

Agenda

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

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I hereby give notice that a Youth Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date: Thursday, 12 March 2026
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1)
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin

Simone Saunders
Chief Executive Officer



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Community Member Samritha Bharanidharan

Community Member Pak Chan

Community Member Sean Hagan

Community Member Anais Henry-Martin

Councillor Patrik Ralph

Community Member Sarvesh Ramamoorthi

Community Member Lucy Tinapple

OFFICERS

Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services, Angela O'Donnell

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

3.2 Leave of Absence Granted

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

4.1 Electronic Attendance Granted

4.2 Electronic Attendance Requested

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting - 13 November 2025

7 MOVING OF ITEMS

7.1 Moving Open Items into Confidential

7.2 Moving of Confidential Items into Open

8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC) MEETING 13 NOVEMBER 2026

Author: Coordinator Youth Programs

Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Report on Actions from Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meeting 13 November 2026 be received and noted.

Actions from 13 November 2026:

- Send YAC members link to LAUNCH Content Creator EOI

COMPLETED by Coordinator Youth Programs 20.11.25

- Send Councillor Ralph information about YAC's previous professional development workshops

COMPLETED by Coordinator Youth Programs 20.11.25

- Follow up with Team Leader Community Engagement at Headspace re potential to collaborate with their Youth Advisory Group

Initial discussions with Headspace Team Leader Community Engagement in early November 2025. Currently following up to discuss opportunities.

Meeting observer who recommended connecting with Team Leader Community Engagement at Headspace has been successful in their application to join the Youth Roundtable so has decided not to apply to join YAC this year.

9.2 RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Author: Coordinator Youth Programs

Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Resignation of Member be received and noted.

Sean Hagan's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) membership application was endorsed by Council on 29 July 2025. Sean attended the 13 November YAC meeting and YAC's end of year activity on 11 December.

Sean Hagan tendered his resignation from YAC on 20 February as he has relocated to Canberra to study.

9.3 2026 ACTION PLAN

Author: Coordinator Youth Programs

Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services

Attachments: 1. 2026 Action Plan (DRAFT) [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled 2026 Action Plan be received and noted.
2. THAT Youth Advisory Committee members discuss and endorse priorities to include in the 2026 Action Plan as part of the Youth Strategy 2022-2026.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Youth Advisory Committee members with the proposed priorities of the 2026 Action Plan to discuss and endorse.

KEY ISSUES

- Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) members participated in the annual Co-Design Workshop held on 15 November 2025.
- The workshop involved YAC members and young people from the wider Darwin community.
- During the workshop participants reviewed and provided feedback on Actions Plans from 2022-2025.
- This feedback has been synthesised by Youth Programs Officers to develop the 2026 Action Plan.
- Youth Advisory Committee members are asked to discuss and endorse the proposed priorities of the 2026 Action Plan.

<p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>The 2022-2026 Youth Strategy details commitment to an annual youth forum to identify priorities and actions for the coming year. The intention of the forum is to ensure the strategy responds to emerging trends and addresses the current needs of young people. The forums are attended by YAC members and young people from the broader community and delivered as a co-design workshop.</p> <p>14 young people, including 3 Youth Advisory Committee members attended the 2025 Co-Design Workshop held on Saturday 15 November 2025.</p> <p>Attendees reviewed Action Plans from 2022-2025 and provided recommendations on any not-yet-complete actions to carry forward into the final year of the strategy. This feedback has been synthesised by Youth Programs Officers in creation of a draft 2026 Action Plan.</p> <p>Youth Advisory Committee members are asked to discuss and endorse the draft 2026 Action Plan.</p> <p>Proposed actions are in provided attachment.</p>	
<p>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</p> <p>At the 30 November 2021 meeting Council resolved:</p> <p>RESOLUTION ORD455/21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THAT the report entitled Youth Strategy 2022-26 be received and noted. 2. THAT Council adopt the Youth Strategy 2022-2026. 	
<p>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</p>	<p>5 A Vibrant and Creative City</p> <p>5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity</p>
<p>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>Budget/Funding:</p> <p>Nil</p>
<p>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</p>	<p>Legislation:</p> <p>Nil</p>
<p>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Engagement Level:</p> <p>Involve</p>
<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>

2026 Action Plan (DRAFT)

Everyone Belongs

- Increase young people's knowledge of and connection to Larrakia culture.
- Engage young people from diverse cultural communities through connections and partnerships with relevant support services.
- Build the capacity of the Youth Programs team and partners to support accessibility of events and activities.

Safe & Supported

- Continued advocacy for youth-led spaces, and increased after-hours services and programs.
- Use LAUNCH social platforms to increase positive portrayal of young people by highlighting contributions and experiences in the community.

