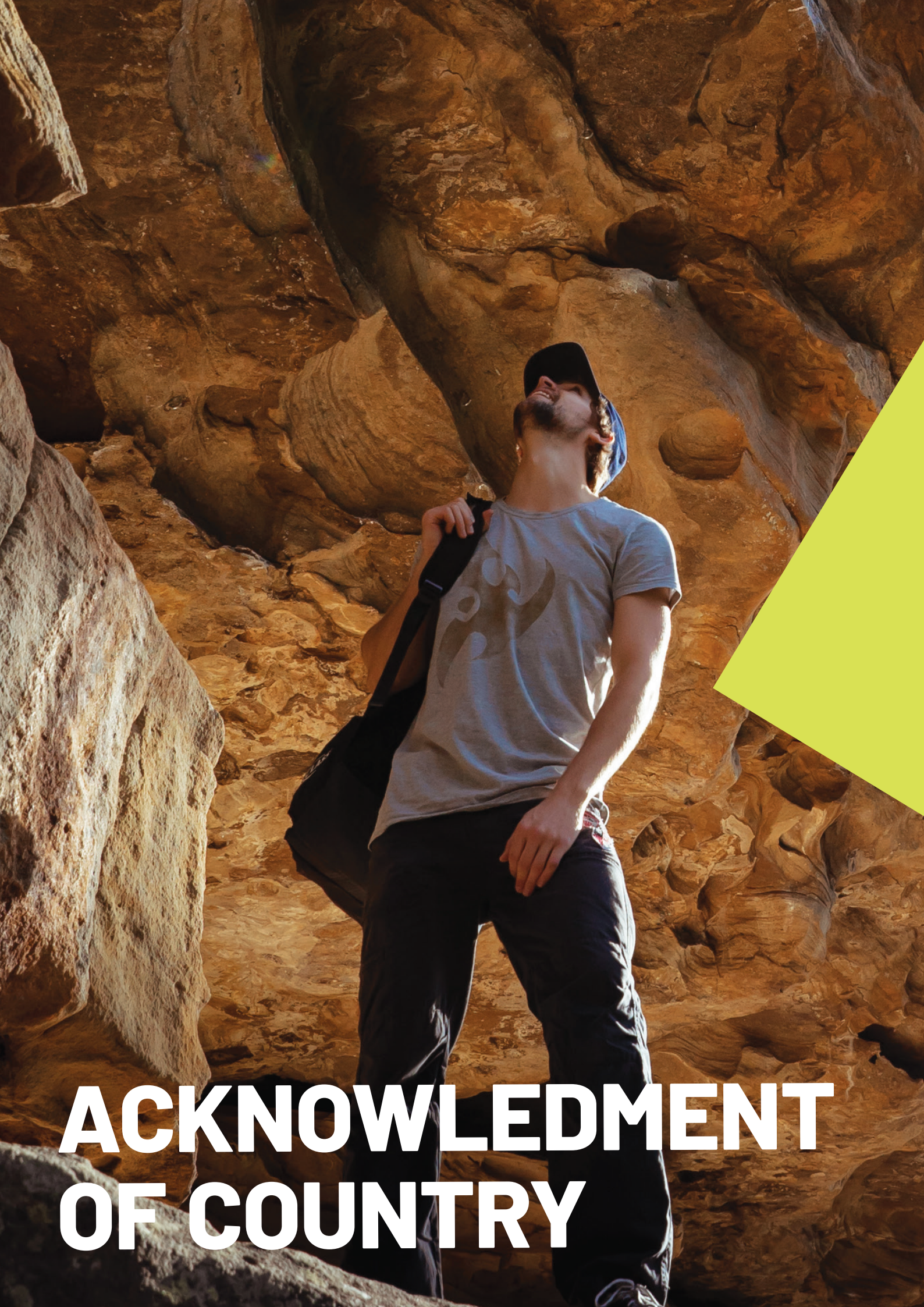


OUR JOURNEY, OUR FUTURE

Campbelltown City Council
Youth Plan 2024-2030



CAMPBELLTOWN



**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF COUNTRY**



Campbelltown City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Dharawal people and their unique spiritual connection to the land. We also respectfully acknowledge Elders past, present and future, for the role they continue to play in guiding future generations.



A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

Young people provide leadership, innovation, advocacy and creativity to the Campbelltown Local Government Area.

The energy and commitment they bring to our community help us to stay vibrant and their lived experience contributes to local growth and development. It is critical that we listen to our young people and share in the vision they hold for Campbelltown.

