

Attachments

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

Under Separate Cover

Thursday, 13 November 2025



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9.4 Co-Design Workshop Preparation

Attachment 3 Youth Strategy 2022-2026 4



YOUTH STRATEGY 2022-2026



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Acknowledgement of Country

City of Darwin acknowledges the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of all the land and waters of the Greater Darwin region.

To the Larrakia, Darwin is known as Garramilla. The original language of the Larrakia is Gulumirgin (pronounced Goo-loo-midgin).

Often referred to as "Saltwater People", the Larrakia lived, loved, birthed, hunted and survived a life on pristine coastal and inland areas. Established 'song lines' connecting Larrakia people to Country penetrate throughout their land and sea, allowing stories and histories to be told and retold for future generations. Scientific evidence dates Aboriginal presence in northern Australia to 60,000 years.

The Larrakia culture and identity is rich and vibrant. In the footsteps of the Larrakia people, City of Darwin will continue to foster this culture and identity by creating a vibrant community together.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRAKIA NATION





Lord Mayor's Message

City of Darwin wants our city to be a place where young people are supported to achieve their full potential.

To assist them, we have developed the City of Darwin Youth Strategy 2022-2026. Importantly, we ensured the development of the strategy, was guided by young people from Darwin.

At the heart of our 2022-2026 strategy are four core values young people believe will best assist them in achieving their full potential. Young people value: Respect, Safety, Opportunity, and Connection. These values will be central to Council's work with young people into the future.

It is essential we recognise the many elements that make Darwin the city it is, as we know these are factors which impact on the lives of young people.

Darwin is unique among Australian cities. We live on the traditional lands of the Larrakia, who have a deep and abiding connection to this place, Garramilla, their country and culture. In addition to our rich Indigenous history Darwin is also affected by our geographic location. We are closer to the cities of South-East Asia than we are to Australia's southern capitals.

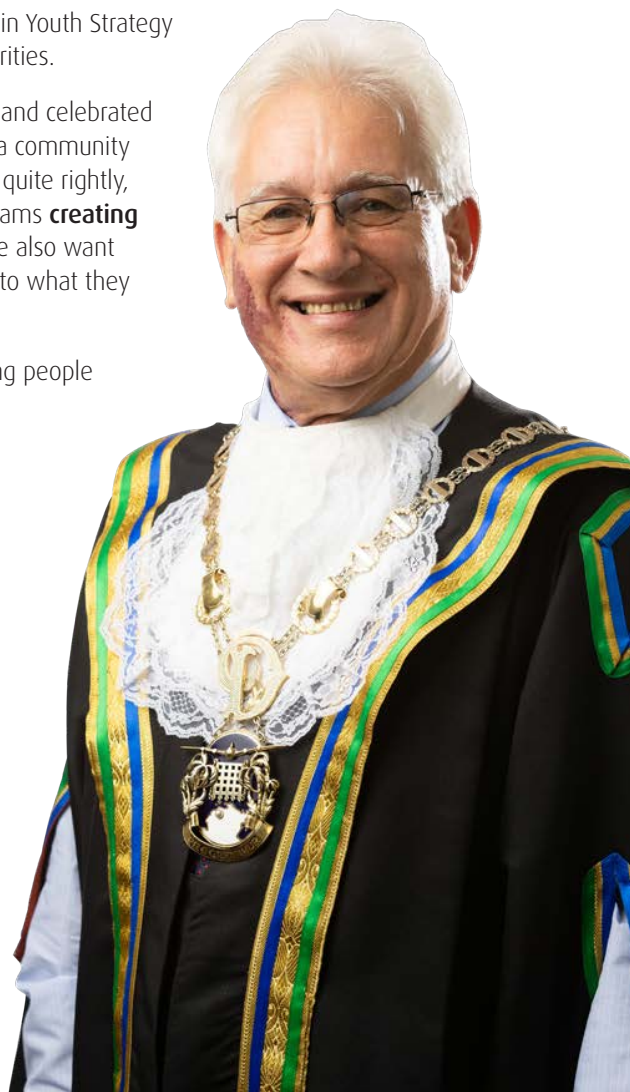
These are just some of the elements feeding the incredible diversity of Darwin. Our city has diverse histories, and diverse experiences. We must always treasure and embrace our diversity.

Darwin is different and this individuality is embraced in Youth Strategy 2022-2026, which has been distilled into four key priorities.

Young people want Darwin's diversity acknowledged and celebrated so **everyone belongs**. Young people want to live in a community where they feel **safe and supported**. Young people, quite rightly, expect access to quality activities, services, and programs **creating pathways** to better navigate their lives. Young people also want us all **working together** to ensure they have access to what they need when they need it.

