

## Yarra Youth Policy Action Plan 2013 - 2016

### Vision for Young People

Our vision for young people in the City of Yarra is that:

***All young people are happy, safe, healthy and engaged citizens. They are heard and have equal opportunities and the freedom to lead and contribute to their communities.***

### Principles

Our youth policy is underpinned by six key principles:

- *Youth participation* - young people's strengths, interests and abilities are recognised and celebrated, and their voices are heard. Young people are actively involved in decision making.
- *Inclusive and accessible* - all young people are valued, respected and included. They have fair and equal access to opportunity and support.
- *Valuing diversity* - that the diversity of Yarra is recognised as a valuable asset to our community and that diversity is integrated into all aspects of planning, policy and service delivery.
- *Integrated delivery and joint responses* - services and programs for young people are timely, responsive and integrated.
- *Effective partnerships* - partnerships with young people and their families, education providers, the community and the sector underpins the development and implementation of services and initiatives
- *Strengths-based* - the strengths of young people, families and carers, community's schools, agencies and services are recognised and built upon.

### Review and Evaluation

The Youth and Middle Years Unit will review the Yarra Youth Policy 2013 – 2016 and Action Plan on an annual basis, and provide annual reports to Council. Council will work in partnership with young people, the community and the sector to ensure it responds to identified needs and these are reflected each year in the Action Plan.

## THREE-YEAR ACTION PLAN 2013 - 2016

### GOAL 1: *YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATIVELY ENGAGE, CONNECT AND BUILD THEIR CAPACITY*

**OUTCOMES:** Young people have a range of things to do during the day and at night across Yarra. They have opportunities to be creative, and to connect with their peers, family and community. They have opportunities to learn new skills, and are encouraged and empowered to showcase their achievements and talents.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
1.1 Continue to deliver and enhance Council run weekday, after-school and school holiday programs that are age appropriate and give young people things to do and ways to connect	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Yarra Library Services, Recreation and Open Space Branch Young people Schools Community groups Youth service providers Community Transport Service (ADS)	Year 1,2,3	Existing
1.2 Lead the development and coordination of a municipal-wide calendar of programs and activities that can be accessed by young people, families and the sector online and by using social networking tools	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Communications and Customer Service Branch Young people Community groups Youth service providers Schools Department of Human Services	Year 2,3	New
1.3 Work with community and youth stakeholders to explore the delivery of youth participation and engagement programs during the weekend and in the evenings	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Young people Community groups Youth service providers Schools	Year 1,2,3	Existing/New
1.4 Continue to deliver and expand the Yarra Youth Arts Program in partnership with young people, the community, and the youth and arts sector	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Young people Community groups Youth service providers Schools Youth arts and music providers	Year 1,2,3	Existing/New

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
1.5 Strengthen opportunities for young people to be involved in, and contribute to, the arts and cultural festivals and events held throughout the year across Yarra	<p>Partner: Yarra Youth Services, Arts, Culture &amp; Venues Unit, Community and Corporate Planning, and Recreation and Open Space Branches</p> <p>Community leaders and agencies Department of Human Services Youth arts and music organisations Aged &amp; Disability Services</p>	Year 1,2,3	Existing
1.6 Provide opportunities for young people to learn new skills, build self-esteem and to showcase their talents and achievements through program such as FreeZa and Rising High, and other youth-led initiatives that develop and celebrate the diverse capabilities of young people	<p>Lead: Yarra Youth Services</p> <p>Young people Yarra Arts, Culture and Venues Unit Community groups Youth arts and music organisations</p>	Year 1,2,3	Existing
1.7 Partner with young people to plan and deliver under-age music and dance events that celebrate and showcase cultural diversity in Yarra	<p>Lead: Yarra Youth Services, Yarra Arts, Culture and Venues Unit</p> <p>Young people Community leaders and members Community agencies Youth service providers Department of Human Services</p>	Year 2,3	New
1.8 Identify and address barriers for young people experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability regarding support, participation and engagement	<p>Lead: Yarra Youth Services</p> <p>Education providers Community agencies Youth service providers Department of Human Services Department of Education and Early Childhood Disability Support Providers</p>	Year 1, 2,3	Existing/New
1.9 Encourage and support the participation of young people in inter-generational activities and opportunities	<p>Lead: Aged &amp; Disability Services, Yarra Youth Services</p> <p>Young people Disability support providers Youth service providers Community agencies Active Ageing Advisory Group</p>	Year 2,3	New