In 2023, Campbelltown City Council dedicated time and resources to find out what our young people had to say. During these discussions, young people discussed the importance of diversity and inclusion, environmental preservation, the creation of opportunities for learning and employment, as well as good mental and physical health. Young people in Campbelltown have a passion for creating a better future. For Campbelltown to continue to thrive we also need to take action. We need to take what our young people have told us they need and turn it into tangible outcomes. Campbelltown City Council's Youth Plan, Our Journey, Our Future, provides a framework to achieve this over the next five years.

I am proud of the commitments we are making in this plan.

Our Journey, Our Future will allow us to walk alongside our young people, to partner with them and the broader community, to create a better Campbelltown.

A MESSAGE FROM A YOUNG PERSON

We matter, our voices matter and our futures matter. To be able to contribute to Campbelltown socially, culturally and economically we require support, guidance and opportunities to thrive.

Over the next 10 years, Campbelltown's youth population is set to more than double and during that time my generation will become the next business leaders, politicians and community members of this growing LGA. Investing in us now is investing in the future of this region. It is so important that we are included in the planning for our future Campbelltown and our voices are heard and listened to.

Campbelltown City Council's Youth Plan is co-designed with young people and our service representatives. An adopted Youth Plan is vital in giving us the opportunity within our community to contribute, have a voice and make a difference.

This Youth Plan has taken into consideration our thoughts, opinions and beliefs to provide a framework for how Campbelltown City Council and service providers alike can include us and address our needs. It combines our voices into one collective.

We are proud to present Campbelltown City Council's Youth Plan 2024-2030

Youth Plan Advisor (17-year-old, She/her, Leumeah)

THANK YOU

Campbelltown City Council would like to thank every young person who contributed to the development of this Youth Plan. Your opinions, thoughts, ideas, suggestions and insights are valued and appreciated.

Campbelltown City Council would also like to thank the local youth sector, including health services, emergency services, and schools, who work hard to support young people in our LGA every day. We value your expert input into the Youth Plan. We look forward to growing the strong partnerships established through the development of this Plan to make the Campbelltown LGA an inclusive place for young people.



Ingeburn Station

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CAMPBELLTOWN'S YOUTH PLAN

Why a Youth Plan?

Campbelltown, like most of the South Western Sydney Region, is experiencing unprecedented growth and infrastructure development. The influx of new residents has resulted in an increase in the total number of young people living in the area.

By 2041, an additional 18,400 young people are expected to reside in the Campbelltown Local Government Area.

This increase in school-aged residents, along with the population growth, demonstrates a clear current and future demand for a strategic focus on the availability of resources, activities and opportunities for young people within the Campbelltown LGA.

This Plan provides the strategic direction to 2030 for the delivery of contemporary youth services, programs, activities and events that meet the needs of a diverse population. It is a plan for Council to work alongside the local youth sector, schools, young people and the community to make the Campbelltown LGA an even better place.

The Plan also provides a clear tactical direction to guide and focus the methods in which Council, service providers and the broader community support and empower our young people. It seeks to:

- Provide a strong evidence base to help the community better meet the needs and aspirations of our young people
- Ensure that young people are empowered to participate in community life, and that the community is responsive to their needs
- Support the delivery of high-quality services to young people
- Guide the allocation of Council's resources, partnerships, activities and advocacy to support the ambition of young people.



Where does a Youth Plan fit?

The Youth Plan identifies the challenges and needs of young people who reside in Campbelltown LGA and contains strategies and actions that reflect Council's commitment to provide a safe and connected community that addresses those challenges and meets need.

The Youth Plan sits within a Local, State, National and International policy and planning context that drives the key directions, challenges and opportunities in planning for the needs of young people.

Under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, councils are required to develop a hierarchy of plans known as the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework. The IP&R Framework and associated plans are designed to give Council and the community a clear picture of:

1. Where we want to go (Defined by the Community Strategic Plan)
2. How we plan to get there (Defined in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan)
3. How we will measure our progress (Recorded in quarterly, annual and end-of-term reporting)

State, Federal and Local government policies, frameworks and strategies were considered in the development of the Youth Plan, including:

- Campbelltown Councils Youth Strategy 2013 – 2017
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2026
- Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2023-2026
- Child Protection Policy and framework
- Children and Youth Participation Framework
- The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People
- Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021 - 2031
- The National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People: 2020-2030

The plan was also informed by:

- Demographic analysis of the LGA
- Benchmarking against Youth Services in other Local Government Areas
- Mapping youth service providers within the LGA
- Consultation with young people and the services that support them.

Who can participate in the delivery of the Youth Plan?

Local Government plays a very important role in the growth and development of communities. Best practice community development frameworks recognise that there is a collective responsibility between Council, local services, other levels of Government, educational institutions, industry and local residents to build a connected and functioning community.