We look forward to working with you to provide young people with the community they need and deserve.

THE HON LORD MAYOR KON VATSKALIS



City of Darwin's Strategic Planning Framework

City of Darwin's strategic planning framework provides the basis for the setting and delivery of Council's priorities. *Youth Strategy 2022-2026* informs the delivery of programs within this strategic planning framework.



Darwin 2030 *City for People. City of Colour.*

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



**A capital city with best practice
and sustainable infrastructure**



A safe, liveable and healthy city



A cool, clean and green city



A smart and prosperous city



A vibrant and creative city

UNDERPINNED BY CITY OF DARWIN'S GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

**Vision
and Culture**

**Roles and
Relationships**

**Decision
Making and
Management**

Accountability

Our Community Values

Diversity and Acceptance

Embrace our identity through building on our multicultural and local heritage, creating a sense of belonging

Choice of Lifestyle

Maintain our unique laid-back lifestyle, through a connected, active and safe community

Environment

Integrated long-term planning, including sustainable and renewable energy resources, recycling and economically sound initiatives.

Sense of community

Recognise, enhance and celebrate our identity through active participation within the community.

Equality

Leadership that adopts and maintains collaborative and transparent decision making, involving listening and responding to the community as a whole.

City of Darwin's Role

Council fulfils several important roles in being responsive to the needs, interests and aspirations of the community. For the purposes of this plan, the roles of Council have been defined as:

**Provider**

Directly delivering services

**Funder**

Funding other organisations to deliver services

**Regulator**

Regulating some public activities through legislation

**Partner**

Forming partnerships and strategic alliances with other parties in the interests of the community

**Facilitator**

Assisting others to be involved in activities by bringing groups and interested parties together

**Advocate**

Promoting the interests of the community to decision makers and influencers



About the Youth Strategy

The renewal of our youth strategy is a time to pause, reflect and listen to what our community is telling us. It is a time to celebrate and continue what works, and rethink what doesn't.

This strategy outlines the concerns and needs of our community and articulates our commitment to address them. It guides the work we undertake and reminds us to centre the voice of our community in the decisions we make.

City of Darwin is active in a range of roles in our community, not just in program delivery but also as a partner, advocate, funder and facilitator. This strategy seeks to articulate how we can act most effectively in those roles to support the aspirations of our community.

Youth Strategy 2022-2026 has a strong focus on partnerships, collaboration and connectivity. Through consultation, our community has identified important soft and hard infrastructure that they would like to see developed. Delivery of these projects will require a coordinated effort. This is big picture work where City of Darwin can provide leadership and play a valued role.

A key difference for the new strategy is a commitment to hold an annual youth forum to identify key priorities for the following year's Action Plan. The forum will be timed to coincide with budget cycles to ensure resource allocation can be considered by Council.

City of Darwin will track the delivery of our *Youth Strategy 2022-2026* through an Evaluation Framework.

“City of Darwin’s youth strategy focuses on 12-25 year olds, in alignment with the age spectrum used to define ‘young people’ at national and territory levels.”





City of Darwin is committed to supporting the interests and aspirations of our young people. We deliver on this in a wide variety of ways including opportunities to elevate and celebrate the achievements of young people as well as supporting their development and growth. Our Youth Programs team operate within a community development and capacity building framework. We bring an intergenerational justice lens to the work of City of Darwin.

In 2013 City of Darwin introduced LAUNCH as an umbrella brand for our youth activities and events. Since then LAUNCH has expanded considerably to offer a diverse range of recreational, cultural and developmental activities where young people can explore their interests and identity. LAUNCH also provides a platform for young people to develop and showcase their skills as cultural entrepreneurs through LAUNCH Media and the LAUNCH Emerging Producer Program. These programs provide opportunities for young people to lead delivery of youth focused events and media-based communications with the support of mentors and City of Darwin resources.

Youth Programs

City of Darwin funds two full time staff in our Youth Programs team plus a trainee position. Our trainee is recruited every two years and they receive strong support including mentoring and development opportunities from our full time staff. City of Darwin allocates an annual budget of \$488,451 including salaries, to deliver on the priorities laid out in our Strategy.

Our Youth Programs team regularly partner with other staff teams to support young people's participation, provide specialist advice and embed youth positive approaches at City of Darwin.

Young Citizen of the Year

As part of our Citizen of the Year program this annual award is presented to a young person who has made a significant contribution to the Darwin community and provided inspiration to others. Awardees are commemorated on a plaque in the City of Darwin Civic Centre foyer.