## **GOAL 2: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND DEVELOP INTO HEALTHY, HAPPY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY CITIZENS**

**OUTCOMES:** Young people can adapt and cope with new challenges and changes as they emerge, and have positive health and wellbeing outcomes. Young people can access responsive and integrated services that support their social, physical spiritual, and mental health, and development within the context of their lives.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
2.1 Continue to deliver and enhance the Individual Support Program provided by Yarra Youth Services to ensure it is tailored and responsive to the needs of young people across Yarra, and provides clear referral and transition pathways to specialist and crisis services	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing
2.2 Continue to support projects and activities that enhance the social, physical, spiritual and mental health and wellbeing of young people and their families through the provision of the Yarra Community Grants Program	Lead: Community and Corporate Planning  Yarra Youth Services Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing
2.3 Work with the sector to support the enhancement of integrated generalist support, and counselling programs, and assertive outreach services especially targeting vulnerable young people	Partner: Yarra Youth Services, Community Agencies, Youth Service Providers, Department of Human Services, Schools, Higher Education Providers	Year 2, 3	New
2.4 Support the delivery and enhancement of a broad range of affordable sports and recreational activities, programs, facilities and access to sports competitions that meet the needs and interests of young people	Partner: Yarra Youth Services, Recreation and Open Space, Leisure Services, Access Yarra Branches  Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New
2.5 Plan and deliver a range of prevention and early intervention focused health promotion, harm minimisation and safety initiatives delivered in partnership with schools, community agencies and youth sector	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Schools Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 2, 3	New
2.6 Advocate for affordable and accessible transport and housing options in Yarra	Lead: Sustainability and Strategic Transport Branch  Yarra Youth Services Disability Advisory Committee	Year 1,2, 3	Existing

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
	State Government – Vic Roads Yarra Community Transport Youth and housing providers		
2.7 Work with community agencies and youth service providers to develop and deliver basic CPR and mental health first-aid workshops forums for young people and families	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Yarra Family Services Yarra Leisure Services Community agencies Youth service providers Schools Yarra Mental Health Alliance	Year 2, 3	New
2.8 Support schools to develop and deliver prevention and early intervention programs in response to emerging themes for young people such as alcohol and other drugs, sexual health, mental health and bullying	Partner: Schools, Yarra Youth Services  Youth service providers	Year 2,3	New

### **GOAL 3: *YOUNG PEOPLE ARE HEARD, THEIR RIGHTS RESPECTED AND THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES***

**OUTCOME:** Young people actively participate in and contribute to the creative, cultural, social and civic life of Yarra. Their voices are heard and their rights are respected. They are included in their communities and have opportunities to input into council and community decision-making, not only about youth issues but also about the future direction of Yarra.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
3.1 Ensure the rights of the child and young people informs council policies, and future service planning and delivery	Lead: Council branches  Young people Schools Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New
3.2 In partnership with young people deliver an annual youth forum and provide regular opportunities for active discussion and communication so young people's voices to are heard in relation to issues that affect them, as well as having opportunities to contribute to the decisions and actions that follow	Partner: Young people and Yarra Youth Services  Council Branches Schools Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 2, 3	New
3.3 Support the establishment and facilitation of youth-led issue and/or project based youth committees and working groups that increase	Lead: Yarra Youth Services	Year 1,2, 3	Existing/New

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
community and civic participation	Young people Council Branches Community agencies Youth service providers Schools		
3.4 Provide opportunities and support young people to be involved in, and input into, Council facilitated committees and external committees delivered by the sector, peak bodies, and/or State Government	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Young people Council Branches State Government Youth service providers Community agencies Schools Peak bodies	Year 1,2, 3	Existing
3.5 Continue to deliver and expand the Yarra Youth Ambassadors Program to enable young people to develop interpersonal and communication skills, build self-esteem and demonstrate leadership	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Young people Council Branches Youth service providers Schools	Year 1,2, 3	Existing
3.6 Establish a new Yarra Youth Leadership Award Program that recognises and celebrates young people's outstanding leadership in, and contribution to, the Yarra community	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Young people Council Branches Schools Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 2, 3	New
3.7 Identify and support opportunities for parents, guardians and/or carers to access information about, and engage in, youth programs, activities and events where appropriate	Lead: Yarra Youth Services, Yarra Family Services, Communications and Customer Service  Young people Families, carers and guardians Community agencies Family service and youth service providers	Year 2, 3	New
3.8 Develop and deliver a new Youth Grant Program where young people are supported to apply for grants to plan and deliver youth-led projects and initiatives	Lead: Community and Corporate Planning Branch and Yarra Youth Services,  Young people	Year 2, 3	New