A collective approach to empowering Campbelltown's young people recognises Campbelltown City Council's important role in delivering youth development and capacity building activities, providing opportunities for young people to participate in decision-making processes that impact them, and advocating to improve outcomes for young people. It also recognises that the valuable contributions of:

Young people can contribute ideas, be involved, and connect with Council, services and the community.

Youth services can work in partnership with young people to build capacity, especially for those from priority populations.

State and Federal Government can consider strategy, guidance and partnership opportunities.

The community can embrace, respect and mentor young people in the community.



Campbelltown City Council aims to foster a sense of **partnership and connection** with service providers to ensure our young people are supported and those experiencing hardship are not left behind.

THEMES AND OUTCOMES

What's next?

In response to what our community has told us, Campbelltown City Council will focus its efforts over the next five years on delivering outcomes across six key areas:



OPPORTUNITIES

Young people have access to meaningful and local, skill building and employment opportunities



CONNECTION

Young people have a sense of connection and belonging to their space, peers and the wider community



SAFETY

Young people have a say in community safety measures and feel safer in the Campbelltown LGA



WELLBEING

Young people have access to information and support is available for mental and physical wellbeing



VOICE

Young people's opinions and perspectives are sought, valued and heard



SUSTAINABILITY

Young people play a role in environmental practices and principals that contribute towards a more sustainable Campbelltown LGA

How will we measure our success?

To measure the success of our initiatives, we will continue to record the number of events and activities we support, and the number of young people who attend and participate in activities and events. We will continue to seek feedback from young people about how well each initiative was designed, promoted and delivered. We will look at our partnerships and collaborations and see how effective they are in delivering youth outcomes. We will also identify how well we support activities that meet the diversity needs of our young people. Success in grant applications and awards or other achievements are also valuable markers of achievement.

We will measure progress on the things we have committed to deliver through regular reviews, and an annual summary report will be developed. Our young people have told us that a traffic light rating system would be useful to show which actions are completed, on track or delayed. Case studies that demonstrate the impacts of key initiatives will be included. The annual report will also identify opportunities for improvement to the Youth Plan to ensure actions remain relevant and responsive to what young people need. Council will share the annual summary report with key stakeholders including young people, service providers and the Campbelltown community.

Council commits to ongoing consultation with young people to ensure that their voices are reflected in any future activities.





Skill building and employment opportunities basically set us up for success or failure and ultimately decide if we can stay in Campbelltown long term or if we need to move away to get access to the right things to help us succeed in life



GOAL:

Young people have access to meaningful and local, skill building and employment opportunities.

WHAT DID OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US ABOUT OPPORTUNITY?



Ensuring young people can participate in lifelong learning, formal education, skill development, work experience, and meaningful local employment will support Campbelltown's future prosperity. Having adequate opportunities for further development will equip our young people with the learning, knowledge, skills, and tools they need to achieve full economic participation.

Most of our young people told us they felt that more local employment opportunities are needed to prevent youth unemployment or young people leaving the area in search of work. Many young people mentioned they would relocate outside of the Campbelltown LGA for better employment or study options.

"I feel we have less chances for meaningful employment here in Campbelltown than other areas. I would love to work in fashion but where can I even do that here? I'll have to move to pursue that"

"It would be great to have more opportunities to upskill affordably in Campbelltown or chances to trial jobs and career paths before we commit to it long term here locally, so we don't have to leave and head to the city or other areas"

66%

of young people said their future within the Campbelltown LGA would be better if they had more opportunities for employment and skill building.

59%

of young people surveyed expressed they believed Council should play a role in highlighting employment pathways for young people.

13%

of youth in Campbelltown identified as unemployed.

DID YOU KNOW?



1. OPPORTUNITIES

Young people have access to meaningful and local, skill building and employment opportunities

ACTION

Work collaboratively with schools, local service providers and/or other Councils to deliver educational programs focusing on 'green life skills' such as; how to grow food, propagation and germination, volunteer ecology, bush regeneration pathways and Caring for Country

Work collaboratively with local services to identify opportunities to engage with early school leavers and support them in the transition to work such as 'green jobs' such as; environmental education, sustainability and bushcare

Encourage and advocate for the continued provision of outreach programs delivered with Clontarf Academy and Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre, with a focus on caring for country

Consult with young people and local voluntary organisations to identify barriers to volunteering and develop ways to make participation more accessible such as bushcare and volunteer ecology

Consult with young people to develop an annual opportunities calendar

Develop and nurture professional skills and/or interests through a youth mentoring program

Work Collaboratively on strengthening partnerships with schools to enhance programs that focus on transition from secondary school to work and/or further education, training and employment

