

# YOUNG DARWIN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the Larrakia people who are the traditional owners of the land. We pay our respects to all Larrakia people, past and present. We are also committed to working with the Larrakia people to care for this land and sea for our shared benefit and future.

## OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Council acknowledges and thanks the Frank Team Pty. Ltd. and the Youth Advisory Committee for the development of this document.

Council sincerely thanks its staff and community members that have contributed to the development of *Young Darwin 2016 – 2021*.

## YOUNG DARWIN 2016 – 2021 CAN BE ACCESSED AS A LIVING DOCUMENT THAT IS REVIEWED AND AMENDED ANNUALLY.

*Cover photo by Iona Francis, winner of the #YoungDarwin15 LAUNCH Youth Instagram competition. See more of Iona's photographic work on her Instagram account, @memoriamlens or memoriamlens.com*

For further information, visit [darwin.nt.gov.au](http://darwin.nt.gov.au) or contact the Youth Services Team on (08) 8930 0635



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# “CONNECTIVITY AND BELONGING”

I am very proud to preface Council’s 2016 – 2021 vision for young Darwin. As a whole, we are a young, vibrant and growing city with a population of over 13, 000 young people who each experience their daily lives uniquely and who are now also facing a range of opportunities and challenges not seen before.



Over the past two years, Council has talked with over 1000 local young people, as well as agencies, parents, carers and community groups to understand young Darwin and to create a genuine long term vision for a healthy, active, safe and connected population of young people.

This plan is a culmination of extensive research and engagement with young people through vox-pop interviews, community meetings, online surveys, focus group discussions, school consultations and inter-agency activities that have helped accurately identify local priorities for action.

As Council’s third youth strategy, we continue to build on achievements, whilst seizing new opportunities to develop and capitalise on youth friendly facilities, deliver responsive programs and advocate for youth input into Council and community issues.

We are Australia’s youngest city and also home to Australia’s youngest workforce. Young Darwin is a vital feature of our vibrant city’s present and future. We understand how crucial it is to ensure young Darwin are listened to, connected and resourced in a way that instills a sense of belonging, pride and community connection. We are committed to investing in young Darwin as a means of investing in the future prosperity of our city.

Through this plan we will be innovative and responsive in our development of services, advocacy, partnerships, facilities and programs that support our young people to thrive, grow and prosper in our city. Council will realise this vision through its continued commitment to create a youth friendly city that enables young people to recreate, belong, participate and innovate.

**Katrina Fong Lim**  
**LORD MAYOR**

# COUNCIL'S VISION

*Young Darwin 2016 – 2021* is informed by extensive community consultations, policy and literature reviews, and best practice examples from around the globe. We have consulted with over 1000 young Darwin residents in school, Council and community settings. We have also worked closely with the youth sector, relevant Council divisions, parents and carers, education and justice agencies.

Young people are now faced with a myriad of opportunities and challenges not seen before with a rapidly changing digital world in which young people and online communication are inextricably linked, combined with tough transition times and a changing future of work. Council recognises the need to invest more in responsive and innovative

programs and facilities that connect young people flexibly and collaboratively to local and global opportunities to be active and involved and to unlock their potential.

We need to work in partnership to help prepare young people for the future, adapt, grow and learn in authentic, collaborative and responsive programs and community settings.

*Young Darwin 2016 – 2021* articulates a vision for Council to plan innovative and responsive solutions to ensure young people are connected in their daily lives and empowered and excited by the future.

## WHY HAVE A YOUTH STRATEGY?

Setting our road map over the next five years is essential in helping address the needs, expectations and aspirations of local young people and to ensure young people are consulted and serviced in a more coordinated manner.

## COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT

- Ensure that we are complimenting existing services, rather than duplicating
- Enable us to review our progress annually. In other words, keep us on track for delivering what we promised
- Improve the community's understanding of key issues impacting young people and their contribution to community life
- Set out a pathway for Council and community to join together in supporting young Darwin



# WHAT WE HAVE DELIVERED SINCE THE LAST YOUTH STRATEGY

## **YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC)**

- We continue to work closely with the YAC to ensure that young people's views are represented in all youth and Council initiatives.
- 10 meetings per year are held
- We actively access YAC to provide advice on issues relating to young people; and
- YAC organises and holds youth designed and youth defined events throughout the year

## **• THE YOUTH SERVICES TEAM IS NOW FULLY SUPPORTED BY THREE STAFF MEMBERS (TRAINEE INCLUDED)**

## **THE CREATION OF THE LAUNCH PROGRAM, OUR PRIMARY YOUTH PARTICIPATION PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, BY YOUNG PEOPLE. ANNUALLY IT PRESENTS A PROGRAM OF TRAINING, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS INCLUDING:**

