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Ingleburn Station











# WHO ARE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Campbelltown City Council defines 'young people' as individuals aged between 12 and 24 years who live, work or study in the Campbelltown Local Government Area (LGA).

We want to ensure that young people living across our LGA are connected to community and feel valued, supported and empowered to lead fulfilling lives. Young people are valuable members of our community and the way we embrace, reflect and recognise their contribution will influence the future direction of our city.

Campbelltown LGA is home to almost 30,000 young people, representing approximately 17% of the total LGA population. As Campbelltown is one of the fastest growing urban areas in Australia, the youth population is set to more than double over the next 10 years.

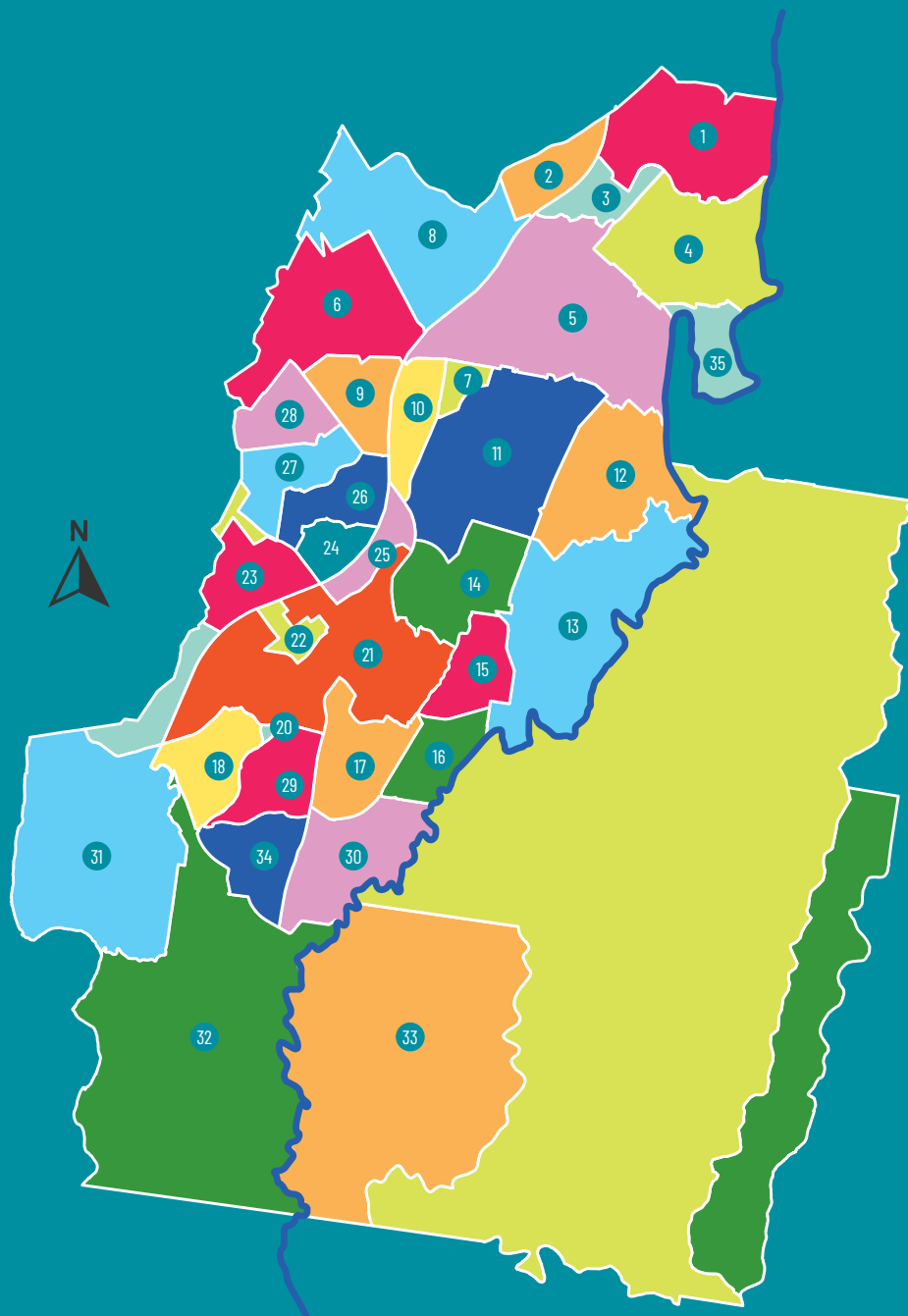
To accommodate this growth we need a Youth Plan to support local young people and to drive improvements in the experiences of living as a young person in the LGA. This plan was co-written and designed with youth representatives who volunteered their time and efforts to ensure that young people are supported by Council to be mentally, physically and socially connected.