Establish and provide entry level employment opportunities for young people across the organisation

Offer and provide trainee and apprenticeship programs through My Gateway

Increase young peoples understanding and desire to engage in employment with Campbelltown City Council through attendance at Careers Expos

Provide work experience opportunities and develop a volunteer program for young people

Offer design classes to Tafe students

Promote MyGateway on Councils socials and website

Provide HSC Lectures to support students in our LGA

Offer a Creative Studio in Council Library

Offer Homework Help in Council Library

Establish and facilitate an Employment and Careers Panel in Council Library

Provide opportunities for young people to increase their employability via Work Experience and Volunteer Programs in Council Libraries

Facilitate an annual Creative Careers Expo for young people interested in careers in the arts

Facilitate Creative Arts Excursion Days designed to grow young people's love and enjoyment of all the arts

Facilitate the NAS x CAC Art Intensive

Facilitate Tertiary Talks at Campbelltown Arts Centre including gallery floor talks

Facilitate the Artist and Practice Day

Provide opportunities for school excursions to Campbelltown Arts Centre

Facilitate the Campbelltown Arts Centre's Conscious program

Facilitate Conscious Connects

Facilitate the Conscious High Pilot program

Develop an internal database of local young creatives/entrepreneurs/youth led businesses

Provide opportunities for young musicians and performance artists

Promote Council's busking/street performer permit application process to young and aspiring musicians/performers aged 16-25

Advocate for youth to attend the Campbelltown Aboriginal Reference Group

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Youth are consulted on co-design of programs and attendance to programs are at 80% capacity.

Increased engagement by young people with Council as an employer.

Encouraging bridges from high school into local government careers. Highlighting success stories online.

Students have a greater understanding of HSC subjects and feel more prepared for their exams, leading to success in their HSC.

Creative Careers Expo is run on an annual basis.

Creative art excursion day held where young people can receive a behind the scenes tour of the Arts Centre and meet members of the Campbelltown Arts Centre team.



““

Feeling connected and included in community life is huge. Without it it leads to so many more issues for us. We just wish young people were more considered in planning and events. We feel like the forgotten community members

””

GOAL:

Young people have a sense of connection and belonging to their space, peers and the wider community.

“Events In Campbelltown need things for us to do, they have plenty of activities for young kids and adults but not youth and if there is it isn't affordable”

“Young people want to play too. Just because I'm 15 doesn't mean I don't enjoy being outdoors at a park. But there isn't equipment for our age group, like parkour and skate parks with lights on into the night. That's what we need in Campbelltown”

“We have great sports fields, better than most Councils and great sports clubs. With that we are super lucky”



WHAT DID OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US ABOUT CONNECTION?



The need for safe spaces for young people to connect was consistently raised during consultations. Young people told us they like to 'hang out' with their friends but are not old enough to attend licensed venues, are moved on from shopping centre precincts and are too old for what they consider 'kid stuff'. They would like to see additional safe and inclusive spaces in their community. This includes:

- Youth-friendly places where they can access individual help and referrals from youth workers when needed.
- Places to study and places to spend time with their friends.
- Places which are culturally appropriate and are safe for diverse young people.
- Inclusive community events that cater for their age group.
- Programs and initiatives that are targeted at and affordable for young people.
- Young people voiced the need for upgrades or improvements in places where young people 'hang out'. They told us that Campbelltown's current facilities, public spaces and youth specific places feel unsafe, are poorly maintained, do not open after school hours and do not have adequate facilities such as shade, seating, Wi-Fi and outdoor lighting.

Campbelltown's young people want more youth-specific centres or spaces, cultural facilities (dance, music, and theatre) and skate parks that are well designed, vibrant and linked to other services and multipurpose places. They need free or low-cost events and activity options to feel connected and included in community life.

79%

of young people said their life within the Campbelltown LGA would be better if they had more opportunities and spaces to build social connection.

68%

of young people surveyed expressed they believed Council plays a vital role in providing spaces and opportunities for young people to connect.

DID YOU KNOW?