- LAUNCH pop up cinema program
- LAUNCH youth events training program
- LAUNCH emerging producer training program
- LAUNCH in the suburbs event program
- THE AWARD-WINNING GRIND ONLINE YOUTH MAG
- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUTH ARTIST BANK, TALENTED YOUNG THINGS, ONLINE TO FACILITATE THE ENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG EMERGING ARTISTS, MUSICIANS AND EVENTS STAFF

## **• A YOUNG WOMEN'S SEXUAL HEALTH PROGRAM DELIVERED OVER 12 MONTHS IN 2010 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MISSION AUSTRALIA**

## **• THE PROVISION OF EASILY ACCESSIBLE SERVICE INFORMATION FOR BOTH YOUTH AND YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS**

## **INCREASED USE OF ONLINE PLATFORMS, INCLUDING:**

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Online forums

## **• A 500K UPGRADE OF JINGILI SKATE PARK**

## **PURCHASE OF MOBILE, EVENT WI-FI CAPABILITY IN THE GIG GEAR INITIATIVE**

- The construction and design of a Youth Activity Kit (YAK) trailer to house PA equipment and event resources
- The construction of a stage trailer that can be accessed by community groups
- The acquisition of PA equipment for hire to youth and community groups. The PA equipment is readily available for use by community organisations and is booked regularly
- THE CREATION OF THE 'GET THAT JOB' EMPLOYMENT PATHWAY AND JOB SKILLS PROGRAM



# PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION IN THIS PLAN ARE RESPONSES TO ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN OUR ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PROCESS.

This plan will commit to delivering on these issues through facilitating and supporting initiatives that encourage young people to feel safe, connected, informed, heard and positively engaged in their communities.

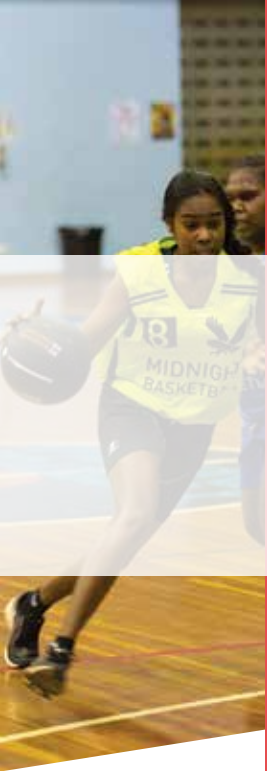
*Young Darwin 2016 - 2021* is based on four priority areas that will guide everything we do and form the basis of our work and commitment to young Darwin.

**KEEPING ACTIVE  
AND HEALTHY**

**FEELING CONFIDENT  
AND CAPABLE**

**SUPPORTING CREATIVITY  
AND THE ARTS**

**STAYING SAFE  
AND CONNECTED**



## ***PRIORITY 1: KEEPING HEALTHY AND ACTIVE***

Council is committed to promoting equal access to sport and leisure facilities, strengthening community connections through celebrations of diversity and self-expression. Our objective is to encourage a community where young people are supported and resourced to enjoy a safe, healthy and active lifestyle.

### ***GOAL 1.1***

Deliver a sustainable year round program of youth focussed recreation and leisure activities

### ***GOAL 1.2***

Develop, identify and maintain high quality youth friendly facilities

### ***GOAL 1.3***

Encourage and support programs and events that celebrate diversity, identity and self-expression

### ***GOAL 1.4***

Support delivery of youth defined and youth designed events through provision of low cost and in-kind community event resources

### ***GOAL 1.5***

Facilitate and encourage initiatives that address barriers to participation in sport

### ***GOAL 1.6***

Work collaboratively to improve health literacy of young people (and their families)



## ***PRIORITY 2: FEELING CONFIDENT AND CAPABLE***

We will work with local partners to create opportunities that support young people to be prepared for and excited by their future.

We will provide increased access to quality employment, training and entrepreneurial pathways that address diverse and distinct needs of young Darwin.

### ***GOAL 2.1***

Increase and promote education, training and employment opportunities

### ***GOAL 2.2***

Promote positive representations of young people through online and print media platforms

### ***GOAL 2.3***

Facilitate and encourage increased access to office and incubation space

### ***GOAL 2.4***

Encourage and facilitate initiatives that promote digital communication and literacy

### ***GOAL 2.5***

Identify and support emerging leaders in enterprise and small business development

### ***GOAL 2.6***

Encourage and facilitate initiatives that promote Indigenous leadership and participation



## ***PRIORITY 3: SUPPORTING CREATIVITY AND THE ARTS***

Council will work to ensure all young people can access and enjoy a vibrant and creative Darwin that supports innovation and offers increased professional opportunities.