Rising Star Award

Delivering on our celebration of young people, each year the Lord Mayor presents the Rising Star Award to a young person with a disability who makes an on-going contribution advocating for the rights and well-being of people with a disability.



Libraries

For young readers and writers our four libraries offer ebooks and emagazines, author talks and writing workshops as well as the annual Young Territory Author Awards writing competition and Kids Reading Choice Awards (KROC). Our libraries host regular activities including events for National Youth Week and Science Week as well as the annual Geektacular. Each of our four libraries offer fortnightly STEAM Zones as well as take home STEAM Kits. STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths.

Casuarina Library has quiet areas to work which are great for students or young entrepreneurs. All our libraries offer access to computers, iPads and Wi-Fi, as well as printing and scanning facilities. These are regularly used by young people across the municipality to support both study and recreation.

Community Centres

City of Darwin has three Community Centres, located in Lyons, Malak and Nightcliff, offering meeting and event spaces to hire. We also provide venue partnerships and subsidies to youth service providers such as:

- Identity, Belonging and Connection's *Yarning through the Fire*
- Red Cross' *SHAK to the Streetz*
- Corrugated Iron Youth Arts
- Darwin Working with Youth Network (DARWWYN)

Jingili Watergardens Skate Park

Centrally located, this mid-size skate park is regularly activated with events and activities via our LAUNCH Skate program. Located close to public transport and suitable for rollerskaters, skateboarders, scooter riders and BMX riders of all ages and abilities, it is targeted mainly at novice-intermediate levels, complementing the more challenging offerings at Leanyer Skate Park.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

City of Darwin maintains a range of sporting facilities that are widely used for both recreation and competitive sports. Apart from pools, these are provided free to the community and are regularly used by young people across the municipality (see illustration above).

Programming Framework

City of Darwin's Youth Programs team delivers on the priorities of our youth strategy. Each strategy further refines our approach to program delivery. Our programming framework over the course of the last strategy saw the team develop and deliver programs that:

- Offered engagement along the spectrum from passive participation as audience through to paid employment as facilitator, artist or producer
- Provided opportunities for young people to develop skills and demonstrate expertise
- Developed connection, skills and capacity in preference to one-off entertainment
- Showcased young people's positive contributions to our community
- Promoted healthy habits and access to mentors and role models
- Appealed to the diverse interests and needs of young people
- Contributed to a consistent, annual calendar of regular activities, programs and events

Core Services

Youth Advisory Committee

City of Darwin's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) provided advice on youth related matters at their monthly meetings. YAC organised the annual Quiz for Dili fundraiser for Action for Change Foundation and in 2018 developed Council's first Youth Charter. Between 2016 and 2021, more than 30 young people served as members.

Darwin Working with Youth Network (DARWWYN)

Coordinated and facilitated monthly meetings and circulation of weekly e-news for youth and community sector workers. Delivered a Data Party and several professional development and network sessions to build sector capacity.

Youth Info Card

Each year we produced and distributed a business card sized, multi-page concertina with listings of legal, health, accommodation, counselling, recreation, and alcohol and other drug services. Youth Info Cards were distributed through schools and youth services across Darwin.

Partnerships

We provided financial and inkind support for local organisations to deliver youth programming including Darwin Fringe Festival's Secret Art, Seabreeze Youth Stage, NTEEN Fashion Festival, Battle of the School Bands and Drive Safe Bagot.



LAUNCH Social Media and Website

Increased promotion of local youth events, activities and services across LAUNCH's web and social media platforms.





LAUNCH

LAUNCH Night Series (formerly known as Midnight Basketball)

Evolved LAUNCH Night Series into a multi-sports program that provided a safe space on Saturday nights for young people 12-17 years. Delivered a dozen four to eight week tournaments since 2015 supported by 15-20 community volunteers each night.

LAUNCH Skate

Grew our skate program into an annual calendar of events which included fortnightly Skate Nights at Jingili, Park Skating 101 (school holiday workshops), biannual Street Heat skate competitions, International Women's Day Skate, Go Skate Day and more.

LAUNCH Media

Mentored and supported young people to develop their media skills while highlighting the positive contributions young people make to our community. Their work was showcased on LAUNCH's social media channels and included coverage of key community events such as Youth Week, NAIDOC Week, Darwin Pride, Seabreeze and more.

LAUNCH Emerging Event Producer Program

Our event producer mentoring program delivered events by and for young people including Sounds@Sunset, Sounds@Mindil, pop ups at Nightcliff and Casuarina pools, a scavenger hunt, cooking competition and Geektacular in partnership with City of Darwin libraries.