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
	Community agencies Youth service providers Auspice agencies		
3.9 Work with young people, the sector and media outlets to provide proactive and positive media representations that showcase the talents, culture and identity	Lead: Yarra Youth Services, Communications and Customer Service Branch  Young people Schools Media outlets Service providers Schools Community agencies	Year 1,2, 3	Existing
3.91 Advocate for the needs and interests of young people and the sector at local, state and federal levels	Lead: Council Branches  Young people Federal Government State Government Peak bodies Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 1,2, 3	Existing

#### **GOAL 4: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND EARN**

**OUTCOME:** Young people are supported in and have access to mainstream and/or alternative education, training and employment pathways so they can reach their full potential.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
4.1 Continue to support young people to access appropriate education, training and/or employment options and pathways that are culturally relevant and responsive to their needs	Partner: Yarra Youth Services, Schools Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN), Higher Education Providers Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)  Yarra Economic Development Unit Human Resources Branch Local businesses Young people	Year 1,2, 3	Existing

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
4.2 Continue to work in partnership to support the ongoing sustainability of the Yarra Education Youth Commitment	<p>Lead: Yarra Education Youth Commitment</p> <p>Yarra Youth Services Schools Higher education providers Local businesses Community agencies Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN)</p>	Year 1,2, 3	Existing
4.3 Work with local businesses, registered training and education providers, community agencies, and youth services to ensure young people in Yarra engage in tailored work-readiness programs such as work experience and volunteer opportunities, internships, apprenticeships and traineeships	<p>Lead: Yarra Youth Services</p> <p>Yarra Economic Development Unit, Human Resources Branch Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN) Schools Higher education providers Registered training providers (RTO's) Local businesses Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) Yarra Metro Access Program</p>	Year 1,2, 3	Existing
4.4 Continue to undertake research that examines secondary school options, capacities and curriculum offerings available in Yarra, and identify student and parents needs and expectations	<p>Lead: Community and Corporate Planning Branch and Yarra Youth Services</p> <p>Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN) Young people and families Schools Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)</p>	Year 1	Existing
4.5 Strengthen partnerships across schools, sector and with State Government to enhance programs that focus on transition from primary to secondary school, and secondary school to further education, training and employment especially for vulnerable young people	<p>Lead: Yarra Youth Services</p> <p>Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN) Schools</p>	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New



ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
	Higher education providers Local businesses Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)		
4.6 Work with young people, local businesses, community groups and youth service providers to support the development and delivery of youth-lead sustainable social enterprise programs	Partner: Yarra Youth Services and young people  Yarra Economic Development Unit Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN) Schools Higher education providers Local businesses Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 2, 3	New
4.7 In partnership with education providers and local agencies and service providers deliver information sessions, forums and workshops for parents and guardians to support them to understand their child's development, needs and challenges	Lead: Yarra Youth Services, Yarra Family Services  Schools Higher education providers Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 2, 3	New
4.8 Support the planning and delivery of school and community based mentoring and leadership programs especially targeting disadvantaged and vulnerable young people	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Schools Community agencies Youth service providers Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)	Year 1, 2,3	New

## **GOAL 5: YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW HOW TO, AND CAN, ACCESS AFFORDABLE AND APPROPRIATE INFORMATION, SERVICES AND SAFE SPACES**

