

# CARPENTARIA YOUTH STRATEGY



CARPENTARIA SHIRE  
*Outback by the Sea*

2023 - 2028



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# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

**Carpentaria Shire is the traditional Country of many Indigenous groups and the townships of Normanton and Karumba are the traditional land of the Gkuthaarn, Kukatj and Kurtijar people.**

**Carpentaria Shire Council would like to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters that form the Region. Council pays its respect to Elders' past, present and emerging and welcomes the ongoing role that Indigenous people play within the Carpentaria community.**



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

“ The Youth Strategy sets out a plan to provide assistance and direction to encourage our future leaders to step up and be counted. This cannot be achieved solely by Council, we need all relevant agencies to form partnerships and work towards a common goal. Young people also need to step up and take responsibility for their role as active citizens, and their contribution to ensuring a cohesive and harmonious community.

Whilst the community is faced with the challenges that some young people continue to reject responsibility, Council is committed to finding a way forward, in partnership with all stakeholders, to harness ideas and ways to address issues now and into the future.

Council has limited resources, however, is committed to working with all levels of government and service providers to ensure that young people are supported and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Council was fortunate to obtain funding through the State Government to undertake the development of the Carpentaria Youth Strategy. We are grateful for all those who contributed through the development of the Strategy. It was important to Council that the young people were engaged as part of this process and the various community groups and stakeholders that deliver services for our young people.

The Youth Strategy reflects Council's commitment to valuing and celebrating our young people and is an example of Council's vision of making the Carpentaria Region a great place to work, live and play. ”

**Jack Bawden - Mayor  
Carpentaria Shire Council**



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

“The Carpentaria Youth Strategy is intended to provide direction and actions for the next five years to assist the development of our Youth and identify programs and facilities that assist our young people to grow into the leaders of tomorrow within the Carpentaria Shire.

We thank those individuals within the Carpentaria Shire who provided input into the development of the Strategy, providing some honest feedback about the things that are missing in the Region, and some suggested improvements. You spoke, we listened. Clear themes have been identified, and these are included in the Strategy.

This is a Strategy that Council can not deliver on its own and strategic partners and key stakeholders have been identified to assist with the delivery for our Youth. Let's not kid ourselves, there is a good deal of work to do for our Youth and this Strategy is the first step in identifying and building a framework for delivery.

Council's role in the delivery of the Strategy is clearly outlined and a list of actions, timeframes and measures are identified in the Action Plan which accompanies it.

Council will, in partnership with key stakeholders, deliver on the actions identified and by all working together we will continue to develop the leaders of tomorrow.



Mark Crawley CEO Carpentaria Shire Council



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Young people should be able to look to the future and see limitless opportunities and possibilities to explore. They should be able to look ahead with confidence and excitement and not be disillusioned by obstacles that inhibit them from reaching their full potential.**

Young people represent almost 1 in 5 community members in the Carpentaria Shire. How we support young people to actively participate in their community, to achieve their aspirations, and feel engaged and connected is crucial now and in the future.

This Strategy aims to **empower the voices of our future leaders**. Helping them to set a joint vision for our great Region that they will inherit to care for people, culture, and Country. The Strategy reflects the issues and opportunities and provides a way forward for Council to work in partnership with young people, and other key stakeholders, to harness ideas and ways to address issues now and into the future. It reflects Council's commitment to valuing and celebrating our young people and is an example of Council's vision of making the Carpentaria Region a great place to work, live and play.

This Strategy establishes outcomes for young people that Council and other stakeholders will work towards.

## The **Carpentaria Youth Strategy 2023 – 2028**

provides a five-year framework that will enable the Shire to strategically meet the current and future needs of our young people and their community. Providing overall direction for Council to guide programs, initiatives, advocacy and support work for young people and their families.

CARPENTARIA SHIRE COUNCIL  
ARE COMMITTED TO  
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, THEIR  
PARENTS AND CARERS,  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,  
COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS,  
BUSINESSES AND  
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO  
ENSURE THAT ALL YOUNG  
PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED TO  
REACH THEIR FULL  
POTENTIAL.