Get That Job

Reframed the Get That Job school holiday workshop series to offer resume builders and accredited courses such as first aid and white cards, focussing on opportunities that support workforce entry pathways. 40 Get That Job workshops delivered since 2016.

NT Youth Week

Each year we delivered multiple events including the annual calendar highlight, Couch Surfing, in partnership with Anglicare NT. Profiled young artists through sponsorship of the Off The Leash cover.

Freelance Work for Young Creatives

Each year from 2016-2021 we engaged approximately 50 young people in paid roles as emerging producers, artists, designers, sound technicians, workshop facilitators, performers, photographers, videographers, MCs and event assistants. This work provided opportunities to contribute positively to the community, showcase abilities and develop micro-enterprise skills.

Moving Forward

Young Darwin 2016-2021 Youth Strategy was an ambitious document with a wide range of detailed deliverables. Reflecting on its development and delivery helped shape our new strategy. Key learnings integrated into the 2022-2026 strategy include:

- clearly communicating our role to the community and key partners
- greater flexibility by including specific activities in the annually reviewed Action Plan instead of the Strategic Plan
- regular opportunities for young people to review and contribute to the Action Plan
- outsourcing programs so staff can apply their knowledge and expertise to bigger picture projects such as advocacy and the identification of soft and hard infrastructure needs

Young People Told Us

Through surveys, one-on-one meetings and group workshops 450 community members participated in consultations to develop this strategy. Young people who completed our survey told us -



Top three reasons why they love Darwin:

- Relaxed lifestyle 65.8%
- Access to nature 39.7%
- Multicultural community 39.4%

Main things they don't love about living in Darwin:

- Humidity 64.3%
- Distance from other capital cities in Australia 31%
- Access to diverse job/education opportunities 30.4%
- Everything closes early 30.4%



Favourite three places to visit:

- Casuarina Square 39.7%
- Darwin Waterfront 35.9%
- Nightcliff foreshore 29.3%

Preferred locations for community events:

- Darwin Waterfront 60%
- Mindil Beach Markets 44.6%
- Darwin City 39.7%



Young people would like to see more:

- Activities and events 64.3%
- Youth friendly venues 44%
- Job opportunities 44%

The types of events and activities young people want to see more of are:

- Festivals 66.3%
- Live music events 58.8%
- Sport for fun 41.7%



“What are the most important issues for you as a young person living in Darwin?”



- Mental Health
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Social and support networks
- Range of activities
- Crime and violence
- Employment opportunities
- Safe spaces for young people
- Education and school
- Safety

“What would you like to see change for young people in Darwin over the next five years?”

- ↑ Better access to information about activities, events and services
- ↑ Increased connection to other young people, role models and community
- ↑ Diverse range of contemporary, quality programs and activities
- ↑ Increased range of employment opportunities
- ↑ Multiple safe spaces and facilities for young people
- ↑ Better education options
- ↑ To feel safer



- ↓ Less alcohol and drug use
- ↓ Less young people in detention / on the streets at night

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This strategy is for 12-25 year olds, in alignment with the age spectrum used to define 'young people' at the national and territory levels. Within this age bracket there are three distinct groups in different stages of life and development. Each age group requires unique programming and careful consideration of their varied accessibility needs. Some of the things they told us about their distinct needs and interests include:

12-13 years old

Survey responses for this age group show their favourites spaces were indoors, highlighting Casuarina Shopping Centre and then Flip Out, Ice Skating and King Pin precinct. Significant concern about safety for young people was raised by this cohort, and the need for safe and affordable places to hang out. This group mostly travelled by car driven by someone else.

They are particularly interested in sport for fun and festivals, in safe and managed places.



“I am often stuck on what to do. Yes, there are places like Kingpin and Flip Out, but they cost money. During the day, when it is not the dry season, it is very hot outside ... People then go to Casuarina in the aircon and then they spend money. It would be nice for a place to go and be active and cool without spending money and hang out with your friends.”

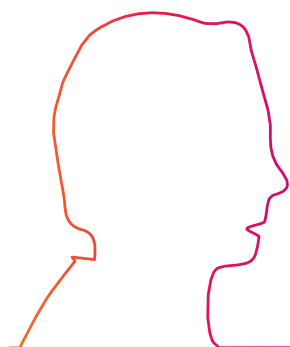
(12 year old - Millner)



14-17 years old

This group was beginning to think about leaving Darwin for educational or job opportunities and also to travel and see the world after finishing school. Their major concerns for young people were crime, mental health, and alcohol and other drugs.

