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# CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY

2022 - 2026



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## YOUTH STRATEGY

Published 2021

### Acknowledgements

Council acknowledges and extends appreciation to all contributors.

### Availability

The Camden Youth Strategy is available on Council's website: [www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I'm incredibly proud to present the Camden Youth Strategy 2022-2026.

As one of the fastest growing local government areas in the country, the proportion of young people in Camden is only increasing. Our young people are the future of the Camden area and, even more broadly, of Australia. What they are able to learn, explore, enjoy and leverage today will help them become tomorrow's leaders, professionals, free-thinkers and active members of our community.

This is why Camden Council is committed to supporting our local young people. We understand the importance of local government in fostering and supporting their development and we recognise the need to ensure they are mentally, physically and socially connected to other community members and to Camden itself.

This document paves the pathway to achieving the Camden community's long-term vision and goals by focusing on young people, aged between 12 and 24 years. It outlines five strategic priorities for Council to focus on to help support our young people, address issues that matter to them and help them achieve the futures they see for themselves.

I look forward to seeing this strategy put into action and the great outcomes it will, no doubt, achieve.

*Therese Fedeli*

Mayor of Camden





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

## Dharawal Language:

Naganbi nagayawuli dijiyara Hamani.  
Ngayagang bulbulwilma Wiradjuri,  
Gooreng Gooreng, Tongan yuwinj.

Ngayagang ngalama Dharawal  
nguradha.

Dharawal yurawulawula ngarandima  
njirgang nhay nhaway.

Dharawalbulawalaga yurawalawulaga  
nguradhaga nhay nguradha  
dhanjanwari.

Gay ngadi ngarandimayi  
ngaramuramayi nhay nangamaymayi  
nguradhayi.

Dhadjanwari Dharawal ngurayu dharan  
dhurung Dharawal ngurayu

Nandawanjing

## English Translation:

Hello, my name is Hamani. I am a proud  
Wiradjuri, Gooreng Gooreng and  
Tongan man.

I live on Dharawal Country.

Dharawal people know that you are all  
here today.

Dharawal people camped here in this  
place long ago.

Please stop and listen, see the way of  
this Dreaming place.

Long ago Dharawal Country. Always  
Dharawal Country

See you next time.

As a young person living and working in the Camden LGA, and as a member of the Camden Youth Council, the Youth Strategy is the step forward in working and collaborating with the Young People in the LGA. The action that will come out of the Youth Strategy will encourage and inspire emerging young leaders in our community and amplify the voices of those young people who come from all walks of life. So far, we had done so much for young people in this area regarding, mental health, music and entertainment, creative arts, literacy arts, and it is only the tip of the iceberg. As a young person, I am excited to see what action the strategy will bring and for the future of youth programs and policy in Camden.

HAMANI TANGINOA (CAMDEN YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER)



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community consultation is essential in enabling local governments to understand the needs of the community they serve. This ensures resources are managed effectively to best support the development of communities.

The Camden Youth Consultation conducted in 2020 saw almost 1,500 young people inform Council how they want us to support them and what issues matter to them. This information is invaluable, and we are privileged to have had such a large number of young people take the time to support the development of this strategy.

As a result, it is Council's responsibility to respond appropriately, ensuring these voices are reflected in our actions. This consultation saw the emergence of five strategic priorities:

- Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing;
- Youth Employment;
- Community Connections;
- Youth Voice and Empowerment; and
- Safety.

Council will commit to supporting these five focus areas, enacting all the strategic actions that are outlined at the end of each of the focus area sections of this report. Additionally, Council will commit to the re-direction of the annual youth budget to directly support these five strategic priorities.

Annual reviews of how we are supporting these five focus areas and the relevant strategic actions will be completed, reflecting on how Council is supporting the needs of local young people.

THE CAMDEN YOUTH  
CONSULTATION CONDUCTED IN  
2020 SAW ALMOST 1500  
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DEVELOPMENT OF THIS  
STRATEGY.





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AN INTRODUCTION TO  
CAMDEN'S YOUNG PEOPLE



## 2. AN INTRODUCTION TO CAMDEN'S YOUNG PEOPLE

Camden Council is here to serve our young people, reflect their interests, support their development, and nurture their future aspirations. We want to ensure that young people living across our local government area, are fully supported to connect, thrive, and grow in their neighbourhood, and embrace their role as an important part of our local community culture and the future of Camden.

Camden local government area (LGA) is one of the fastest growing LGAs in Australia with exponential growth being experienced across the region. To accommodate this growth Camden Council needs a Youth Strategy to support local young people and to drive improvement in the delivery of services to Camden's young people. The strategy, informed by Camden's young people will guide Council's support of our local young people; to celebrate with them to ensure they are mentally, physically, and socially connected; and to foster a strong sense of belonging to Camden.