In putting the **Carpentaria Youth Strategy** together we've drawn on the experiences of local young people. This has been achieved through face-to-face consultations and an online survey. Some 67 young people have provided input into the development of this Strategy.

You told us about some things that you might like to improve, such as littering and rubbish in the town, the lack of things to do and concerns about racism and discrimination. You told us that the top things young people like to do in the Shire are fishing, on Country experiences, online gaming, swimming, and cooking.

“ Young people's contribution to the strategic direction of the Shire is acknowledged and valued. They bring a lens that is unshackled and free of barriers.

Young people bring with them an energy that is uplifting and a source of inspiration. We seek to utilise that energy to grow our Region, that will enable intergenerational custodianship of where we work, live and play.



# FAST FACTS - YOUNG PEOPLE OF CARPENTARIA

Population Carpentaria 2,090 (ABS 2021) <sup>1</sup>



20% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people have completed Year 12 compared with 38.4% non-Indigenous young people in the Shire.



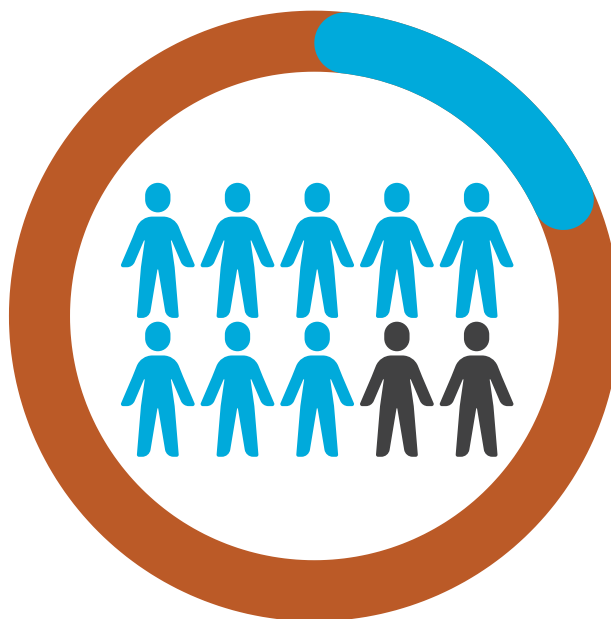
54.9% of children are from unemployed Aboriginal and Torres Strait families compared to 3.9% of young people from non-Indigenous families.



46.4% of the Shire's youth <sup>2</sup> population are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.



60.6% of households have access to the internet compared to the Queensland average of 83.7%. 42% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households have access to the internet.



**19.8% of Carpentaria's population are young people aged between 10-24 (414 youth)**



30.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait young people are working, studying or training compared to 62.9% non-Indigenous young people aged 18 - 24 years.



18% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are unemployed compared to 3.8% of non-Indigenous young people.



18.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households are overcrowded compared to 5.5% of non-Indigenous households. The Queensland average is 10.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households and 2.7% for non-Indigenous households.



# INTRODUCTION

## What is the Youth Strategy 2023-2028?

Carpentaria Youth Strategy 2023-2028 sets out a plan for Council to support young people across the Shire. Young people represent 19.8% of the resident population with 46.4% of the Shire's youth population being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. How we support young people to actively participate in their community, achieve their aspirations, and feel engaged and connected, is crucial, both now and into the future.

Young people are bursting with energy, they participate in sports, they love Country, culture, and the arts. They also have some concerns. They seek a balance of connecting to Country, but also moving forward on integrating modern comforts into the Shire.

**The Youth Strategy will guide future planning for the provision of services and infrastructure. Ensuring that young people's voices are heard, they are connected with their community and supported by a collaborative approach from service providers and community leaders.**

The Strategy is built upon emerging trends and best practices in community youth development to increase resilience, develop protective factors and engage young people with adults in the community to foster positive community development.

## Why develop a Youth Strategy?

A Youth Strategy provides a plan for what Council will do for young people living in Carpentaria Shire over the next 5 years. Setting out how Council will work with young people, parents, schools, training providers, service providers, and other levels of government to support young people to reach their full potential.

