by offering programs in these places and working with young people on improvements to accessibility and inclusivity.                             | ⚡    | ⚡    | ⚡    | ⚡    | -Programs offered.<br>-Youth input sought and utilised.<br>-Increase of youth attendance.                   |
| <b>1.5</b><br>Ensure that young people are included in the City's community reference groups working on strategic plans such as the Reconciliation Action Plan, Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, Community Climate Action Plan, and any new groups created. | ⚡    | ⚡    | ⚡    | ⚡    | -Recruitment promoted and young people apply.<br>-Young people are included in reference group memberships. |

# Wellbeing



Wellbeing is more than physical health.

Young people told us that mental wellbeing, study pressure, employment, cost of living and connection to community all affect their daily lives.

This action area focuses on the City's practical role in supporting wellbeing by improving access to clear information, safe and welcoming community places, life skills programs and partnerships with specialist providers.

The City does not provide clinical services, but will help young people understand what support is available and connect with appropriate services, programs and places when they need them.

## Key themes from the consultation:

- ♥ The importance of mental wellbeing.
- ♥ Cost of living is a current stressor for young people.
- ♥ School and study stress remains high.

- ♥ Wellbeing is more than just improving mental health; it's also about inclusive, connected and resilient communities.

## What young people said

**"Fostering safe and inclusive environments in public spaces is very important."**

**"More exposure to community centre where you can go to get support and resources."**

**"Have support systems locally and free for supporting people into feeling comfortable with their ability to express themselves and that they are not alone."**

**"Mental health awareness is so important and there can never be too much of it, just more awareness and telling young people where they are able to safely and easily seek help whenever they need and how to do so. Also creating spaces that are completely inclusive of everyone and ensuring the young people attending feel safe and welcome to be whoever they are."**

## Goals:

1. Young people have more options to access support or information for their health and wellbeing in the City.
2. A greater number of support services to connect with young people in the City.
3. Young people build life skills and knowledge that improve health and employment prospects.



## What we're doing:

- ♥ Set up and promote study spaces in libraries after school and during exam periods; promote positive methods for managing study stress with media, books and occasional study and/or skills programs
- ♥ Minimise cost and transport barriers for youth events and programming.
- ♥ Provide information to young people about health and wellbeing resources including identifying when and how to access support.
- ♥ Continue to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations framework.
- ♥ Continue to partner with the City of Cockburn and the City of Fremantle to deliver the Cockburn Melville Fremantle Youth Network, with membership of local youth services and health providers.



## Wellbeing

| What we will do:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | Measurements:                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2.1</b><br>Enhance young people's life skills, self and peer advocacy, and professional development, by providing training and development opportunities.                                                                                                                                                               |      | ♥    | ♥    | ♥    | -Programs delivered.<br>-Participants report increased knowledge and confidence.                                              |
| <b>2.2</b><br>Partner with youth-focused health and wellbeing providers to deliver more programs and services in the area, including at suitable City events.                                                                                                                                                              | ♥    | ♥    | ♥    | ♥    | -Health and wellbeing services provide programs in Melville.                                                                  |
| <b>2.3</b><br>Ensure youth programs are inclusive, welcoming and accessible for all young people, with targeted initiatives for groups who experience additional barriers to participation, including First Nations young people, culturally diverse young people, young people with disability and LGBTQIA+ young people. | ♥    | ♥    | ♥    | ♥    | -Run programs for LGBTQIA+ young people, First Nations young peoples, multicultural communities and the disability community. |
| <b>2.4</b><br>Explore opportunities to increase young people's access to LeisureFit facilities through suitable events, partnerships and affordable entry options where feasible and subject to budget processes.                                                                                                          |      |      | ♥    | ♥    | -Increase youth attendance at LeisureFit.                                                                                     |
| <b>2.5</b><br>Provide information to young people about available external emergency relief services and how to access them.                                                                                                                                                                                               | ♥    | ♥    | ♥    | ♥    | -Information shared to young people in multiple formats.                                                                      |

# Communication

## What young people said

**One of the biggest barriers to joining in with community is hearing about what's going on locally.**

This action area is all about getting the word out to young people about the City of Melville, what's going on in the local area, what the City does

and how to get involved.

The actions focus on improving the way we communicate to young people.

We know that they are highly adaptive and will be leading new trends in communication, so we need to stay flexible to

keep up.

In the context of Australia's 2025 'social media ban' we also need to make sure our communication techniques reach the wide and diverse audience of 12-25-year-olds.

## Key consultation findings

- ♥ Young people are keen to get involved, however, they often don't hear about how and where to start.
- ♥ We need to reach young people where they are – go to them with information, in ways that are accessible to them.

- ♥ Collaborate with groups / people that already have young people's trust and following, such as local organisations, groups and peers.