Young people aged 12 to 24 years make up 17.5% (Census 2016) of the total Camden population. Camden is one of the fastest growing LGAs in Australia, with a rapidly changing demographic profile. As a part of the Western Parkland City, Camden's growth is intrinsically linked to the dynamic Western Sydney region, which is experiencing unprecedented infrastructure development, including the delivery of Sydney's second international airport, resulting in many families moving to the area. This increase in population growth has resulted in an increase in local young people.

The percentage of people in the primary school and high school age groups were higher than that of the Greater Sydney region. Forecast ID figures show an estimated 2021 population of the Camden Local Government Area to be 115,499 that is forecast to grow to 243,542 by 2041.

This higher percentage of primary and secondary school aged residents, along with the increasing population, demonstrates a clear current and future demand for a strategic focus placed on the youth services within the Camden LGA.

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12 TO 24 YEARS MAKE UP 17.5%  
(CENSUS 2016) OF THE TOTAL CAMDEN POPULATION.

#### MEET COOPER...

Cooper is a 14-year-old boy who lives with his dad in Spring Farm. Cooper enjoys hanging out with his friends and plays soccer for the local team. Cooper has a fantastic relationship with his dad, but his mother and two siblings live interstate so he doesn't get to see them often. Lately Cooper has been getting into trouble at school and has been getting into fights. Cooper has been seeing the school counsellor who has referred Cooper to some local youth services for additional support and mentorship. Cooper most enjoys woodwork and PE at school but is also very good at Science.

#### MEET JAZ...

Jaz identifies as non-binary and lives with their mum and older sister in Gregory Hills. Jaz's mum migrated from Vietnam in the late 1980s. Jaz is 21 years old and aspires to become a teacher but is worried that they could be discriminated against for their gender identity and multicultural background. Jaz is under-employed working casually at a local coffee shop 2-3 days per week. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in Jaz receiving even less shifts than normal and they fear the coffee shop could continue to reduce their shifts.

#### MEET NAHIA...

Nahia lives in Oran Park with her family who migrated from India before she was born. Both her parents work outside of the LGA, they have a large family living across Sydney who they enjoy time with. Nahia is in year 11 and doing well at school, she is very close with her Aunt who teaches her to cook traditional dishes for the family. They are finding that COVID-19 times are challenging as contact with extended family is limited. Nahia doesn't know what she wants to do after leaving school but feels pressured by her parents to go to university.

#### MEET JADE...

Jade is a 15-year-old girl who lives with her parents and two siblings in Narellan Vale. Jade has been visiting Julia Reserve Youth Centre and has disclosed to a staff member that she feels pressured by her boyfriend who is in the year above her at school. Jade is a very popular girl but has told staff that she is exhausted from trying to upkeep her social media profile. Jade plays netball for a local team and aspires to go to the Olympics for skateboarding.









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# 3

## COUNCIL'S ROLE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



### 3. COUNCIL'S ROLE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local Government plays a very important role in the growth and development of communities. Camden Council pride ourselves in being able to work with our community to ensure our residents are supported and those most vulnerable are not left behind. While Council is a very important piece of the community development model, we cannot be solely responsible for this and must work with local services, other levels

of government, educational institutions, local industry and our residents to build a connected and functioning community.

In order to successfully support the young people of our community this strategy will focus on five community development principles that Camden Council is best placed to support:

#### ACCESS AND INCLUSION

A major way that Camden Council can support our community in its development is ensuring access and inclusion for all residents. Ensuring our youth spaces, programs and activities are inclusive and have equal access for all local young people will allow us to help create a connected and supported community.

#### ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

As the level of government that engages most with communities, Local Governments' are well placed to engage other levels of government and funding bodies to advocate for the needs of their communities. It is also Local Governments' responsibility to work with local sectors in a leadership capacity, to ensure our communities have the support structures they require.

#### CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building of local organisations and local industry is a critical part of Local Governments responsibility when developing communities. By building the capacity of local sectors we can create a greater reach of supports for our residents ensuring services are able to operate to their full potential.

#### PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

It is important to recognise that Local Government cannot be solely responsible for community development. Therefore, a major element of Councils responsibility is to collaborate and partner with other organisations and other levels of government to ensure appropriate services are provided to the community.

#### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Local Government is very well placed to consult with communities. By having the capacity to engage at a grass roots level with communities it is Local Governments responsibility to consult with residents and ensure people can have their voices heard in relation to matters that affect them.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – WHAT  
INFORMED THIS STRATEGY?



## 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - WHAT INFORMED THIS STRATEGY?

Camden Council's Community Planning and Development Team developed a consultation to ensure local young people had the opportunity to have input into the development of the Camden Youth Strategy.