Importantly a **Youth Strategy** gets young people thinking about their role in the Shire and potential pathways to achieving self-determination. It provides a crucial avenue for them to engage and learn from civic leaders, cultural leaders, business leaders, scientists, and scholars.

This Strategy **highlights the issues** and opportunities and provides a way forward for Council to work in partnership with young people and other key stakeholders to guide programs, initiatives, advocacy, and support work for young people. Enabling improvement in the way that we work together now and into the future.

This Strategy **reflects Council's commitment** to valuing and celebrating our young people, and is an example of Council's vision of supporting vibrant self-sustaining communities.

This Strategy **sets out the outcomes** for young people that Council and other stakeholders will work towards. It places young people in a position to genuinely consider how they can carry on the legacy of their ancestors and how they can create a legacy of their own.

# COUNCIL'S ROLE / COMMITMENT





# YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

In August 2021 the Federal Government launched **Australia's Youth Policy Framework**<sup>3</sup> that sets out a blueprint for how the Government is supporting young people to navigate life's challenges and become engaged and active citizens who contribute productively to society.

**Australia's Youth Policy Framework** recognises that young Australians have been among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with significant disruptions to their education, major life events, family and social interactions. This Framework outlines the Government's significant support and ongoing commitment to ensuring government is listening to, and backing, young Australians every step of the way.

## 5 OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORK

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1. ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON YOUNG AUSTRALIANS
2. CAPTURES THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON POLICIES THAT AFFECT THEM
3. LISTENS AND RESPONDS TO YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO THEM
4. OUTLINES THE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE
5. CONTINUES THE JOURNEY TO WORK TOGETHER

This Framework recognises that today's generation of young Australians face new and unique challenges—challenges like different social and family patterns, rapidly changing technology, an evolving labour market, and climate change.

# YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT

The **Queensland Youth Strategy** <sup>4</sup> aims to engage with, and create opportunities for, young people to participate in decision-making about their lives now and in the future. Based on consultation the Queensland Government developed **four Building Blocks** which form the foundation of the Queensland Youth Strategy and provide ways to work towards solutions.



## HOUSING

**Young people have access to safe, stable, secure and affordable housing, and financial literacy matched to living in a complex global economy.**



## HEALTHY FUTURES

**Young people are healthy, active, strong and resilient, and have the capability to maintain their wellbeing in a rapidly changing world.**



## SUPPORTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

**Young people, irrespective of circumstances, gender, ethnicity, age, or religion, have the opportunity to actively participate and contribute to Queensland's global future.**



## EDUCATING INTO EMPLOYMENT

**Young people have the knowledge and technical skills to successfully navigate current and future economic and technological pathways to employment.**



# CONVENTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNICEF)

Every child has the right to grow up in an environment where they feel safe and secure, have access to basic services and clean air and water, can play, learn and grow and where their voice is heard and matters.

A Child-Friendly community is one that implements the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the local level.<sup>5</sup> These guiding principles include:

- 1. Every child and young person is valued, respected, and treated fairly within their communities and by local authorities.**
- 2. Every child and young person has their voice, needs and priorities heard and taken into account in public laws, policies, budgets, programmes and decisions that affect them.**
- 3. Every child and young person has access to quality essential social services (this includes healthcare, education, nutrition support, early childhood development and education, justice and family support).**
- 4. Every child and young person lives in a safe, secure and clean environment (this includes protection from exploitation, violence and abuse, access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, safe and child-responsive urban design, mobility and freedom from pollution and waste).**
- 5. Every child and young person has opportunities to enjoy family life, play and leisure (this includes social and cultural activities, and safe places to meet their friends and play).**

**UNICEF's "Child Friendly Cities" Framework (UNICEF, 2004)**



# CLOSING THE GAP

**Closing the Gap<sup>6</sup>** aims to improve the lives of **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** Australians by ensuring we work in partnership with First Nations Australians to deliver change. The National Agreement on Closing the Gap, that Queensland is a party to, was launched on 30 July 2020. The Agreement recognises that a shift in how we develop and implement government policies and programs is required for significant improvements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' life outcomes to be achieved.