2. CONNECTION

Young people have a sense of connection and belonging to their space, peers and the wider community

ACTION

Identify opportunities to improve existing youth recreation areas (e.g. mountain bike trail networks, multipurpose courts, murals, and/or street art)

Deliver youth-related actions in alignment with Council's Reconciliation Action Plan

Work collaboratively with services to support young people who are refugees and seeking asylum with wrap-around services and to connect them into the community

Work collaboratively with NSW Communities and Justice/Juvenile Justice to deliver projects that provide opportunity for young people to reconnect with community and foster a sense of belonging within the local environment

Develop a stronger Tik Tok and Instagram presence targeting young people

Enhance the website content to target and engage young people

Create and run school holiday activities for young people

Provide targeted programs for key interest areas expressed by young people in our libraries

Celebrate International Games Month within our libraries

Celebrate comic book day

Provide opportunities for connection through weekly chess club after school program

Provide opportunities for young people to connect with council and its functions through the depot open day

Run targeted engagement with young people for major Council projects

Create and distribute youth targeted advertising for Stadia content

Collaborate with key performing arts venues to enable selected young people direct access to artists and live performances

Provide opportunities for cultural expression through the Wiritjiribin dance group

Facilitate Claymore Art Shack in collaboration with local artists and youth workers

Facilitate the Burra Bumal, meaning 'sky and earth' in Dharawal language annual dance program

Facilitate a dedicated youth space at two of Council's annual community events

Encourage a sense of belonging for young people in public spaces

Support compliance and approvals for external event applications that are youth related and diverse

Target promotion to young people for Festival of Fishers Ghost Carnival Friday Frenzy (an evening of discounted ride passes)

Provide a space for youth to have input and be included in NAIDOC Week celebrations

Advocate for design outcomes that consider youth in internal projects and external development applications

Develop a collaborative and inclusive Youth Week program

Provide capacity building for community groups to lead their own youth events

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Young people are included as key stakeholders in the design of places and spaces to be more youth-friendly. Young people's input is reflected in design. Places and spaces are more youth friendly.

Youth are engaged in Caring for Country and restoration opportunities in the natural environment. Increased numbers of young people from Indigenous heritage participating in cultural awareness programs, events and activities.

Support in-kind eco community groups and continue to collaborate across tree planting, bush walking and nature connection programs.

Media is designed specifically for young people with input from YAT. More young people are connected to Council's youth social media outlets. More young people attend programs, events and activities.



“Feeling safe is a basic human right. Young people deserve to feel safe in their community, when accessing public places or around community members and friends. It’s important for all community members to feel safe but especially children and young people who are more vulnerable”

GOAL:

Young people have a say in community safety measures and feel safer in Campbelltown

“Feeling safe effects everything you do. If you don’t feel safe you aren’t going to go. Which means you could end up with mental health issues and worse. Young people deserve to feel safe and have access to opportunities they feel safe attending”

“Everyone deserves to feel and be safe, isn’t that a basic human right?”

“Campbelltown isn’t a very safe place. Anyone who’s ever watched the news tells me that and judges me for living here”



WHAT DID OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US ABOUT SAFETY?



Safety is all about young people feeling physically and emotionally secure. Young people identified a safe community as having somewhere safe to live, the physical environment, design of places and spaces, community spirit and connection with community, family, friends and networks, and access to support services when they need help. Young people who are more connected often feel safer in their local area, feel more positive about their own wellbeing, have greater levels of personal resilience, and stronger social connections to others.

31% of young people told us they did not feel safe in their community. Perceptions of safety were greatly influenced by both personal experiences, for example, witnessing or involvement in violent behaviour, as well as what is reported in the media.

Broader safety issues were consistently raised in feedback, including the need for active measures against violence, drug abuse and youth homelessness. There was significant concern that young people experiencing trouble at home have nowhere to go and could end up homeless, alone and at risk. Young people also described the physical environment as having an impact on their sense of safety. Many young people reported not having enough streetlights, footpaths or safe public transport options in their suburbs.

Over half of all young people surveyed (59%) have experienced situations where they have been concerned for their safety. The types of experiences include harassment (36%), bullying (66%), physical violence (22%), homophobia (31%), gender-based violence (29%), discrimination (21%) and racism (19%). Family conflict or violence was identified by 29% of young people as a concern.

Young people also feel that they are pigeon-holed or stereotyped and are often blamed for all anti-social behaviour in public places when they are simply hanging out with their friends. They would like to see more positive portrayals of young people.

42% of young people surveyed expressed they believe Council could contribute to their sense of safety through measures such as increased lighting in public spaces.

DID YOU KNOW?



3. SAFETY

Young people have a say in community safety measures and feel safer in Campbelltown City LGA

ACTION

Welcome Here Spaces delivered in the LGA

Ensure free Wifi and Charging Stations in Council libraries are provided

Provide a Youth Friendly Staff Presence in Council Libraries

Monitor and gather relevant data as an evidence base for activities and funding

Advocate for suitable local emergency accommodation and services for young people

Work collaboratively with the Local Drug Action Team to support services to provide relevant activities for local young people to raise awareness of drugs and alcohol

Provide Learner Drivers with the opportunity to gain experience on local roads in a supportive environment through the Log Book Run program

Offer year 11 students at all high schools in the Campbelltown LGA the U-Turn the Wheel to Stay Alive program which addresses 6 key areas of Road Safety: Low Risk Driving, Enforcement & Keeping your Licence, Sharing the road with trucks, Insurance, Purchasing your first car and Safe Celebrating

Consult with young people about how best to connect existing and provide new accessible pathway/cycleway networks that attract young people and provide access to where they want to go

Investigate, research and produce a Community Safety Plan that consults young people

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Young people recognise that the library is a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for all young people including those who identify as LGBTQI+, and is a place where they can be themselves.