This cohort often noted the desire for more information and access to services to explore everything from university offerings through to mental health support. They were also interested in more festivals and fun, sport-based activities. This group predominantly catches the bus.



“I know myself and others who have been made scared to go to certain events or places due to being bullied or a victim of a crime or simply being afraid of the possibility of becoming a victim of crime.”

(17 year old - Karama)

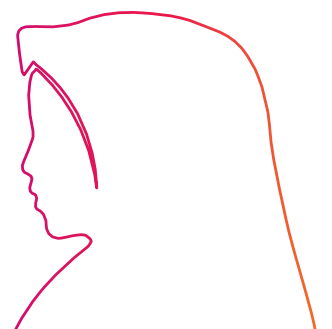
18-25 years old

Being able to attend 18+ events, this group has access to various other recreational options but is also at a stage where they are increasingly seeking employment opportunities and training pathways. Crime was their primary issue or concern.

This group predominantly travel in their own car and their favourite spots were the Darwin Waterfront and Nightcliff Foreshore. They would love to see more live music and festivals and more events at Mindil Beach. This cohort articulated a need for more leadership and mentoring opportunities across both professional and personal pursuits.

“I think if you're born here it's good to move away for a while and then come back so you appreciate it more.”

(22 year old - Cullen Bay)



Youth Strategy 2022-2026 Consultation Report, containing full details of the consultation process and outcomes is available at <https://engage.darwin.nt.gov.au/youth-strategy>

Youth Strategy 2022-2026

City of Darwin's Youth Programs' Purpose Statement:

Work collaboratively with young people, their families, and the broader community to create a city where young people are supported to achieve their potential.

Young People Value:

Respect, Safety, Opportunity, Connection

Priorities:



Everyone Belongs

Young people want to see the diversity of Darwin's community acknowledged and celebrated, and to be respected for their contribution to it.



Safe & Supported

Young people want to live in a community where they feel safe. They want vulnerable young people to be able to access the support they need in the short, medium and long term.



Creating Pathways

Young people are active, engaged and want access to a diverse range of high quality activities, programs and services. Through capacity and network building, young people are better equipped to navigate their lives.



Working Together

Young people need a stable, connected and well-resourced youth services sector to provide them with the support they need at all stages of their development.

Darwin 2030 CITY FOR PEOPLE. CITY OF COLOUR.

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Priority

1

Everyone Belongs

Young people want to see the diversity of Darwin's community acknowledged and celebrated, and to be respected for their contribution to it.

Everyone Belongs

Darwin is truly multicultural, an aspect of our city life that is greatly appreciated by young people. Key learnings from consultation highlighted a need for further commitment to support and celebrate this rich diversity.



Darwin has been developed on the traditional lands of the Larrakia people. The knowledge of country held by Elders is essential for current and future generations, and especially so for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people.



The Territory Families Regional Youth Service Framework¹ identifies culture and identity as key to the social and emotional wellbeing of a young person. Darwin is home to a culturally diverse community that includes a significant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population.



Young people in Darwin are a diverse demographic with different cultural, linguistic and religious identities, in addition to strong individual identities encompassing gender, sexuality, diverse abilities, education/employment ambitions and personal interests.



In Mission Australia's 2020 Youth Survey², Darwin young people noted significant occurrences of personal or observed unfair behaviour experienced by community members due to cultural or personal identity.



At times there can be negative press and unhelpful public dialogue about young people where neither their voices nor support needs are centred or considered.



"I find that it is a very unique experience, getting to be so close to such a large group of people and essentially two connections away from anyone (it's like two degrees of Darwin lmao) makes for a special way for us to grow up."

(17 year old - Karama)

"There are a small minority of young people who are doing the wrong thing, young people that do right or wrong are being thrown into the same category within some parts of the community."

(Parent)





Our Community Wants To See...

Darwin young people are embraced for their unique identities.

Our Commitment

Partner with young people, community groups and organisations that advocate for and support the diverse identities of young people.

City of Darwin's Role



For young people to feel that their community is proud of their achievements and understands their struggles.

Our Commitment

Highlight the positive contributions young people make to the community, and the range of activities and programs they are involved in.

City of Darwin's Role



For young people to be valued contributors to the diverse and interconnected community of Darwin.

Our Commitment

Deliver a program of events and activities that engages with young people's diverse needs and interests.

City of Darwin's Role



Ensure program participation reflects the rich diversity of Darwin's community.



For young people and the broader community to have a deeper understanding of Larrakia culture.