### ***GOAL 3.1***


Deliver a sustainable annual program of artistic and cultural youth friendly events

### ***GOAL 3.2***

Access to physical spaces for young people to grow ideas, rehearse, create and showcase their work

### ***GOAL 3.3***

Support and encourage leadership and recognition opportunities for local artists and organisations



## ***PRIORITY 4: STAYING SAFE AND CONNECTED***

Our objective is to create a community where young people experience Darwin as a safe and connected place where they can get where they need to go, safely and can easily access youth friendly facilities that are flexible and inclusive.

### ***GOAL 4.1***

To ensure young people are positively engaged in planning, design and activation of public spaces

### ***GOAL 4.2***

To develop and facilitate community collaboration and partnerships

### ***GOAL 4.3***

To ensure adequate lighting of active recreation, sporting and transport facilities such as cycle ways, ovals and skate parks

### ***GOAL 4.4***

To work collaboratively on programs that contribute to a safer community

### ***GOAL 4.5***

To advocate for safer and more reliable late night transport options

### ***GOAL 4.6***

To facilitate initiatives that promote and encourage connectivity



# SNAPSHOT OF YOUNG DARWIN

## WHERE DO WE LIVE?

### 12-17 YEARS

THE FIVE AREAS WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF 12-17 YR-OLDS WERE:

Karama (11.0%)  
Ludmilla - RAAF Base - The Narrows (10.1%)  
Anula (9.9%)  
Berrimah - Coonawarra - Winnellie (9.7%)  
Wulagi (9.6%)

### 18-24 YEARS

THE FIVE AREAS WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF 18- 24 YR-OLDS WERE:

Darwin (16.4%)  
Berrimah - Coonawarra - Winnellie (16.3%)  
Stuart Park (13.5%)  
Coconut Grove (11.4%)  
Parap - Woolner - Bayview (10.7%)

† In 2013 it is estimated that 7.8% of City of Darwin's population were aged 12 to 17 years

In 2013 it is estimated that 10.0% of City of Darwin's population was aged between 18 and 24 years compared to 10.4% in Greater Darwin. While City of Darwin had a lower proportion of people aged 18 to 24 years, it is important to note that this varied across the City. Proportions ranged from a low of 7.3% in Wulagi to a high of 16.4% in Darwin.

# HOW OLD ARE WE?

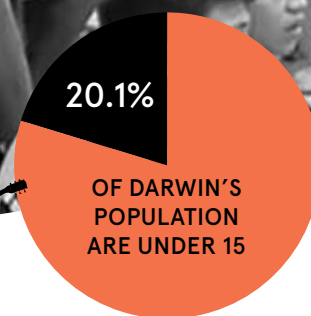
## DISABILITY & CARING

328

Young people aged 18-24 stated that they PROVIDE UNPAID CARE or assistance to loved ones at home

130

Young people aged 10-19 stated they NEEDED HELP with daily tasks DUE TO A DISABILITY



1/4

OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED  
BETWEEN 15-24 YEARS  
LIVING IN DARWIN WERE  
BORN OVERSEAS

## DIVERSE BELIEFS

MANY YOUNG PEOPLE IN DARWIN ARE CONNECTED TO DIVERSE RELIGIONS, VALUES AND BELIEF SYSTEMS. GROWING FAITHS INCLUDE:

**HINDUISM**  
+721 PERSONS

**ANGLICAN**  
+648 PERSONS

**CHRISTIAN**  
+685 PERSONS

**WESTERN (ROMAN)  
CATHOLIC**  
+731 PERSONS

**DARWIN'S  
POPULATION** → **74%**

**WORKING AGE**

**13,014**

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-24  
RESIDE IN THE CITY OF DARWIN\*

THAT ACCOUNTS FOR  
17% OF THE POPULATION



# WE LOVE DARWIN!

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERALL HAVE TOLD US THEY LOVE LIVING IN DARWIN FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS...



GOOD SCHOOLS

"HEAPS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED IN THE LOCAL ARTS SCENE"



ACCESSING SKATE PARKS AT NIGHT



BASSINTHEGRASS AND LIVE MUSIC GIGS



GEOCACHING



SKATE WORLD

CHILLING OUT AT THE MARKETS



BONFIRES ON THE BEACH



TROPICAL COASTAL LIFESTYLE



"THE SUNSETS AND CHILLING WITH FRIENDS AT THE FORESHORE"



BIKE RIDING WITH MATES



# WHO WE TALKED TO

## A VITAL PART OF DEVELOPING YOUNG DARWIN 2016 – 2021 WAS CAPTURING MEANINGFUL FEEDBACK FROM THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS:

- Young people aged between 12-25
- Parents/Carers
- Non-government service providers
- Education institutions
- Peak bodies
- Health institutions
- Faith-based organisations
- Department of Corrections
- Defence organisations
- Government bodies
- Youth roundtables and committees

City of Darwin produced a Youth Feedback Survey that sought views and opinions of young people about what they liked about Darwin and what issues they considered to be most important to them and their peers.