Evidence based activities and events delivered to support the wellbeing of local young people using collected data to support decision making. Data and information shared with relevant stakeholders.

Young people have access to local emergency accommodation. Partner with housing and homelessness sector to build capacity of programs for young people.

Young people have access to information and supports to minimise the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs.

Reducing the incidence and severity of crashes in the age group 16 to 25 years.

Engage in consultation with young people. Young Peoples voices are heard. Plan is developed and endorsed.



“

Mental and physical health is the most important issue. Without sound mental and physical health it's basically impossible to achieve any of the other 6 key themes

”

GOAL:

Young people have access to information and support is available for mental and physical wellbeing

“More and more young people are overweight now, especially in Campbelltown. Fast food is on every corner and it's much cheaper than healthier alternatives. No wonder we are bigger than ever”

A young person's health and wellbeing is central to their ability to participate and engage “It's hard to tell someone you need help when your own parents don't think mental health is real”

“Mental and physical health is so important but also something that gets pushed to the back of the priority list if you are struggling financially and can't even afford to eat or get around”



WHAT DID OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US ABOUT WELLBEING?



A young person's health and wellbeing is central to their ability to participate and engage in their community, to successfully move through adolescence into adulthood, and to live long, healthy lives. Between the ages of 12 - 24 years, young people experience rapid change and often experience physical, social, emotional and academic challenges. Young people start to make choices that can significantly affect their current and future health. Educating and discussing health and wellbeing concerns and choices when they arise can improve young people's quality of life and establish positive health and wellbeing behaviours that last a lifetime.

The young people we spoke to rated mental health as their number one concern and priority. Young people are concerned with their own mental health and are worried that they are seeing an increasing number of their peers struggling with mental health. They do not know where to go to get support. Young people expressed cultural barriers (66%) to mental health support as a factor in accessing services. The ability to prioritise mental health was also raised by young people who told us that accessing services was as a luxury for those with the financial and emotional support of their families.

Young people are also concerned about their physical health and are worried about the increasing numbers of young people who are overweight and obese. They frequently mentioned the need to access healthier food choices, but were limited in terms of choice, education and affordability. The number of fast-food outlets and ease of access to them was highlighted as most young people (71%) told us it was their preferred choice of food if they were not eating at home.

91% of young people surveyed believe mental health is the number one issue for young people today.

71% of young people surveyed expressed that financial barriers impacted their decision to access mental health support.

DID YOU KNOW?



4. WELLBEING

Young people have access to information and supports available for mental and physical wellbeing

ACTION

Work collaboratively with young people, schools, local service providers and other Councils to develop and deliver workshops/events that promote walking and cycling

Work collaboratively with local services to provide programs that educate children, young people and their families on issues such as inland waterways, bush safety, coexisting with wildlife, and improved physical and mental health among CALD communities

Increased advertising of existing youth resources on the Council website, with active social media campaigns driving young people to these resources

A stronger focus on ensuring wellbeing social content is targeted and accessible for CALD communities of young people

Continue to offer the HSC Mocktails program at Campbelltown Library

Continue to offer the Paws and Destress program at Campbelltown Library

Continue to offer the Summer Book Binge for young people

Continue to offer HSC Study Snack Packs for young people

Provide targeted advertising and information to young Council employees aged under 24 years to increase their awareness and access to the free counselling services

Provide proactive and collaborative leadership on issues that are important to young people in Campbelltown by establishing and chairing the Campbelltown City Youth Interagency

Increase opportunities for local Young people to engage in activities delivered across the LGA by attending local network meetings including MYSN and Neighbouring Council's Interagency

Attend and support the Macarthur Love Bites Working Group

Ensure all of our open space areas are listed on the Council website with services available. Extend this via social media platforms and school newsletters to ensure young people are well informed of the recreational resources available to them

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Utilise TikTok and Instagram to promote crisis hotlines and mental health services. Design materials to hand out at events to connect people with these services.

Ensure messaging can be easily translated in multiple languages. Increase distribution of materials in alternative languages.