# WHERE DO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE?







## Youth population by Suburb

1	Glenfield	1579	13	Kentlyn	141	25	Woodbine	450
2	Bardia	765	14	Leumeah	1536	26	Eagle Vale	1009
3	Macquarie Links	318	15	Ruse	906	27	Eschol Park	399
4	Macquarie Fields	2476	16	Airds	712	28	Kearns	484
5	Ingleburn	2323	17	Bradbury	1554	29	Ambarvale	1360
6	Varroville	19	18	Ambarvale	1360	30	St Helens Park	1212
7	Bow Bowling	314	19	Glen Alpine	803	31	Menagle Park	44
8	Denham Court	1264	20	Englorie Park	37	32	Gilead	3
9	Raby	972	21	Campbelltown	2774	33	Wedderburn	124
10	St Andrews	991	22	Blair Athol	581	34	Rosemeadow	1504
11	Minto	2350	23	Blairmount	75	35	Long Point	21
12	Minto Heights	74	24	Claymore	543			

# YOUTH STATISTICS\*



of the youth population in Campbelltown LGA speaks another language (than English) at home

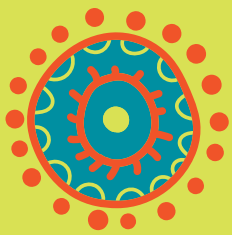


**1/5**

of the youth population is born overseas



of youth aged 12-24 need assistance with core activities



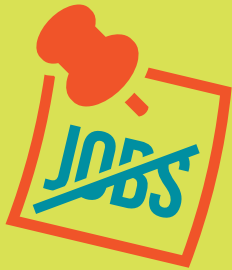
**6.6%**

of the youth population identifies as indigenous



**64%**

of youth aged 12-24 attend an educational institution



**13%**

number of youth aged 15-24 that are unemployed



**10,042**

number of youth aged 15-24 employed in the workforce

\* Statics represented in this report where correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.

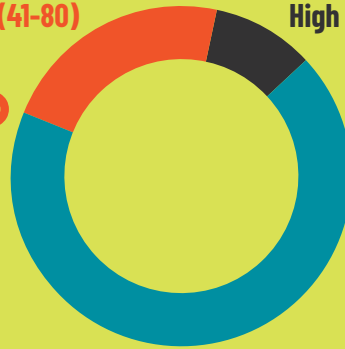


Moderate socio-economic status (41-80)

22.2%

High socio-economic areas (81-100)

9.6%



Low socio-economic status (1-40)

68.3%

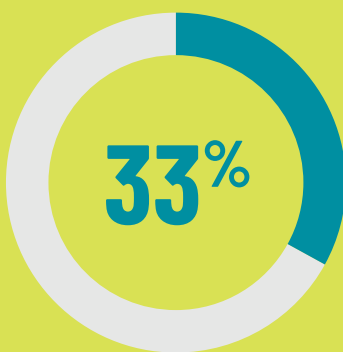
Number of high schools in the area (private and public breakdown)

24 high schools total (including K-12 schools)