**OUTCOME:** Young people can access a range of welcoming and safe spaces across Yarra during the day and night. They have access to information both online and offline about services, programs and events when they need it. Young people are encouraged to provide their ideas and drive the design, planning and management of spaces and activities that enhance their health and wellbeing.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
5.1 Continue to provide safe, welcoming and supportive spaces at the Yarra Youth Community Centre and other Council facilities for young people to access at key times	Partner: Yarra Youth Services, Arts, Culture and Venues Unit, Library Services, Recreation and Open Space, Leisure Services, Building & Property, Community and Corporate Planning Branches  Young people Community agencies Youth service providers Schools	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New
5.2 Plan for the redevelopment and expansion of the Yarra Youth Community Centre as a designated hub for young people	Partner: Yarra Youth Services, Building & Property Branch	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New
5.3 Support State Government, community agencies and service providers to provide safe and welcoming spaces for young people to access that are appropriate to their needs and interests	Lead: Department of Human Services, community agencies, service providers  Yarra Youth Services	Year 1, 2,3	Existing/New
5.4 Ensure young people have range of opportunities to be consulted, and have input into, the planning and development of Council policies, infrastructure, open spaces and services	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Council Branches Young people	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing
5.5 Work with families, schools, Victoria Police and community agencies to support opportunities that engage young people on how to stay safe and make decisions that reduce their risk and harm online and in the community	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Community and Corporate Planning Branch Young people Victoria Police Schools Higher education providers Community agencies	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
	Youth service providers Department of Human Services (DHS)		
5.6 Support opportunities for young people, and parents, carers and guardians to improve digital and information literacy skills	Lead: Yarra Youth Services, Library Services Yarra Family Services  Young people Families, carers and guardians Community agencies Youth service providers	Year 2, 3	New
5.7 Provide opportunities for young people and families to access information and supports, connect via new web and mobile technologies and social networking tools, and improve use of accessible communication modes	Lead: Yarra Youth Services, Communications and Customer Service Branch  Young people Community agencies Youth service providers Disability support providers	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New
5.8 Support the delivery of youth-led environmental awareness and sustainability campaigns and projects to reduce Yarra's ecological footprint, and access to information about adapting and being more resilient to future climate change scenarios	Lead: Sustainability and Strategic Transport Branch  Yarra Youth Services Young people Community agencies Youth service providers Local businesses Schools	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New
5.9 Support the improvement of existing bicycle facilities, the establishment of new facilities, access to bicycles, and the delivery of motorist and cyclist safety campaigns, and other community safety initiatives	Lead: Sustainability and Strategic Transport Branch  Yarra Youth Services Young people Community agencies Youth service providers Local businesses Schools	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New

## **GOAL 6: SERVICES ARE INTEGRATED AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS ARE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED**

**OUTCOME:** City of Yarra is committed to working in partnership with young people and their families, schools, community agencies, youth service providers and Federal and State Government to ensure a robust and integrated service system for young people that foster and promotes enhanced health and wellbeing outcomes for young people.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
6.1 Continue to facilitate the Yarra Youth Providers Network and the Yarra Youth Advisory Committee to ensure that service providers across Yarra have opportunities to share information, network and provide strategic input into Council policies	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Young people Youth Ambassadors Community agencies Youth service providers Department of Human Services Schools and higher education providers	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New
6.2 Work across Council and with other government bodies, local organisations and community agencies to ensure the planning and delivery of locally-based, integrated responses to the identified needs of young people especially those that are disadvantaged	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Council Branches Young people Community agencies Youth service providers Department of Human Services (DHS) Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing
6.3 Support local and targeted youth and other relevant networks and forums across Yarra and explore opportunities for young people, parents, guardians and community members to be involved in, and contribute	Lead: Yarra Youth Services and Community and Corporate Planning Branch  Community agencies Youth service providers Department of Human Services (DHS) Families, carers and guardians	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing
6.4 Maintain and build partnerships with community agencies, schools and youth service providers to improve the sharing of information, expertise and knowledge	Lead: Yarra Youth Services  Community agencies Youth service providers Schools Department of Human Services (DHS) Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES
6.5 Monitor emerging trends for young people and the sector, and continue to undertake research to identify and better understand the developmental needs and transition points for young people in Yarra	<p>Lead: Yarra Youth Services, Community and Corporate Planning Branches</p> <p>Community agencies Youth service providers Department of Human Services (DHS) Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) Research institutes and universities</p>	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing
6.6 Build partnerships with stakeholders to improve data collection and build capacity to undertake, monitor and evaluate services and programs for young people.	<p>Lead: Yarra Youth Services,</p> <p>Community and Corporate Planning Branch Community agencies Youth service providers Department of Human Services (DHS) Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)</p>	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing
6.7 Contribute to Federal and State government policies and planning for young people, and advocate for funding for programs and innovation	<p>Lead: Council Branches</p> <p>Federal &amp; State Government Departments Young people Community agencies Youth service providers</p>	Year 1, 2, 3	Existing/New