The local Youth Sector is working collaboratively to support the wellbeing of young people in Campbelltown. The Community Life team actively participates in sector networking and regularly updates our service mapping. Youth services receive relevant information, training and support to achieve collaborative goals. Youth Work's best practice approaches are implemented in the work delivered in the LGA.

Young people have access to relevant activities, services and opportunities across the LGA.

Increased awareness of public spaces and places. Information targeted and received by young people.



“

We deserve to be heard.

Does our age mean our voices do not matter?

”

GOAL:

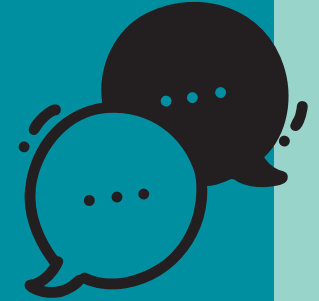
Young people's opinions and perspectives are sought, valued and heard.

“I want to be involved and have my opinions heard. I just need the avenues to do so”

“We have great ideas and we are even happy to help carry them out. Council needs to have us at the table so we can present them”



WHAT DID OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US ABOUT VOICE?



Young people want to have a say in youth and community matters, have opportunities to co-design, get involved in youth-related community projects and initiatives, and be respected for their diversity.

Having a voice as a young person is associated with a range of interpersonal and developmental benefits. These include improving communication and social skills, building resilience and coping mechanisms, gaining early leadership experiences and establishing new social networks.

Participating in local decision-making where young people can express themselves and have their voices taken seriously, builds self-confidence, leadership, negotiation and other transferable skills. When young people are encouraged to create their own ideas and solutions, they're often inspired to act themselves.

80%

of young people surveyed believe a youth voice is needed in decision making around the future of Campbelltown.

62%

of young people consulted expressed they had ideas, initiatives and solutions, but didn't have an avenue to present them.

DID YOU KNOW?



5.VOICE

Young people's opinions and perspectives are sought, valued and heard

ACTION

An increased focus on highlighting youth aged 12-24 years in Council Social Media, website and collateral

Run Annual Youth Forum

Youth feedback and consultation sort from library services on the programs, events and books offered within Council libraries for young people

Close the feedback loop - get back to young people on the outcome of the engagement process, acknowledging their contribution and how that has informed decision-making

Conduct library educational school visits

Establish and run a Youth Podcast

Establish and run a Library TikTok Account

Targeted engagement for youth Area in Library 2.0 and the new Civic Library

Young people's voices sought and heard to provide feedback on the accessibility and their experience when attending the stadium events

The Mayor will attend key consultations with young people across the Campbelltown LGA to hear their voice

Identify and engage opportunities for Youth Sector Capacity Building

Establish and develop a CCC Youth Action Team (YAT) to provide an opportunity for young people to collaborate and lead on issues that are important to them

Showcase the creative and artistic works of young people in Council's exhibition, galleries, venues and public spaces

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

During youth week annually the newly established YAT team will host a youth takeover for Council's social media. Socials content focused at young people will be co-designed with Council's communication team to give youth a direct voice. Photoshoot held that includes older youth (16-24 years) to use on Council social sites and on website.

One youth forum is held per year based on current / topical issues. Feedback is provided to Council and external stakeholders by the YAT members on any relevant information to ensure that Council, schools and local services have an understanding of emerging priorities for local young people.

The Mayor attends a minimum of one key consultation with young people 12-24 per calendar year.

Local youth workers receive capacity building opportunities each year.

Up to 12 young people are trained in advocacy and leadership to design and implement 2 Youth led activities / ideas per year.

Exhibition, gallery, community and public spaces identified for exhibiting young people's artistic works. Youth works are displayed and celebrated annually.



“ The environment and how we treat it is the most important thing we can be talking about. If we don’t protect and value that, then nothing else really matters, we literally cannot live or breathe without it. We need to be doing more. ”

GOAL:

Young people play a role in contributing to environmental practices and principals that create a more sustainable Campbelltown.

“The environment is so important I just wish I knew what to do to contribute”

“Teach us, show us, we want to learn”

“We need to care more about the environment in Campbelltown than other areas, we need to protect our Koalas. How special that we have them, how sad that we are destroying their homes”



WHAT DID OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY?



The preservation of the environment is very important to our young people. Green open spaces, bushland, reserves and walking trails for recreation was highly valued. Young people believe there is a need for more youth-specific activities for positive education and connection to the environment. Many are also worried that the increased population growth, housing and industry development will result in the loss of natural spaces, plants and animals. Protection of the environment is seen as essential to create a balance between development and a healthy community.

When we asked young people “what would you change to make Campbelltown a better place now?” the number one response was a cleaner environment. Young people want to be involved in activities and information sharing about how to preserve and protect the natural environment but needed pathways to do so.