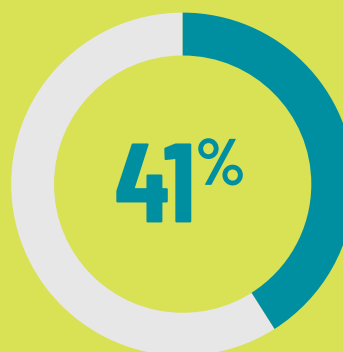


8 Private High Schools

16 Public High Schools



33% of high schools (including K-12 schools) are private



41% of high schools in Campbelltown LGA are public (excluding selective and special needs schools)

### Higher education options in the LGA

- Western Sydney University Campbelltown Campus
- School of Medicine, Western Sydney University
- Macarthur Clinical School
- Tafe NSW South West Sydney



# DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

## How did we consult and engage?

In developing this youth plan we asked young people about what's great, what's not so good, and what we can do to make the Campbelltown LGA an even better place. We listened to Campbelltown's young people and the services that support them through surveys, face-to-face consultation and our Youth Forum. We used Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) principals to guide our conversations, focusing on strengths and opportunities, and seeing value in everyone's contributions.



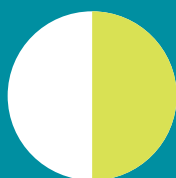


Consultation was conducted in four phases:



### Data Discovery Phase

- Context analysis
- Benchmarking
- Policy review
- Data analysis
- Stakeholder mapping



### Exploration Phase

- Online survey
- Youth consultations
- Stakeholder Interviews



### Confirmation Phase

- Secondary survey
- Youth consultations
- Service engagement
- Establish a Youth Plan
- Advisors Group
- Pilot early initiatives



### Report Writing Phase

- Confirm draft
- Affirm clear direction
- 'Close the loop'
- Establish the Youth Action Team

We had an excellent response to our consultation which included young people, youth service providers, parents and carers sharing their thoughts, ideas and opinions.

Over  
**128,000k**  
people reached via online posts

Over  
**4,000k**  
Social media interactions

**185**  
Youth surveys completed

**420**  
attendees at face-to-face workshops

**8**  
Sector surveys completed

**114**  
attendees at face-to-face interviews

**1.8k**  
Amount of Over to You site visits

**60**  
Sector Connect attendees

**80**  
Youth forum attendees

**380**  
Pilot Project attendees

**174**  
Youth Interagency attendees

**802**  
Face-to-face engagement in public domains

Young people love music and film festivals, they want more youth events.

Public transport limitations restrict their social life and access to services.

Young people believe there aren't enough free youth programs in Campbelltown.

They want to have a say and get involved, they want a Youth Action Team (in preference to a Youth Reference or Advisory Group) to take forward their ambition.

Youth care about the environment and want more outdoor recreation opportunities.

## What young people believe Council's role in the youth space is...

- Run a Youth Action Team
- Bring services together to better support young people
- Advocate for young people and their needs
- Provide safe spaces for young people
- Inform and educate young people on environmental matters





# WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM OUR CONSULTATION?

Great spaces are safe, accessible, designed by young people, have free Wi-Fi, gaming and music recording equipment.

Youth are concerned about mental health and family violence.

They want to feel included in community life and events and think it's important to program youth engagement activities as part of broader community activities and festivals.

TikTok is their preferred social media platform and they want Council to embrace it.

# DIVERSITY

Campbelltown's young people represent a diverse range of backgrounds and lived experiences.

**Despite efforts to value and promote diversity in the Campbelltown community, young people living with diverse life experiences told us that diversity can bring challenges.**

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

*"Equity, inclusion and opportunities to engage must be equal no matter who you are, where you come from or what you identify as. A youth voice is a youth voice, and they all deserve to be heard."*  
(He/Him, 14 years, Glenfield)

Young people, aged 12-24 years, spoke about the need for connection between youth, culture, and community. Youth consulted expressed the need for role models in the community who can provide mentoring to help young people access services when they need them. One such need was for connection through public art storytelling. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities make up 4.1% of the total Campbelltown population and 6.6% of the local youth population identify as Indigenous Australian.