## THE SURVEY COVERED SIX DOMAINS OF COMMUNITY WELL-BEING:

- Health and Well-being
- Education and Employment
- Information Access
- Arts and Culture
- Sport and Leisure
- Access and Safety

Objectives of our consultations were to identify key planning priorities to work toward a healthy, connected, active and resilient young Darwin.



## HOW AND WHERE WE TALKED:

- 198 face-to-face surveys utilising audience response system during school visits
- 60 face-to-face interviews with young people at the Royal Darwin Show
- 308 written surveys filled out by young people through audience response systems in schools
- In-school and external issue-based focus group discussions
- 65 online surveys distributed to local youth service providers
- Face-to-face interviews with service providers
- Face-to-face interviews and group discussions with youth committees and youth groups
- Phone consultations with service providers

## WE SPOKE TO YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12 TO 25, REPRESENTING MANY DIVERSE GROUPS. WE SPOKE TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO:

- Identified as Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander (approximately 10.03% of young people)
- Were currently residing in Don Dale Detention Centre (approximately 2.65 % of young people)
- Were currently living in the Darwin Municipality (approximately 95% of young people)



# GUIDING POLICIES – THE BIGGER PICTURE

YOUNG DARWIN 2016 – 2021 IS GUIDED BY AN INTEGRATED PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND LINKED TO KEY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS.



## CONNECTING TO OTHER COUNCIL PLANS

*Young Darwin 2016 – 2021* is strategically linked to the following goals as per the City of Darwin Strategic Plan *Evolving Darwin: Towards 2020*.

- Collaborative, inclusive and connected community
- Vibrant, flexible and tropical lifestyle
- Environmentally sustainable city
- Historic and culturally rich city
- Effective and responsible governance

The following Council plans are key to the implementation of this document. These links enable us to ensure a whole of Council approach to implementing strategies in this plan.

- Safer Vibrant Darwin Plan 2016 – 2019
- City of Darwin Digital Strategy
- Community Access Plan
- Recreation Services Sports Field Plan
- Climate Change Action Plan
- City of Darwin Workforce Participation Plan

## NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT – GUIDING POLICIES

- Department of Corrections – Youth Justice Framework
- Office of Youth Affairs – Youth Participation Framework
- Northern Territory Government – Framing the Future Blueprint
- Northern Territory Government – A Sport and Active Recreation Master Plan for the Northern Territory
- NT Health, Nutrition and Physical Activity Strategy 2015 – 2020
- Department of Sport and Recreation Corporate Plan 2015 – 2016
- Department Of Education – Supporting Students In Learning

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT – GUIDING POLICIES

- 2014 National Youth Strategy for Young Australians
- Closing the Gap & National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023
- National Mental Health Strategy 2014
- National Social Inclusion Agenda 2013
- National Drug Strategy
- Mission Australia Youth Survey 2015
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Australian Institute Of Health And Welfare – Young Australians: Their Health And Well-Being Report 2011

MID BASKET  
NIGHT BALL

ALTHOUGH COUNCIL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ISSUES ON THE ADVOCACY AGENDA, WE ARE THE SPHERE OF GOVERNMENT CLOSEST TO OUR COMMUNITY, AND DO HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY.

## THE ADVOCACY AGENDA

### KEY ISSUES IMPACTING YOUNG DARWIN

- In the Northern Territory, 97% of young people in detention are Indigenous
- Homelessness in the Northern Territory is, per capita, 15 times higher than the rest of Australia
- Absence of flexible learning programs for young parents to finish Year 10 and Year 12
- Youth suicide rates in the Northern Territory are over twice the national average
- In the Northern Territory, teenage birth rates are four times higher than any other state in Australia
- There are great disparities in work and study outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people
- Health and well-being outcomes are significantly inequitable between Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people

97%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN DETENTION  
ARE INDIGENOUS

HOMELESSNESS  
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NT SUICIDE  
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TIMES**  
HIGHER THAN  
THE REST OF  
AUSTRALIA



NT TEENAGE  
BIRTH RATES  
ARE 4 TIMES HIGHER  
THAN ANY OTHER STATE



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# THANK YOU!

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STAFF FROM TURN IT UP YOUTH MAG

LOCAL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

DARWIN WORKING WITH YOUTH  
NETWORK

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, PARENTS  
CARERS AND YOUTH SERVICE  
PROVIDERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN  
CONSULTATIONS



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For further information, visit [LAUNCHDarwin.com.au](http://LAUNCHDarwin.com.au)  
or contact the Youth Services Team on (08) 8930 0635  
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**LA  
UN  
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**CITY OF  
DARWIN**