## QUEENSLAND'S ROLE IN CLOSING THE GAP

The Queensland Government is working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through their representatives, at the national, state and local level, to ensure a focus on achieving long-term social and economic outcomes for Queensland's First Nations peoples.

Underpinned by the **Path to Treaty** and **Local Thriving Communities** reforms, the Queensland Government is committed to reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, working to address historical and ongoing economic and social injustices, and recognising First Nations peoples' sovereignty and right to self-determination.

## QUEENSLAND'S 2021 CLOSING THE GAP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Queensland Government's 2021 Closing the Gap Implementation Plan<sup>7</sup> outlines how the Queensland Government is addressing Priority Reforms and socio-economic Targets in the National Agreement. The Implementation Plan reflects the Queensland context, and what we have heard from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about their ambitions for their lives and communities.

The **Queensland Government's 2021 Closing the Gap Implementation Plan** has a number of relevant outcomes for the Carpentaria Youth Strategy including:

**Outcome 1:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy long and healthy lives.

**Outcome 2:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are born healthy and strong.

**Outcome 3:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years.

**Outcome 4:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children thrive in their early years.

**Outcome 5:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve their full learning potential.

**Outcome 6:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students reach their full potential through further education pathways.

**Outcome 7:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged in employment or education.





**Outcome 8:** Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

**Outcome 9:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need.

**Outcome 10:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

**Outcome 11:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

**Outcome 12:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system.

**Outcome 13:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe.

**Outcome 14:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

**Outcome 15:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical, and economic relationship with their land and waters.

**Outcome 16:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing.

**Outcome 17:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have access to information and services enabling participation in the informed decision-making regarding their own lives.



# YOUNG PEOPLE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2025, Theme One** – Carpentaria Community, states the need to **“Continue to support activities and programs that provide for the Youth within the Shire”**. Council has identified that the development of a Youth Strategy is crucial to delivering on this priority. To achieve this, Council engaged Peak Services to develop the Youth Strategy.

The Carpentaria Youth Strategy aligns with the outcomes of the **Northwest Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy Implementation Plan 2019-2021<sup>8</sup>** and will deliver on three Focus Areas identified in the **North West Minerals Province Carpentaria Shire Local Action Plan 2020-2021** as follows:

- 1** liveability,
- 2** workforce participation, and
- 3** local leadership capacity and capability.

The **Carpentaria Local Action Plan** identifies that:

- Young people lack the support and training needed to access appropriate employment.
- Some young people struggle with substance misuse and despite a range of measures they continue to cause damage to themselves and property.
- There is a lack of alignment and integration of community services due to a range of different providers based in various locations outside of Carpentaria.

**Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2025<sup>9</sup> sets out the following priority areas:**

| Priority Area                  | Youth Context  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Carpentaria Community</b>   | <p>Young people can be left behind if they are unable to access the needed services and opportunities.</p> <p>Young people need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connection.</li> <li>• Support to make healthy choices.</li> <li>• To feel safe, at home and in the community.</li> <li>• To have access to programs and facilities that will help their development.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Carpentaria Environment</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people will inherit custodianship of the natural environment.</li> <li>• Young people are often the champions of environmental protection.</li> <li>• Young people are an untapped volunteer resource to support the protection of our natural resources.</li> <li>• Young people are considered in facility and service design.</li> </ul>     |
| <b>Carpentaria Economy</b>     | <p>Young people have an important role to play in the social, economic and community life of the Shire. They require access to a range of quality, flexible education and training opportunities.</p> <p>It is essential to ensure that education and training programs align directly with real job opportunities, and employment pathways are available to young people in the Shire.</p>    |
| <b>Carpentaria Governance</b>  | <p>Transparent and consultative processes are used to ensure that Council meets the needs of young people in our community. Opportunities are created for young people to contribute to decision making and future planning in their community.</p>  |

# THE CURRENT SITUATION – OUR COUNTRY, OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Carpentaria Shire covers an area of approximately 65,000 square kilometres. Carpentaria Shire is located in the south-eastern region of the Gulf of Carpentaria with the population primarily concentrated in Normanton and Karumba. The traditional Country of many Indigenous groups and the townships of Normanton and Karumba are the traditional land of the Gkuthaarn, Kukatj, and Kurtijar people.

