

Yarra Youth Services Action Plan 2009 - 2013

The Yarra Youth Services Strategy and Action Plan 2009 – 2013 creates opportunities to establish and strengthen strategic partnerships with community agencies to achieve the outcomes identified below. It also provides opportunities to leverage external funding through strengthened planning and partnerships.

This plan outlines key actions that will help to achieve the directions articulated in the Yarra Youth Services Strategy 2009 – 2013. This action plan focuses on year one actions, review and evaluation of these actions will help to shape the actions that follow in subsequent years. Many of the actions described will continue for the life of the plan although maybe modified as a result of evaluation and review.

The action plan is set within the Council context of financial constraints and current service delivery capacity.

Yarra Youth Strategy Goal: *To work in partnership to build a strong local youth service system that values and supports young people in the City of Yarra.*

Key Focus Area 1: Sector Planning and Coordination

Objectives: *To improve integration and collaboration of youth services and programs.
To support the Yarra youth services sector to develop and work towards shared goals.*

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
Yarra's youth service system is fragmented. Council has a role to facilitate coordination. Lack of a strategic planning framework to guide service development in Yarra.	Sector Leadership Reference Group - establishment of a sector leadership group to meet quarterly to advise and discuss future policy, planning and emerging needs and issues.	Yarra Youth Services Sector partner agencies Young People School representatives Local business representatives	Existing (Yarra Council) Coordinator Social Planning & Development & Family Services	Active collaboration for staff working within youth services system. Issues, trends and needs monitored and coordination of suitable responses.	Year 1 – Establishment Years 2, 3 & 4 - Facilitate & support

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
Consultation needs to be integral to service planning through identifying local needs, issues and opportunities.	Young People's Reference Group - establishment of bi-monthly young people's reference facilitated by Yarra Youth Development Officer.	Young people interested in civic engagement and leadership.	Existing (Yarra Council) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Family Services Program Leader Youth Development Officer 	Opportunities provided for leadership development. Young people's input into Council plans and policies.	Year 1 – Establishment Years 2, 3 & 4 - Facilitate & support
There are no formal mechanisms for young people's participation and active engagement in decision making processes regarding issues that affect them.	Yarra Young People's Forum - establishment of annual young people's forum facilitated by Yarra Youth Development Officer.	Broad representation of young people within the City of Yarra	Existing (Yarra Council) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Family Services Program Leader Youth Development Officer 	Young people share their issues and aspirations with Council, and explore solutions.	Year 2 - Establishment Years 3 & 4 - Facilitate & support
There is no coherent system for evidence based planning, data collection and analysis to guide and underpin service planning and development.	Evidence: Research and Development - position established to undertake action research in partnership with the Yarra youth service providers (0.4 EFT).	Yarra Council, Youth Service sector, Service providers, Young people	Existing (Yarra Council) Youth Development Officer	Provide a baseline of evidence including local demographic information, and outcomes of community and sector consultation, including information about innovative practice and current youth research findings.	Year 1 - ongoing

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
There is a need for a coordinated approach and response to issues affecting young people.	Advocacy - advocate on issues impacting young people or the sector as identified through formal mechanisms (leadership group, young people's forums etc).	Yarra Council, Youth Sector Leadership Reference Group, Young People's Reference Group	Existing Yarra Council Partner agencies	Advocacy to Federal, State and local government and peak bodies, for the needs and aspirations of local young people.	Year 1 – ongoing
The youth services sector is dynamic and requires flexible and responsive services. In order to ensure services remain relevant services need to be regularly reviewed	Evaluation and Review	Yarra Council Youth Sector Leadership Reference Group, Young People's Reference Group	Existing (Yarra Council)	Relevant services responsive to emerging trends and issues	Year 1 - ongoing

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Key Focus Area 2: Partnerships and Service Development

Objectives: To strengthen partnerships and improve planning and coordination across youth services at the local level.

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
Network focus on service integration, information exchange and barriers to participation.	Yarra Youth Provider's Network - continuation of the quarterly Yarra Youth Provider's Network meetings.	Yarra Council, Youth sector practitioners.	Existing (Yarra Council) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Family Services Program Leader Youth Development Officer 	Opportunity provided for workers to discuss current issues and trends, program updates and information sharing.	Year 1 - ongoing
Currently there is no capacity or formal mechanisms to respond to emerging needs and issues.	Issue Based Working Groups - collaboratively respond to the emerging issues and needs of vulnerable young people as identified through sector leadership group, youth provider's network or local data.	Yarra Council, Youth Sector Leadership Reference Group, Young People's Reference Group, Yarra Youth Provider's Network, Young people	Existing (Yarra Council) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Family Services Program Leader Youth Development Officer Partner agencies	Establishment of working parties to inform strategic responses to identified key issues. Tailored responses to vulnerable young people in partnership with sector agencies.	Year 1 - ongoing

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
<p>Currently there are no formal mechanisms for service collaboration to develop joint responses to youth issues.</p> <p>Further, service providers and Council need to be able to demonstrate local partnerships when applying for funds.</p>	<p>Partnership Support and Development - Work closely with colleague agencies in the identification of opportunities for collaborative responses to identified youth issues.</p>	<p>Yarra Council, Youth sector practitioners, Youth Sector Leadership Reference Group, Young People's Reference Group, Yarra Youth Provider's Network.</p>	<p>Existing (Yarra Council)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Family Services Program Leader Youth Development Officer <p>Partner agencies Young people</p>	<p>Continue to support and grow relationships with existing partner agencies.</p>	<p>Year 1 - ongoing</p>
<p>There is a need for highly skilled staff with community development skills to support young people and in particular, vulnerable young people</p>	<p>Sector Professional Development – development of a strong training and development culture for youth practitioners</p>	<p>Yarra Council Youth sector practitioners</p>	<p>Existing (Yarra Council)</p> <p>Council Youth Services Officers</p> <p>Partner agency youth practitioners</p>	<p>Strength based and systematic approaches to sector professional training and support developed</p> <p>Active staff mentoring and shadowing between partner agencies established</p>	<p>Year 2 - ongoing</p>