Our Commitment

Build on the partnership established with Larrakia Nation through delivery of the City of Darwin Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), while connecting more broadly with the Larrakia community.

City of Darwin's Role



Young people across Darwin's diverse communities have access to information about local opportunities.

Our Commitment

Develop relationships with services and organisations that can support information sharing with diverse young people.

City of Darwin's Role



Provider



Funder



Partner



Facilitator



Advocate

22

7.2%

of Darwin's 5-24 year olds are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander³

24%

of 12-24 year olds were born overseas, the most common birthplaces being the Philippines and the United Kingdom⁴

26%

of 12-24 year olds speak a language other than English at home; the most common languages are Filipino/Tagalog, Greek and Indigenous languages⁵



Priority

2

Safe & Supported

Young people want to live in a community where they feel safe. They want vulnerable young people to be able to access the support they need in the short, medium and long term.



Safe & Supported

Within Darwin there are young people who are vulnerable due to a range of personal, social and structural issues. City of Darwin has a role in advocating for, and supporting infrastructure development, community education and connection so young people can access the support they need.

-  At the time of publication there are no dedicated drop in facilities for young people within the Darwin municipality. This means young people do not have access to safe spaces that they can use to get basic needs such as food and housing met, connect with services and spend time with friends.
-  There are limited crisis accommodation options for young people, especially those under 15, or young people under 18 who are parenting or partnered.
-  Throughout the consultation young people identified significant concerns about alcohol and other drugs, mental health, and anti-social behaviour in public and residential spaces,
-  Community and youth services consultations highlighted significant gaps in youth outreach programs with referral pathways.

“There are many important issues for young people in Darwin, one being disengaged youth and crime. Young people are often caught up in inappropriate behaviour because there’s not enough being done to keep them out of trouble.”

(24 year old - Wagaman)



“There should be several youth-friendly spaces all around Darwin making it accessible to each individual rather than there being one place and everyone having to go out of their way to get there.”

(16 year old - Wulagi)



Our Community Wants To See...

A diverse network of spaces young people can access to support their varied needs.

Our Commitment

City of Darwin's Role

Advocate for and support the development of safe spaces for young people including venues that house a mix of services offering activities, outreach, referrals and case management.



Support use of City of Darwin's diverse network of facilities for delivery of programs for young people.



Young people have the knowledge and tools they need to manage the complexities of daily life.

Our Commitment

City of Darwin's Role

Develop multi-stakeholder partnerships and community relationships to provide young people with access to information and services about alcohol and other drugs, mental health, and other issues of concern.



A supportive community that understands the challenges young people face.

Our Commitment

City of Darwin's Role

Support ongoing community education around issues facing young people.



Community-based access points for vulnerable young people to connect to support services that reduce homelessness and alcohol and other drug misuse.

Our Commitment

City of Darwin's Role

Advocate for delivery of after-hours mobile outreach to connect with young people in public and community spaces.



Opportunities for preteens to participate in community life as they age into the youth demographic.

Our Commitment

City of Darwin's Role

Work with City of Darwin's Libraries and Children and Families teams to ensure equitable program offerings across the age spectrum.



Provider



Funder



Partner



Facilitator



Advocate

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90% of 18-24 year olds are employed either full or part time making Darwin's youth unemployment rate **5% less** than the Australian average⁷



80-85% of 12-24 year olds live in a house with an internet connection which is **5% less** than their peers in the rest of Australia⁸

Darwin 2030 CITY FOR PEOPLE. CITY OF COLOUR.

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*Priority*

3

Creating Pathways

Young people are active, engaged and want access to a diverse range of high quality activities, programs and services. Through capacity and network building opportunities, young people are better equipped to navigate their lives.

Creating Pathways

During consultation young people highlighted their keen interest in having access to a variety of personal and professional opportunities that provide connection to community, services and experiences.

- ✦ Darwin's lifestyle is connected to the seasons of the Top End and the natural environment of our coastlines, bushland and suburban green spaces. Two of the top three places nominated by young people as desired locations for events were outdoors and oceanside.
- ✦ LAUNCH is a clearly identified brand that produces high quality, youth-centric programs with and for young people. Many services, stakeholders and young people would like to see LAUNCH signature programs happening more.
- ✦ Service providers working with young people identified that the transition from education to employment can be difficult for some.
- ✦ Young people indicated that they want to expand their networks and connect with community members outside of their family and friend circles.
- ✦ The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is a long-term program of City of Darwin. There is an opportunity for this program to evolve to support young people to build their leadership skills and play a greater role in advocacy on issues that affect Darwin's wider youth population.