**"Flyers and posters promoting inclusivity and involvement."**

**"My school trip to the City of Melville was a great example of a way that young people's voices were heard, a trip that I quite liked."**

**"I have never heard of any events, maybe need to improve marketing so more people know what's on."**

**"Mentoring and opportunities to help others and volunteer for something truly help full like homelessness shelters."**

**"One way to improve youth voices is by delivering news and community updates in a more accessible way, like through social media, short videos, or youth-friendly newsletters. That way, young people can actually see what's happening and have more chances to share their views."**



## Goals:

1. Young people can easily find out what activities, events, programs and initiatives the City is offering.
2. The City is more connected with groups and organisations that work with young people.
3. Young people have an improved understanding of what the City of Melville does and how to provide input to the City.

## What we're doing:

- ♥ Use appealing and inclusive promotions to reach young people, including QR codes, inclusive language, diverse representation. Use methods relevant to the target audience i.e., social media, posters, flyers.
- ♥ Work with local social media accounts for organisations and community groups to share and promote youth-related projects.
- ♥ Collaborate with each local secondary school to increase connection with their students, to promote youth projects and increase student knowledge of the City of Melville.
- ♥ Develop and circulate an annual report to young people on the progress of this Strategy.



## Communication

| What we will do:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | Measurements:                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3.1</b><br>Develop a plan to increase our following of young people via the Melville Youth Collective Instagram and other non-social media methods, e.g., youth newsletter, print media.                                                                |      |      |      |      | -Plan developed.<br><br>-Diverse communication methods used.<br><br>-Youth following grows annually.                          |
| <b>3.2</b><br>Create a calendar of events for young people. Promote youth-specific events and Melville's large annual community events. Ensure all relevant events are included and promoted to young people.                                              |      |      |      |      | -Calendar of events created.<br><br>-Internal teams contribute.<br><br>-Increase in youth attendance recorded.                |
| <b>3.3</b><br>Promote the ways young people can connect with the City for volunteering, work experience and employment.                                                                                                                                    |      |      |      |      | -Opportunities promoted.<br><br>-Young people gain work placements with Melville.                                             |
| <b>3.4</b><br>Increase young people's understanding of the City of Melville and the Council, including relevant processes for how to provide feedback and complaints, participate in community engagement, and how to contact the City or Elected Members. |      |      |      |      | -The City and Council receive increased input from young people.<br><br>-Increased youth submissions to Melville engagements. |

# Making a difference

## What they told us

This area is about supporting young people to contribute positively to community life through volunteering, leadership, local projects and civic participation.

The actions focus on practical opportunities for young people to build skills, lead projects, work with others and contribute to issues that matter to them.

This two-way relationship

between young people and decision-makers will be supported through training, clear processes and appropriate staff guidance.

## Key consultation findings:

♥ Young people are aware of local and broader community issues and are interested in inclusion, community cohesion and practical ways to contribute.

♥ They want the skills, knowledge and opportunity to make a difference.

♥ They want the City to listen to their perspectives and identify practical opportunities for local action where suitable.

**"I think we need to do more for climate action because I feel like not enough people actually care."**

**"Educating on how to collect signature efficiently, how to submit to an MLA or councillor, and if there is a better way for change. Also helping facilitate this participation."**

**"I think caring for the land around where I live is really important or facilitating more inclusive environments for people with disabilities."**



## Goals:

1. Young people contribute their time to topics and issues that are important to them.
2. Young people are meaningfully involved in City planning and decision making alongside staff who are knowledgeable about working with young people.
3. Young people have opportunities to lead projects in the community.

## What we're doing:

- ♥ Maintain the Youth Steering Group to oversee the delivery of this Strategy.
- ♥ Provide and promote youth volunteering opportunities.
- ♥ Publicly celebrate the contributions made by young volunteers.
- ♥ Provide the Youth Grants program with a focus on youth-led projects and skills development.



# Making a difference

| What we will do:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2027                                                                                  | 2028                                                                                  | 2029                                                                                  | 2030                                                                                  | Measurements:                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4.1</b><br>Increase the skills and knowledge of people who work with young people, to improve outcomes working with young people. Utilise up-to-date resources such as the Youth Engagement Toolkit and provide training to staff and community groups working with young people.             |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |    |    | -Youth Toolkit updated.<br>-Training delivered.<br>-Participants report increased knowledge and confidence working with young people.                   |
| <b>4.2</b><br>Provide young people with opportunities to share ideas, develop skills and work with others on topics that are important to them. Host training, workshops and volunteering opportunities focused on collaboration, community contribution, leadership and practical local action. |                                                                                       |    |    |    | -Skills development programs delivered.<br>-Participants report increased knowledge and confidence.                                                     |
| <b>4.3</b><br>Support the creation and development of youth-led organisations through grants programs, training and development opportunities. Work with youth-led organisations to deliver projects in the City.                                                                                |                                                                                       |  |  |  | -Youth-led organisations registered as suppliers.<br>-Youth-led organisations receive funding from Melville via grants and/or fee-for-service bookings. |
| <b>4.4</b><br>Explore ways to connect young people with the broader City of Melville community through programs and events. Ensure projects are focused on genuine connection, interests, sharing and exchange.                                                                                  |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |  |  | -Projects delivered.<br>-Participants report high satisfaction rate.                                                                                    |
| <b>4.5</b><br>Ensure the City's community funding opportunities are appropriately promoted to a youth audience and are accessible for young people to apply for.                                                                                                                                 |  |  |  |  | -Funding opportunities promoted<br>-Funds receive youth applicants.                                                                                     |