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
There is a need for a stronger integrated approach to Council services to actively address barriers to participation in sports, recreation, arts activities and open space design.	<p>Internal Council Partnerships - Active engagement with other Council departments in the planning, development and delivery for services for young people.</p> <p>Informing Major Council Plans – Working with other Council departments to ensure young people are represented in major plans such as Council Plan and Municipal Public Health Plan.</p>	Yarra Council Young People's Reference Group	Existing (Yarra Council) Council officers	<p>More integrated approach to service planning, development and delivery.</p> <p>Systematic approach identified to address barriers to participation in sports, recreation and arts.</p>	Year 2 - ongoing

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Key Focus Area 3: Direct Service Delivery

Objective: To continue Council’s strong role in providing relevant and responsive services for young people in Yarra.

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
Programs for young people that focus on the obtainment of a set of protective factors will assist young people to deal with the onset of any potential risks.	<p>Youth Development Programs - Development of a range of youth development programs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer based self determined activities; • Mentoring; • Website Renewal Project; and • Other youth led initiatives. 	Yarra Council Young people, Schools, Service Providers	Existing (Yarra Council) Youth Development Officer Youth Activity Officer	Opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills self reliance and resilience.	Year 1 - 4
Art based programs allow young people the ability to express themselves individually and within a therapeutic group setting.	Napier Studios Art Program - Art based program developed in response to needs of the community.	Yarra Council, Partner agencies, Service providers, Young people, schools	Existing (Yarra Council) Youth Arts Officer	Positive community recognition of youth arts in the City of Yarra. Young people participating in these programs will gain skills in a range of art based opportunities.	Year 1 - ongoing

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
Recreation enables young people the freedom to play in a safe environment whilst strengthening their ability to work in a team and enhance their strengths.	Recreation Programs - Development of a range of youth based recreational programs with skill based focus.	Yarra Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Services Council's Leisure and Recreation Services Service Providers, Young people	Existing (Yarra Council) Youth Activity Officer Youth Development Officers	Young people participating in these programs will increase protective factors against possible risk factors, focus on life skill development, leadership and mentoring.	Year 1 - ongoing
There is an identified need to focus on leadership development and mentoring programs for young people	Leadership Development Programs – to provide young people with opportunities to develop their skills in leadership.	Yarra Council, Service Providers Young people Schools	Existing (Yarra Council) Youth Development Officer	Opportunities for young people to undertake a range of leadership initiatives, to be transferred to other young people through peer mentoring activities.	Year 2 - ongoing
Evidence indicates that transitional support to young people at key life stages enables young people to effectively deal with the onset of possible risk factors.	Transitional Programs – to support young people at key transitional stages in their lives.	Yarra Council, Service Providers Young people Schools	Existing (Yarra Council) Youth Development Officers	Programs to support youth transitions.	Year 1 - ongoing

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
There is a lack of knowledge of the range of services and referral points for young people. Currently there is no formal and systematic way to promote activities and services.	Information and Referral Pathways - development of a systematic approach to disseminate information about service, programs and referral pathways to young people and youth practitioners and partner organisations	Young People, Service Providers, Parents, Community, Schools	Existing (Yarra Council) Youth Development Officers Partner agencies	Better access to information and services for young people, families and agencies.	Year 1 Establishment Year 2,3 & 4 Service Delivery
Vulnerable young people need to be able to easily access targeted programs that can respond to their needs within a timely period.	Targeted Youth Programs- to support vulnerable young people	Yarra Council Service Providers Young people	Existing (Yarra Council) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Development Officer Individual Support Worker 	Targeted programs designed to assist in addressing local youth issues and needs.	Year 1 – ongoing
Individual support allows for the exploration of a young person's current life situation and equips young people with the tools to overcome any possible associated risks.	Individual Support - provide short term generalist individual support, focusing prevention and early intervention.	Yarra Council Service Providers Young people	Existing (Yarra Council) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Support Worker 	Any young person within the City of Yarra can access individual support on a range of issues, to prevent the onset of risk factors and increase resilience.	Year 1 – ongoing

CURRENT STATUS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	WHEN
Currently there are no opportunities to formally link young people to the business community or exploration of business opportunities for young people in Yarra.	Innovation through Entrepreneurship Programs – support for young people to develop businesses whilst engaging in their interests.	Yarra Council Local businesses Young people	Yarra Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Leader • Youth Development Officer Partner agencies INLLEN Local businesses	Relationship developed between local business, youth service providers and young people to assist in mentoring and entrepreneurial initiatives.	Year 3 & 4
Currently there is limited direct consultation with young people. Young people tend to be under represented in general community consultation.	Youth Consultation - conduct youth consultation to inform program development, current issues, needs and aspirations.	Yarra Council Youth Sector Leadership Reference Group, Young People's Reference Group, Service Providers, young people	Existing (Yarra Council) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator Service Planning & Development • Youth Development Officer Partner agencies	Good understanding of young people to ascertain views on a range of issues and levels of health and wellbeing.	Year 1 - ongoing