The region is uniquely placed to offer residents and visitors opportunities and experiences in lifestyle, holidays, employment, and investment opportunities. Carpentaria Shire has a friendly, laid-back lifestyle and is a place where children still ride their bikes down to the river to go fishing after school without parents having to worry, as they would in larger towns and cities.

The Region has a significantly different demographic profile to Queensland including; lower incomes, higher proportions of renters, higher unemployment and underemployment, and a significantly higher Indigenous population.

Carpentaria Shire scored 858 on the SEIFA Index which places the Shire in quintile 2, and is ranked 17th out of 65 Queensland LGAs, and 44th out of 538 Australian LGAs on the SEIFA Index for relative social disadvantage.

Carpentaria Shire has a diverse industry base with agriculture, fishing, mining, tourism and government administration providing the majority of the Shire's income. Normanton is the region's government and administrative centre. Much of the Shire's commercial activity comes through Karumba, which has an active port based around export of zinc and lead and until recently also exported live cattle to Asia. It also has a substantial fishing industry that targets prawns, barramundi, Spanish mackerel, salmon and mud crabs. Further information can be found in **Council's Economic Development Strategy**.<sup>10</sup>





# HOW THE YOUTH STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED

Community consultation and engagement has been integral in developing this Strategy, ensuring young people, service providers and community leaders voices are heard. Young people, service providers and the wider community were asked about the needs and experiences for young people living in the remote Carpentaria Shire.

Community consultation and engagement for the Youth Strategy aimed to:

- Engage and consult with young people to identify their needs, experiences and potential opportunities to improve their lives and wellbeing.
- Engage and consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, community leaders and local service providers to identify key issues, challenges and opportunities to support young people to reach their full potential.

The community consultation and engagement process enabled:

- Awareness of the issues and challenges impacting young people living in Carpentaria Shire.
- Informed and educated the community and stakeholders about the development of the Youth Strategy.
- Provided opportunity for young people, the community and stakeholders to have their say and provide feedback.
- Built support for the future implementation of the Youth Strategy.

**Face to Face community consultations were held in June 2022, these included:**

- **Workshop with young people at Normanton State School**
- **Workshop with Service Providers in the Normanton Town Hall**
- **Meeting with Carpentaria Shire Council Mayor and Councillors**
- **Various meetings with community organisations and Council Services.**



**There were two online surveys, one specifically targeting young people and the second to enable the wider community to have input.**

**Engagement and consultation was also undertaken via phone and video conferencing for those services and government agencies that are not located in Carpentaria Shire.**

The findings identified the ongoing need to support young people to reach their full potential.

This engagement process was an important step in triggering participants to pause and consider their role in becoming active participants by influencing decisions that impact them, and participate in town planning and future opportunities for them.



# WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US

The development of this Youth Strategy was drawn from the experiences of local young people. 67 young people, of which 71% are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, have provided direct input through an online survey, and 15 young people participated in a workshop held at Normanton State School.



They like living in Carpentaria Shire there is freedom here, great fishing, they love camping and the sunsets.



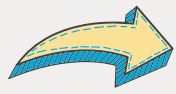
The top things they like to do is fishing, online gaming, swimming, athletics, on Country activities, arts and culture. Other activities include sports such as football, basketball and tennis, cooking, storytelling, movies and video streaming.



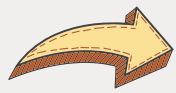
Some things that they would like to see improved include; the lack of things to do, and littering and the amount of rubbish in the town. They have concerns about domestic and family violence, racism and discrimination, and vandalism.