# Glossary



## CALD

This acronym stands for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people. It refers to the many Australian communities that originally came from different countries and have different cultures and languages to both First Nations peoples and Australians who have been here for multiple generations. The term isn't typically used for people who come from another country but don't face systemic racism or language barriers.

## Co-design

Co-design is about engaging with the consumers (the people who use) of places, products and services in the design process from start to finish.

## Disability

The Youth Disability Advocacy Network (YDAN) is WA's peak body for young people with disability.

YDAN define disability as including young people who self-identify that they face barriers due to disability. Barriers can be physical, like buildings not having accessible toilets. They can be caused by people's attitudes to difference, like assuming that people with disability can't do certain things.

This definition aligns with the Social Model of Disability which asserts that disability is created by barriers that exist in society, rather than by an impairment or difference experienced by the individual.

## First Nations

The term 'First Nations' is used in this Strategy to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, recognising their continuing connection to Country, culture and community.

## LGBTIQA+

This acronym refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning and asexual people, with the plus recognising that people may use a range of other terms to describe their sexuality, gender or lived experience.

In this Strategy, the term is used where relevant to reflect consultation feedback and the City's commitment to safe, welcoming and inclusive programs for all young people.

## Young people

For the purpose of this Strategy, the definition of 'young people' is those aged 12 to 25.

The definition of the age range of a 'young person' varies. For example, the WA Department of Communities uses the age range 10-25 in its WA Youth Action Plan 2024-2027.

The Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) is the State's peak body for young people and youth affairs, and it refers to people aged between 12 and 25 years inclusive.

## Youth vs young people

When referring to a group of people in the age 12-25 age bracket, the preferred term is 'young people' rather than 'youth' or 'youths', unless talking about a place, event or document related to young people, such as youth centre or youth strategy.

The term 'youths' as it relates to a group of young people has long standing negative connotations, i.e. "the group of youths are causing

problems" or that "gang of youths". As such there has been a gradual move away from this terminology.

## Pronouns and Neo-pronouns

Pronouns are words used to refer to a person other than their name, such as she, he or they.

Some people prefer less common gender neutral "Neo-pronouns" such as Xe, Xey, Ey.

This Strategy uses respectful language consistent with the City's commitment to welcoming and inclusive communication.

[www.minus18.org.au/pronouns](http://www.minus18.org.au/pronouns)

## Report

The DFYP Youth Strategy 2027-2030 will be overseen and primarily delivered by the City's Community Development team, with input from other directorates on a number of actions.

Central to the delivery of the Strategy will be oversight by the Youth Steering Group. This group is comprised of eight to 12 young people who meet monthly to provide input on the direction of many of the actions, and guidance and feedback on their delivery.

The Strategy will be reviewed annually, with measures of success evaluated and a one-page youth-friendly annual report developed and communicated to young people.

*To discuss the Strategy further or provide feedback on the actions outlined, please contact the City of Melville via:*

Phone: **08 9364 0666**

E-mail: [melinfo@melville.wa.gov.au](mailto:melinfo@melville.wa.gov.au)

Visit: **10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon, opening hours 8:30am-5.00pm Monday to Friday.**

Post: **Locked Bag 1, Booragoon WA 6954**

***"I hope more opportunities, resources, and events are created so youths feel supported, connected, and heard in the City of Melville."***

***"Thanks for letting me say my thoughts!"***

***"I really appreciate the effort that you are putting in for our future."***

***"I love our natural spaces: the river, the bushland, the interconnection between urban and wild."***

***"Melville offers leafy suburbs, vibrant parks, great schools, local cafes, and easy access to the city and coast."***

***"I love the community! Especially at the leisure centre its really a great space with excellent services i love the abundance of parks and security."***

***"Thank you for reading my survey I hope that I can be help full."***

***"I like the trees im this city, and want less Racism and Discrimination."***

***"All the parks and trees around and the well kept nature as well as a great library and great community events."***

***"A lot of my favourite restaurants to hangout with friends are in the city of Melville!! I've made some amazing memories here."***

***"Everyone is friendly and the city of Melville is surrounded by loving families. Everyone that comes into my workplace are lovely."***

***"Friendly people and easy to get around and safe."***

## **City of Melville**

**10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon WA 6154**

**Locked Bag 1 Booragoon WA 6954**

**Phone 1300 635 845 | 9364 0666**

**Website [melvillecity.com.au](http://melvillecity.com.au)**



**City of  
Melville**