“Many young people feel uncertain about their future and the options available to them. Providing youth with knowledge on the various pathways available would ease this stress.”

(19 year old - Berrimah)

“While festivals and sport are great, not everyone is interested in that. A diversity of activities would be awesome.”

(17 year old - Muirhead)





Our Community Wants To See...

Young people with access to a diverse and accessible selection of activities and programs including bespoke offerings for specific age cohorts and special interest groups.

Our Commitment

City of Darwin's Role

Deliver a diverse range of programs through LAUNCH with increased focus on uniquely Darwin experiences, outdoor spaces and the natural environment.



Create unique and tailored opportunities that consider the diverse needs, interests and access requirements of young people across the 12-25 years age spectrum.



Develop partnerships to outsource event and activity programs, offering potential to diversify and extend activities, deepen existing relationships and expand networks.



Varied employment opportunities for young people.

Our Commitment

City of Darwin's Role

Support alternative employment pathways, building on existing traineeship programs with other offerings such as placements, work experience, school-based traineeships, volunteering, and mentoring.



Young people have a wide and diverse network of connections including to peers, supportive adults, role models and mentors.

Our Commitment

City of Darwin's Role

Facilitate peer to peer connection through the Youth Advisory Committee and LAUNCH programs.



Provide access to role models and mentors through program design and careful selection of facilitators.



Young people in leadership roles.

Our Commitment

City of Darwin's Role

Provide and advocate for opportunities for young leaders to develop skills through mentoring, capacity building and community partnerships.



Provider



Funder



Partner



Facilitator



Advocate



Berrimah and Marrara are Darwin's 'youngest' suburbs for 12-17 year olds and Brinkin and Casuarina for the 18-24 age bracket, most likely due to young people residing in these areas to attend high school and university⁹



Twice as many 12-17 year olds live in social housing and a third more of their peers live in rental housing when compared to the rest of Australia¹⁰



Priority

4

Working Together

Young people need a stable, connected, and well-resourced youth services sector to provide them with the support they need at all ages and stages.

Working Together

The consultation highlighted the important role City of Darwin has to play in supporting and advocating for the youth services sector. There is capacity for Darwin Working with Youth Network (DARWWYN)* to extend its reach by supporting opportunities for coordination, information access and strategic planning for the sector.

-  There is a strong desire from services, families and young people alike to have a clear regular format for communicating everything that is going on for young people in Darwin.
-  There are duplications in some youth programs, services and activities. There are also significant gaps in offerings for particular age groups, outreach and crisis services and long waiting lists for some services, particularly mental health.
-  The Northern Territory (NT) does not have a youth peak body, nor a whole of NT youth strategy.

* DARWWYN (Darwin Working with Youth Network) is a networking forum for youth services and youth sector workers, working with and for young people.



***“I never know what is happening.
Events should be more advertised!”***

(15 year old - Parap)

“A common theme I hear is boredom so I think it’s just about making sure PR campaigns are strong and youth engagement is encouraged - maybe through schools so they know what is going on, many have no idea of what is available to them or think most programs are directed at youth involved in anti-social behaviour or having a tough time rather than open to everyone.”

(Parent)





Our Community Wants To See...

A central online location for all that is going on for young people in Darwin.

Our Commitment

Work with partners to co-design a process for improved information sharing to young people, families and carers about what is going on in and around Darwin.

City of Darwin's Role



A stable and well connected youth sector with strong working relationships.

Our Commitment

Continue coordination and facilitation of DARWWYN meetings and e-newsletter.

City of Darwin's Role



Grow the relationship between DARWWYN and the education sector to support two-way sharing on emerging issues for young people.



A well-resourced, best practice youth services sector providing holistic responses to the needs of young people in the short, medium and long term.

Our Commitment

Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to advocate for a NT youth peak body providing research, direction and sector development as well as advocacy for young people.

City of Darwin's Role



Advocate for mapping of youth services, strategic needs analysis and future planning.



Young people's needs are embraced across Council and supported through internal and external partnerships

Our Commitment

Strengthen internal partnerships to support delivery of other Council strategies including -

- Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2022
- Library Strategy 2022-2024
- Climate Emergency Strategy
- Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2022
- Movement Strategy
- Arts Plan

City of Darwin's Role



Support delivery of the Northern Territory Government's Darwin Youth Action Plan through participation on the Darwin Local Action Group.



Provider



Funder



Partner



Facilitator



Advocate

Implementation Plan 2022-2026

The ongoing actions below are intended to be carried out across the life of the strategy. They will be reviewed regularly to ensure relevance.