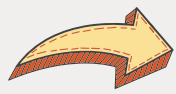




**Most young people feel safe, however some 30% of young people do not feel safe at places such as the Sports Centre, Water Park or at home.**



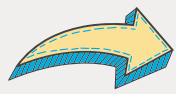
**The main reason young people leave town is to go away to Boarding School to complete Year 12 or to find a job.**



**New facilities they would like including a BMX Bike Track, Skatepark, Tennis Courts, Water Slide at the Pool, and a Water Park that is better suited to young people (not just small children).**



**They would like to see more shops with a food court, upgrades to the school, more equipment and better resources at the Sports Centre.**



**They would like a Cultural Centre where they could learn tribal languages, dance and cultural practices and an Art Gallery and Museum.**



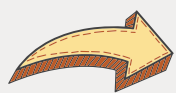
**They would like on Country programs with camps where they could learn cultural practices and hunting skills.**



**They would like to be more involved in the community and are interested in establishing a Kids/Youth Council.**



**They would like to see a Youth Space established in Normanton where they could spend time with their friends, play board games and participate in online gaming in a safe space.**



**They would like to see more than one Rodeo a year.**



# WHAT COMMUNITY TOLD US

Community members were invited to participate in an online survey. The survey revealed that:



The top concerns that the community have for young people is **alcohol** and **drugs**, the lack of targeted programs and **things to do**, domestic and family violence and **peer pressure**.



They would like to see more afternoon, evening and weekend activities, **more sporting activities** and more facilities such as BMX Track or skatepark for young people.



The community are unsure about the level of **support** provided to young people in the Shire.





**The findings from the community consultation also indicated the following:**

**Youth Council** – Participants were supportive of the concept. There was a Youth Council previously, but resources stopped.

**Youth Offenders** – The view that there is a need for careful programming and activities to include young people returning to the community in broader activities. Must not be seen to reward bad behaviour over good behaviour.

**Elders** – The role of Elders was seen as very important. The connection of young people and service providers to Elders is a critical area for improvement.

**Health and Safety** – Access to safe spaces and places was seen as an important theme area. Key social problems for families, parents, and Elders, are obstacles and pose a continuing threat to young people's ability to actively participate in the community. Queensland Police Service indicated that the most prevalent reportable problem in the community is Domestic and Family Violence incidents. Parental and Elder health in general, and access to essential services remains a key area to creating a safe and healthy environment for young people to flourish. This includes access to mental health services for all of the community.

**Education** – Education was seen as an essential platform for young people. Enhancing attendance at school and completion of school was seen to be a critical success factor. Getting parental buy-in was a challenge and an obstacle that needs strategies to ensure education became a culture of success. There was a view that there should be a town wide strategy of all stakeholders to value education.



**On Country** – Camps on Country were seen as a successful strategy that should be continued and enhanced. Bynoe CACS has run these successfully, partnering with the Aboriginal owned Delta Station, and are more effective when the Carpentaria Rangers are involved to drive a deep connection to Country. As such, camps should be culture-based and held during the school holidays.

**Recognition** – Recognition of young people and volunteers in community was also important.

**Youth Participation** – There is an opportunity to engage young people to work with Council on town beautification and improved signage and information for visitors.





# WHAT COUNCIL TOLD US

A meeting was held with the Carpentaria Shire Council Mayor and Councillors who expressed their support for engaging young people and the role that they can play as future civic leaders. The Councillors identified a number of sectors that offer opportunities for employment pathways including; beef, land management, tourism and events, Council services, essential services providers in the energy, water and waste management sector.

The role of the Queensland Government services was seen as critical for any strategy to be successful. In particular, the TAFE facility and operation was seen as an issue and barrier to advancing education, training and employment.

The opportunities for localising and linking primary school and TAFE learning to relevant Council, community, and industry needs was highlighted. For example:

- Linking school projects for young people to enhancing tourism products for the Tourism Information Centre.
- Capturing the Aboriginal and European stories and history of the region for not only generational knowledge transfer but feeding into the museum and visitor areas.
- Maintenance and enhancing the wetlands as part of science and information for tourists.
- Planning and redesigning existing parks to be more informative for visitors.
- Creating a school or TAFE based media centre that develops news content for community and visitors to the town.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PRIORITIES AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT OUTCOMES HAVE BEEN CATEGORISED UNDER THE FOLLOWING THEMES