It is worth noting that responses about sustainability and the natural environment were different from young people living in lower socio-economic areas. Care for the environment was the highest priority for survey responders from these areas (333 young people) but was not ranked as high for those consulted through focus groups and outreach conversations. These young people held stronger concerns about affordable housing and safety.

77%

of young people surveyed believe a cleaner environment is needed for a greater life.

57%

of young people surveyed expressed interest in being involved in sustainability practices.

DID YOU KNOW?



6. SUSTAINABILITY

Young people play a role in environmental practices and principals that contribute towards a more sustainable Campbelltown LGA

ACTION

Host environmental programs at Library facilities and identify opportunities to improve existing service delivery through meaningful consultation with young people

Consult with young people and local voluntary organisations to identify barriers to volunteering and develop ways to make participation more accessible in environmental programs such as, bushcare and volunteer ecology

Investigate opportunities for programs that aim to engage cross-cultural connections and understanding through education specific to climate resilience and environmental stewardship.

Increase advertising of community services that promote sustainability and the environment

Provide recycling stations in Libraries and educate young people around their use

Run Eco and Sustainable Workshops

Reduce environmental impact by increasing sustainability through advertising online rather than print media

Produce regular, targeted TikToks regarding recycling.

Launch the waste services game as an education tool

Conduct youth focused community environmental education at events

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Youth are consulted and co-design our programs.
Young people are aware of volunteer opportunities.
Transport to these locations improved. Participation in bushcare programs increases and is measured.

Young people are engaged in environmental program volunteering is increased.

Multicultural engagement in programs around environmental resilience and stewardship is increased.

Waste reduced. Print Media minimised.

Educational socials content targeted at young people. Young people are educated about our natural environment.

Events are run in a more environmentally friendly way. Attitude and behaviour change is influenced. Innovative solutions to sustainability are developed. Impacts on the local environment are observed/felt.

The comprehensive list of actions, along with their corresponding success criteria, responsible teams, and progress updates, can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/youthplan>. This resource provides detailed insights into the ongoing efforts and achievements of our Youth Plan 2024-2030, "Our Journey, Our Future."



HOW DOES THIS LINK TO OUR CSP?

The Community Strategic Plan

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) sets out the ten year vision for Campbelltown. It is developed on behalf of the community following an extensive engagement process, to ensure it accurately captures the goals and aspirations of the people of Campbelltown.

The aim of the CSP is to capture the community's long term plan for the future, which includes:

- The community's vision (the aspirations for the future of Campbelltown)
- The outcomes the community wants to see
- Strategies to achieve these outcomes and vision

The Community Strategic Plan is the driving force behind every decision that Council makes on behalf of the community and is used by Council to develop its Delivery Program & Operational Plan



OPPORTUNITIES - Links

- 4.1.1 Provide high quality and diverse local job opportunities for all residents.
- 4.1.2 Develop and retain our local workforce through a range of training and education opportunities.
- 4.3.1 Activate a unique and lively city as a destination for business, social, event and leisure activities.
- 4.3.2 Enhance the reputation and tell the stories of Campbelltown



CONNECTIONS - Links

- 1.1.1 Provide initiatives that foster a proud, inclusive, and connected community for all.
- 1.1.2 Provide a diverse range of cultural and creative activities and events, for all interests and people.
- 2.1.2 Provide public places and facilities that encourage leisure, recreation, and physical activity
- 2.2.3 Utilise communication technologies to better connect people and foster an inclusive community



SAFETY - Links

- 1.2.3 Promote and support a safe community.
- 2.1.1 Provide public places and facilities that are accessible, safe, shaded and attractive.
- 2.2.1 Ensure transport networks are integrated, safe, and meet the needs of all people.



WELLBEING - Links

- 1.2.1 Provide accessible services and support pathways for all ages, needs and abilities.
- 1.2.2 Improve wellbeing and quality of life.
- 1.3.2 Respect and support our local Aboriginal history, wisdom and peoples.



VOICE - Links

- 2.2.3 Utilise communication technologies to better connect people and foster an inclusive community.
- 5.1.1 Increase opportunities for the community to engage and collaborate with Council and key delivery partners.
- 5.1.2 Ensure the community is continuously informed about current and future issues affecting Campbelltown.
- 5.2.1 Provide proactive and collaborative leadership on issues that are important to Campbelltown now and into the future.
- 5.2.2 Ensure that public funds and assets are managed strategically, transparently and efficiently.



SUSTAINABILITY - Links

- 3.2.2 Improve and embed environmentally sustainable practices in our community.
- 3.2.3 Improve waste management and recycling practices.



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