A youth forum will be held annually to identify key priorities for the following year. The forum will be timed to coincide with budget cycles to ensure resource allocation can be considered by Council.

Ongoing Actions	Everyone Belongs	Safe & Supported	Creating Pathways	Working Together
Build relationships with youth services, education sector and families to support information sharing with young people	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grow capacity of LAUNCH media to be the key connector for information on events, services, life skills resources and employment opportunities for young people in Darwin	✓	✓	✓	✓
Build partnerships with support services to reduce barriers and ensure diverse participation in activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support delivery of the Reconciliation Action Plan and other Council strategies and plans	✓	✓	✓	✓
Review youth programming across Council to ensure equitable offerings for all ages and stages	✓		✓	✓
Educate the wider community on issues facing young people	✓	✓		✓
Monitor, evaluate and iterate programs over time to ensure diverse participation and that they are meeting the needs of contemporary young people	✓		✓	
Develop partnerships with Larrakia community to support deeper understanding of Larrakia culture	✓			✓
Engage delivery partners for key LAUNCH programs such as Get That Job, LAUNCH Night Series, LAUNCH Skate and the LAUNCH Emerging Producer Program	✓		✓	
Continue to offer paid opportunities for young people to develop and demonstrate expertise	✓		✓	



Ongoing Actions	Everyone Belongs	Safe & Supported	Creating Pathways	Working Together
Advocate for mobile youth outreach workers to respond to emerging and critical issues		✓		✓
Advocate for upgrades to parks and other public spaces to increase safety and accessibility for events and activities	✓	✓		
Advocate for a youth peak body for the NT		✓		✓
Advocate for mapping of youth services, strategic needs analysis and future planning		✓		✓
Advocate for development of safe spaces for young people that are connected to support services and outreach programs.		✓		✓
Trial non-sport physical activity programs that make use of Darwin's natural assets such as kayaking, foreshore cycle tours and fishing	✓		✓	
Continue to support and extend the Darwin Working with Youth Network		✓		✓
Encourage use of public and active transport to events through location selection and providing information that supports use	✓			
Provide access to role models and mentors through program design and facilitator selection			✓	

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Action Plan 2022

To ensure the action plan remains relevant, a youth forum will be held annually to identify key actions for the following year.

The below actions for 2022 were identified by young people and sector representatives at a co-design workshop in September 2021.

Key Actions for 2022	Everyone Belongs	Safe & Supported	Creating Pathways	Working Together
Develop a marketing strategy for LAUNCH to increase and diversify its online following	✓		✓	
Use LAUNCH media as a platform to increase positive portrayal of young people in the community and mainstream media	✓			
Create an online resource highlighting annual recognition opportunities for young people such as the Young Citizen of the Year, Young Achiever Awards and Trainee of the Year	✓		✓	✓
Review content and format of the Youth Info Card to increase usability		✓		✓
Work with the Human Resources & Safety team to expand Work Experience content on City of Darwin website to include an overview of available placement areas, expectations, and prerequisites			✓	✓
Increase awareness of Darwin Click and Fix app for reporting accessibility and safety issues in public spaces		✓		✓
Develop an accessibility checklist for promotion and delivery of youth events and activities	✓		✓	
Research gaps and opportunities for development of a contemporary life skills workshop series			✓	
Provide opportunities for Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) members to develop leadership skills through the provision of skills development sessions including media training and community engagement			✓	
Support YAC members to engage with mainstream media to advocate for young people's interests and needs	✓	✓	✓	
Support YAC members to attend Council meetings	✓		✓	
Increase diversity of representation on YAC across age, lived experience, interests and residential location	✓		✓	✓

Acknowledgements

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Inside front cover	Get That Job! Recognise Native Plants 2020	Kevin Huang
7	LAUNCH Couch Racing Team at Couch Surfing 2019	Charlie Bliss
9	Youth Advisory Committee Members at Quiz for Dili 2020	Kevin Huang
12	Screenprinting workshop at LAUNCH Night Series 2021	Kaden Reid
16	Open Scars playing Sounds@Sunset 2019	Christine Nobles
19	Battle of the School Bands 2021	Hannah Illingworth
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35	Sounds@Mindil 2021	Prerak Shah
36	Prayer Corby playing Sounds@Mindil 2020	Jiwa I Gusti
Inside back cover	LAUNCH Night Series 2019	Helen Orr

References

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² <https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/research-impact-policy-advocacy/youth-survey>

³ https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA71000

^{4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10} <https://profile.id.com.au/darwin>





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