# THEME 1: CARING FOR PEOPLE

| Priority                     | Outcomes  |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Empowered and Engaged</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening to young people and giving young people a voice.</li> <li>• Youth leadership and participation.</li> <li>• Young people have a say about the issues that affect them and are empowered to make a meaningful contribution to decision making and future planning in their community.</li> <li>• Young people have an important role to play in the social, economic and community life in the Shire.</li> <li>• Young people have the right to participate in decision making around issues that affect them.</li> <li>• Achievements of young people are recognised and celebrated.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Healthy Futures</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people have access to information, support and services they need to be happy, healthy, and well.</li> <li>• Young people are empowered to make positive, informed choices.</li> <li>• Young people have good physical and mental health.</li> <li>• Young people are informed about drug and alcohol misuse.</li> </ul>   |

| Priority                                  | Outcomes  |
|---|---|
| <b>Education, Training and Employment</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and training underpin a wide range of opportunities for young people, however, there is a need to ensure that education and training programs align directly with real job opportunities, and employment pathways are available to young people in the Shire.</li> <li>• Young people have access to a range of quality, flexible education and training opportunities.</li> <li>• Young people have access to employment pathways.</li> <li>• Opportunities to develop appropriate life skills to enhance their future.</li> <li>• Achievements of young people are acknowledged and celebrated.</li> <li>• Young people remain connected to their community whilst completing education away from their community. Many young people are not able to access education and employment opportunities close to home and need to leave the Region to pursue them.</li> <li>• Young people are inspired and connected with an Alumni / Ambassadors of past students.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Things to Do</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A diversity of activities and programs are offered to young people.</li> <li>• Young people have access to a range of programs and opportunities that enhance social inclusion and connection.</li> <li>• Young people have access to a range of cultural programs that teach tribal languages, dance, art, cultural practices and connection to Country.</li> </ul>   |

# THEME 2: CARING FOR COUNTRY

| Priority                                       | Outcomes   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Access to Safe Spaces and Places</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people have access to safe, inclusive and relevant spaces and places.</li> <li>• Young people are considered in facility and service design.</li> <li>• Safety encompasses a wide range of situations and concerns including; personal safety, crime, antisocial behaviour, safe environments, cyber safety, racism, bullying and risk-taking behaviours.</li> <li>• Young people feel safe in their community and at home.</li> <li>• Young people have the skills and knowledge to make good choices about their personal safety.</li> <li>• Property and the environment are respected by young people.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Natural Environment</b></p>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people will inherit custodianship of the natural environment.</li> <li>• Young people are often the champions of environmental protection.</li> <li>• Young people are an untapped volunteer resource to support the protection and promotion of our natural resources.</li> </ul>  |



## THEME 3: CARING FOR CULTURE

| Priority                   | Outcomes  |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Cultural Connection</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people feel a strong identity, culture and connection to their community.</li> <li>• Opportunities are created for young people to pursue cultural and creative endeavours.</li> <li>• Knowledge transfer from Elders .</li> </ul> |

## THEME 4: WORKING TOGETHER

| Priority                    | Outcomes   |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Service Coordination</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved service co-ordination that is achieved through networking, resource sharing and collaboration.</li> <li>• Strategies are developed to overcome the challenges or recruiting and retaining suitably qualified and experienced staff.</li> </ul> |

# IMPLEMENTATION

An **Action Plan** will guide the practical implementation of the Youth Strategy for the Carpentaria region.

The Action Plan sets out the specific actions as they relate to the broader strategy themes and identifies who is responsible for the implementation, timeframes and key performance measures.

The Action Plan will be co-ordinated by Carpentaria Shire Council and will be reviewed annually against the key performance measures as set out in the Action Plan.



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CARPENTARIA YOUTH STRATEGY 2023 - 2028

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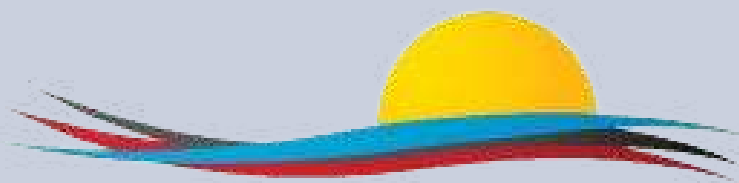
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