Creating Pathways

- Support young people to develop leadership skills through the delivery and promotion of peer-led activities and platforms.
- Embed opportunities for development of soft skills and life skills into regular programming, including socialisation, future pathways, and identity building.
- Improve access to and information about volunteer and work experience opportunities at City of Darwin.
- Continue to use LAUNCH social media to inform young people of activities, events, services, and opportunities that are relevant to them.

Working Together

- Explore opportunities to collaborate with sector partners to connect young people with information about community programs and opportunities.

9.4 2026 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Author: Coordinator Youth Programs
Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled 2026 Professional Development Workshops be received and noted.
2. THAT members nominate potential topics for their 11 June 2026 professional development workshop.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to gather feedback from Youth Advisory Committee members regarding topics of interest for their 11 June 2026 professional development workshop.

KEY ISSUES

- At the 13 November 2025 meeting the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) agreed to participate in a professional development workshop in lieu of a formal meeting in June.
- Input from members is being sought on the topic for the workshop.

DISCUSSION

At the 13 November 2025 meeting the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) agreed to participate in a professional development workshop in lieu of a formal meeting in June.

Input is sought from members regarding topics of interest. Workshops offered in recent years include:

2025

Resilience & Self Care: Managing Your Mental Health – with Mindful Projects, was also open to non-YAC members

Content Creation – with Amiable Communication, also included members of the LAUNCH social media team

2024

Finding your purpose – with Ellen Scobie from the Young Professionals Network

Positive Social Media – with Amy Hetherington, also included members of the LAUNCH social media team

2023

Interviewing & Engagement – with Jess Ong

NT Youth Parliament – funded a team of 5 Darwin young people to participate with the intention of at least one YAC member being involved, unfortunately no members in the target age cohort ended up being available

2022

Public Speaking and Engagement – with Amiable Communications

Nominal date is 11 June unless members advise otherwise or if we need to work around facilitator availability.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 30 November 2021 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTIONORD455/21

1. THAT the report entitled Youth Strategy 2022-26 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the Youth Strategy 2022-2026.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	5 A Vibrant and Creative City 5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Budget/Funding: \$1000
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS	Legislation:

OR IMPACTS	Nil
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Consult
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>

9.5 MISSION AUSTRALIA YOUTH SURVEY 2026

Author: Coordinator Youth Programs

Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services

Attachments: 1. **Mission Australia Survey 2020 - City of Darwin (under separate cover)** [⇒](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Mission Australia Youth Survey 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT Youth Advisory Committee members provide advice regarding their capacity and interest in supporting data collection for Mission Australia's 2026 Youth Survey.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the opportunity to the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) to participate in data collection for Mission Australia's 2026 Youth Survey.

KEY ISSUES

- Every year Mission Australia facilitates a national youth survey
- Per capita responses from the Northern Territory are typically lower than other states
- One of the strategies they use to encourage participation is to offer youth agencies the opportunity to receive a tailored report if they can collect 100+ survey responses via a specific QR code / link
- As it is a lengthy survey direct engagement and incentivised completion are required to ensure quality data is collected
- The last time City of Darwin participated in the survey was in 2020 when members of YAC and other interested young people supported their peers to complete the survey during June/July school holiday activities

DISCUSSION

Mission Australia facilitates an annual, national youth survey that aims to identify the values, aspirations, and issues of concern to young people aged 14 – 19 across Australia.

The survey gathers young people's views on:

- issues of national importance
- study and work
- housing and financial situation
- mental health and wellbeing
- sources of support and community connection
- climate issues and
- sources of stress.

Additionally in 2026 they will be asking about social media, local community involvement, and neighbourhood changes that could improve young people's lives.

The survey provides youth advocates with an opportunity to benchmark young people's experiences across time and across geography. Per capita responses from the Northern Territory are typically lower than other states. One of the strategies Mission Australia uses to encourage participation is to offer youth agencies the opportunity to receive a tailored report if they can collect 100+ survey responses via specific QR code / link

Mission Australia has approached City of Darwin seeking support for the survey again in 2026, its 25th iteration.

Access to the survey data can assist the Youth Programs team and broader organisation with planning and service delivery activities. It will also assist with decision making on whether to extend Youth Strategy 2022-2026 or commission a new strategy should it seem that young people's needs and interests has shifted significantly in the last five years.

As the Mission Australia survey is reasonably lengthy and the questions require some reflection, direct engagement and incentivised completion are required to ensure quality data is collected.

The last time City of Darwin participated in the survey was in 2020 when members of YAC and other interested young people supported their peers to complete the survey during June/July school holiday activities.

We are seeking input from YAC members regarding their capacity and interest in assisting with targeted data collection via the 2026 Mission Australia Youth Survey. This would likely involve attendance at school holiday events and potentially pop-up stalls at shopping centres and/or markets during June and July.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 30 November 2021 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD455/21

1. THAT the report entitled Youth Strategy 2022-26 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council adopt the Youth Strategy 2022-2026.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	5 A Vibrant and Creative City 5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Budget/Funding: \$1000 Is Funding identified: Yes – YAC budget
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Nil
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Involve
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

10 MEMBER REPORTS**11 GENERAL BUSINESS****12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

THAT the next Youth Advisory Committee Meeting be held on Thursday, 14 May 2026, at Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1), Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section).

