

# 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, 14 May 2026

**Time:** 5:30 PM

**Location:** Guyugwa Room; Casuarina Library  
17 Bradshaw Terrace, Darwin Northern Territory 0810

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**

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Youth Advisory Committee Meeting - 13 November 2025

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**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 MEETING 13 NOVEMBER 2025**

**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 Meeting 13 November 2025 be received and noted.

Actions from 13 November 2025:

- 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

COMPLETED by Coordinator Youth Programs 12.03.26

Initial discussions with Headspace Team Leader Community Engagement in early November 2025. Followed up in March 2026. No current opportunities for collaboration were identified. Agreed to keep each other informed of upcoming events and activities and to collaborate where programs align.

Meeting observer who recommended collaborating with 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 Sean Hagan 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 2025 YAC meeting and YAC's end of year activity on 11 December 2025.

Sean Hagan tendered his resignation from YAC on 20 February 2026 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 endorse 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><b>DISCUSSION</b></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><b>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b></p> <p>At the 30 November 2021 meeting Council resolved:</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION ORD455/21</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. THAT the report entitled Youth Strategy 2022-26 be received and noted.</li> <li>2. THAT Council adopt the Youth Strategy 2022-2026.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</b></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><b>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Budget/Funding:</b></p> <p>Nil</p>
<p><b>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</b></p>	<p><b>Legislation:</b></p> <p>Nil</p>
<p><b>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT &amp; COMMUNICATION</b></p>	<p><b>Engagement Level:</b></p> <p>Involve</p>
<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b></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>



# Action Plan 2026

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 2026 were identified by young people and sector representatives at a co-design workshop in October 2025.

Key Actions for 2026	Everyone Belongs	Safe & Supported	Creating Pathways	Working Together
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.	✓	✓	✓	
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.	✓	✓	✓	✓
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 such as socialising, identity building and identification of future pathways into regular programming.		✓	✓	
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.	✓	✓	✓	✓
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:** 1. 2026 YAC PD Workshop Opportunities June [↓](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report entitled 2026 Professional Development Workshops be received and noted.
2. THAT members provide feedback on professional development workshop options.
3. THAT attached 2026 YAC PD Workshop Opportunities June be received and noted

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present two options for YAC's next professional development workshop and members to nominate preference.

**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.
- Suggestions from attendees at the cancelled March meeting were synthesised into two topics:
  - Stress management
  - Effective communication
- Youth Programs Trainee has explored what engaging deliveries on these two topics may look like and will present these to members for decision on which to proceed with

<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Although the March Youth Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled attending members and observers discussed ideas for workshop topics for the June professional development workshop. To provide ample time to prepare for a June delivery suggestions were synthesised into two topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stress management</li> <li>- Effective communication</li> </ul> <p>City of Darwin’s Youth Programs Trainee has explored what engaging deliveries on these two topics may look like and will present these to members for decision on which to proceed with.</p> <p>Along with deciding on the topic members are to discuss suitable dates, marketing strategies and how they will assist delivery.</p> <p><b>See Attachment 1 2026 YAC PD Workshop Opportunities June</b></p>	
<p><b>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b></p> <p>At the 30 November 2021 meeting Council resolved:</p> <p><b>RESOLUTIONORD455/21</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. THAT the report entitled Youth Strategy 2022-26 be received and noted.</li> <li>2. THAT Council adopt the Youth Strategy 2022-2026.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</b></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><b>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Budget/Funding:</b></p> <p>\$1000</p>
<p><b>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</b></p>	<p><b>Legislation:</b></p> <p>Nil</p>
<p><b>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT &amp; COMMUNICATION</b></p>	<p><b>Engagement Level:</b> Consult</p>
<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b></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>

## YAC PD- June 2026

### Background

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) aims to hosts two professional development workshops each year. These are sometimes for active members only and at other times are open to all young people in the community. At the 12 March 2026 YAC meeting, attendees provided the following suggestions for consideration for YAC's next PD workshop:

1. Stress management
2. Mental health in partnership with headspace
3. Effective communication - how to share your ideas / opinions in engaging ways / how to influence people.
4. Understanding the system / maximised your education opportunities at school.
5. How to study more efficiently / manage workload.
6. Leadership workshop where young people can learn how to organise and run meetings and events and understand how to communicate with their communities in engaging and professional ways.

These can be synthesised into two topics:

- Communicating with influence
- Stress management/mental health.

### Idea 1: Communicating with Influence

An approachable entry to this topic would be taking a more creative angle based around the PowerPoint party concept.

Option for consideration: Young people (YP) create a presentation with a comedic approach that allows them to discuss a topic in which they are interested. With the intention of building communication skills that are effective and engaging, as well as developing confidence.

This would look like a workshop to prepare for the presentation under the mentorship of a professional local emcee to achieve the intentions above. Completed works would be presented to the group with the option to invite friends or family members.

**Idea 2: Stress management / mental health**

As YAC's last professional development session on mental health had low attendance numbers, it is recommended that any further deliveries in this space are collaborations with organisations that have existing networks of young people with interested in this topic and can directly assist with greater engagements.

Option for consideration: Workshop at CDU delivered by local mental health organisation. Workshop to include mental health and stress management, with potential to cover efficient study plans. This would be open to any young people in the community with YAC supporting as hosts, emceeing, and managing registrations. CDU students would be the main demographic targeted in the marketing of the workshop.

CDU student representative recommended the following advice:

- Mid to end June is the recommended due to students' availability. University exams start from end of May and completed by the beginning of June. School holidays start the end of June.
- Advertising via social media, Student Spotlight, and the CDU student portal that students can access to view upcoming events.

Delivery timeline to consider:

Half a day PD during June school holidays/or Saturday before end of June.

**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**

THAT the report entitled Mission Australia Youth Survey 2026 be received and noted.

**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. The 2026 survey is open until 14 August 2026.

**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

<b>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>Budget/Funding:</b> \$1000 <b>Is Funding identified:</b> Yes – YAC budget
<b>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</b>	Nil
<b>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT &amp; COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>Engagement Level:</b> Involve
<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>	<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>

**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 , at (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

**Order of Business**

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<b>14</b>	<b>Adjournment of Meeting</b> .....	<b>8</b>

## 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**