## LGBTQIA+

*"Support and guidance by services and workers who understand and accept me for me is so important. Campbelltown needs to hear and listen to the voices of queer young people."*  
(They/Them, 16 years, Campbelltown)

Young people, aged 12-17, who identify as LGBTQIA+ were more likely to rate mental health supports as lacking in the Campbelltown LGA than young people who did not identify. Safe and equitable access to health services was an area repeatedly mentioned as needing improvements by our young people. 62% of young people who identified during our consultations expressed safety as a key concern.

## LIVING WITH DIFFERING ABILITIES

*"Events and programs aren't often designed and located in places that suit those of us with disabilities."*  
(She/Her, 12 years, Bradbury)

Young people, aged 12-24 years, living with a disability report experiencing barriers to access and inclusion. Research suggests that these barriers can increase the risk of poorer health and wellbeing outcomes. It is important to consider access and inclusion for all young people when creating events, programs and initiatives with over 31% of young people consulted feeling passionate about this.





## AT RISK OF DISENGAGING FROM EDUCATION

*"Young people need to feel connected and a part of something bigger to stay engaged. Not all of us are athletes or academic, but all of us deserve to belong."  
(She/Her, 16 years, Airds)*

Young people who disengage from education are at higher risk for mental health struggles. Of the young people surveyed, those who were disengaged from education expressed higher levels (72%) of personal experience with poor mental health and wellbeing.

## MULTICULTURAL AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

*"I am just as much a member of the Campbelltown community as anyone else. My voice doesn't matter less just because English wasn't my first language."  
(She/Her, 14 years, Ambarvale)*

Campbelltown young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have different experiences and face different challenges living and working in our LGA. Some young people may experience barriers accessing services, due to lack of information about services, language barriers and actual or perceived cost associated with services. 32% of our multicultural young people consulted expressed they believed service providers information could be more inclusive.

## DIRECT EXPERIENCE WITH MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

*"I've struggled more than most. I wouldn't wish mental health battles on anyone. But trying to navigate it as a young person when transport to services is tough and access barriers are everywhere, like cost, location, parents not believing in mental health. It's a lot and makes it all so much worse"  
(They/Them, 17 years, Minto)*

91% of young people consulted expressed mental health to be their most prominent concern for their peers and themselves. They expressed, barriers to access such as affordability, locality, extensive paperwork and knowledge around the process of asking for help. Youth mental health has continued to be a concern for young people statewide post the Covid-19 pandemic.





## What youth sector representatives have to say....

There is a lack of dedicated youth spaces in the LGA. Young people travel to neighbouring LGAs for Library services and youth centres.

- Service accessibility is an issue where safe spaces dedicated for youth are not open extended hours when youth want to 'drop in' or access services.
- Public transport hinders service accessibility as transport from the surrounding suburbs where youth reside to service locations is limited and infrequent.
- They are concerned for youth mental health and the need for young people to access enhanced wellbeing and mental health services.
- More could be done to encourage young people to celebrate diversity and inclusion; they expressed the need for more multicultural events in the LGA.
- They want to work more collaboratively with Council and with each other, especially to address complex issues like family violence, crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Information about youth facilities and programs are not promoted well among local providers.
- There is a need for a Campbelltown Youth Services Network.
- Young people need to be part of the conversation and a Youth Action Team is needed.



# WHAT YOUTH SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES BELIEVE COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE YOUTH SPACE IS...

- Facilitate regular networking opportunities for youth work professionals.
- Enable better access to data, information and population projections.
- Form advocacy partnerships.
- Provide support and training with funding applications.
- Provide community grants all year round, not just during Youth Week.
- Commission research on specific youth-related issues.
- Identify ways for young people's voices to be heard and involved in planning.
- Provide and promote youth activities, programs, and events.
- Offer youth leadership development opportunities.
- Better recognise and champion the positive contributions of young people in the community.









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