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Minutes

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, 13 November 2025

Unconfirmed

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM , GUYUGWA ROOM, CASUARINA LIBRARY, BRADSHAW
TERRACE, CASUARINA
ON THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 5:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Member Sean Hagan (Chairperson)
Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph
Member Anais Henry--Martin
Member Samritha Bharanidharan
Member Sarvesh Ramamoorthi

OFFICERS:

Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services, Angela O'Donnell
Coordinator Youth Programs, Lisa Burnett
Youth Engagement Officer, Harry Doust

APOLOGY:

Member Lucy Tinapple
Member Pak Chan

GUESTS:

Clodagh Daly
Aaron Sajan Varghese
Zahin Seedat

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.

2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION YAC016/25

Moved: Member Anais Henry-Martin

Seconded: Member Sarvesh Ramamoorthi

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:34 pm.

CARRIED 5/0

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION YAC017/25

Moved: Member Samritha Bharanidharan

Seconded: Member Sarvesh Ramamoorthi

THAT an apology from Member Lucy Tinapple and Member Pak Chan be received.

CARRIED 5/0

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

3.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

4.1 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE GRANTED

Nil

4.2 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Nil

5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION YAC018/25

Moved: Member Sarvesh Ramamoorthi

Seconded: Member Sean Hagan

THAT the minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee Meeting held on 3 July 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 5/0

7 MOVING OF ITEMS

7.1 MOVING OF ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

7.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

Nil

7.3 MOVING CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO OPEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING
Nil

8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

8.1 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS
Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE 24TH CITY OF DARWIN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION YAC019/25

Moved: Member Sarvesh Ramamoorthi

Seconded: Member Sean Hagan

THAT the report entitled Introduction to the 24th City of Darwin Council be received and noted.

CARRIED 5/0

9.2 2026 YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION YAC020/25

Moved: Member Samritha Bharanidharan

Seconded: Member Sarvesh Ramamoorthi

1. THAT the report entitled 2026 Youth Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule be received and noted.
2. THAT Youth Advisory Committee members discuss and endorse dates for meetings up until 30 June 2026:
 - a) Meetings are to be held on the second Thursday of the month
 - b) Meetings are to be held 5:30pm-7:00pm
 - c) Meetings are to be held in the Guyugwa Room at Casuarina Library
3. THAT Youth Advisory Committee members endorse the following dates for meetings:
 - i) Thursday 12 March 2026
 - ii) Thursday 14 May 2026
4. THAT future meetings include the option of online attendance.

CARRIED 5/0

9.3 YAC END OF YEAR ACTIVITY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION YAC021/25

Moved: Member Anais Henry-Martin

Seconded: Member Sean Hagan

1. THAT the report entitled YAC end of year activity be received and noted.
2. THAT YAC's end of year gathering be held at Zone 3 Laser Tag on Thursday 11 December 2025.

CARRIED 5/0

9.4 CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP PREPARATION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION YAC022/25

Moved: Member Anais Henry-Martin

Seconded: Member Samritha Bharanidharan

1. THAT the report entitled Co-Design Workshop Preparation be received and noted.
2. THAT members provide advice regarding the plan for the annual Youth Strategy Co-Design Workshop.

CARRIED 5/0

10 MEMBER REPORTS

Nil

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 GENERAL BUSINESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION YAC023/25

Moved: Member Anais Henry-Martin

Seconded: Member Sean Hagan

THAT the following General Business be received and noted.

- Meeting observer Zahin Seedat is also a member of the headspace Youth Advisory Committee and noted the potential for future collaborations with YAC and/or LAUNCH.
- Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph canvassed members for their feedback on how councillors could better involve young people in decision making. Suggestions included:
 - have stronger social media presence
 - ask teachers and ancillary staff eg school based police officers about the issues young people care most about
 - engage with existing youth leadership groups.
- Deputy Lord Mayor Patrik Ralph requested information about YAC's past professional development workshops.

- Member Sean Hagan requested information about how young people can get involved in providing social media support to YAC and/or LAUNCH.

CARRIED 5/0

12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the next Youth Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 12 March 2026 at 5.30pm.

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

14 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION YAC024/25

Moved: Member Sean Hagan

Seconded: Member Sarvesh Ramamoorthi

THAT the open section of the meeting be adjourned at 7:05pm.

CARRIED 5/0

THAT the open section of the meeting be resumed at 7:09 pm.

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 7:09 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Youth Advisory Committee Meeting held on 12 March 2026.

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CHAIR