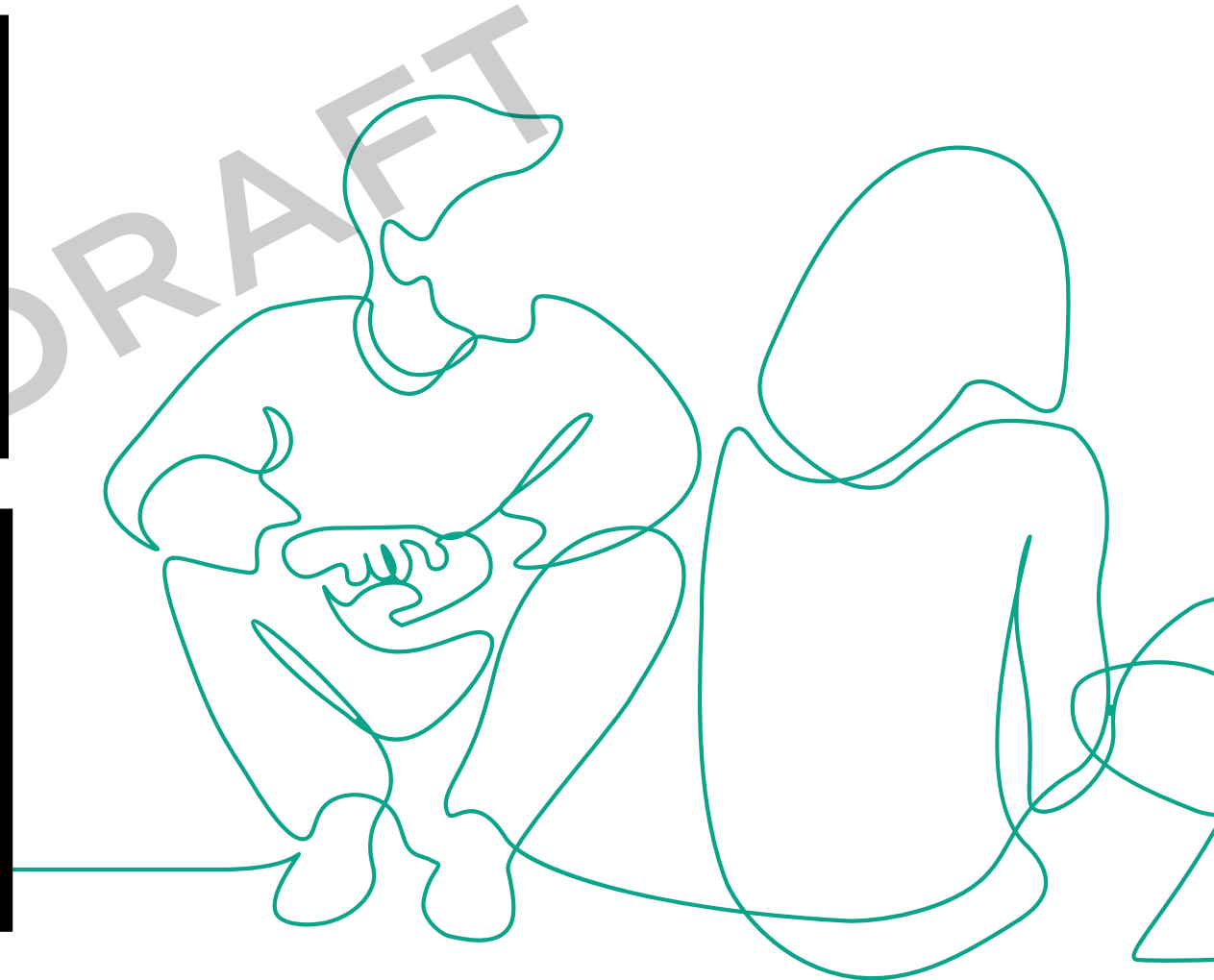
Two surveys were conducted to develop our understanding of the issues impacting Camden's young people and to develop an understanding of what matters to them.

### SURVEY 1:

- The first survey sought to gain an understanding of what was important to local young people, allowing us to develop the five strategic priorities that entrench this strategy.
- This survey consisted of 24 questions that ranged from a mixture of qualitative, quantitative, and demographic questions.
- There was a total of 1,021 total responses to this survey.

### SURVEY 2:

- The second survey analysed this information further and ultimately became the focus of the Camden Youth Strategy and the subsequent actions.
- This survey consisted of 20 questions containing a further mixture of qualitative, quantitative and demographical questions.
- A total of 467 local young people completed this second survey.



A photograph of three young women in a swimming pool. They are all smiling and have white shaving cream applied to their faces. The woman in the center is making a peace sign with her right hand. The woman on the right is also making a peace sign. The woman on the left is partially visible. The background is the blue water of the pool.

“CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO  
SAY WHAT THEY THINK SHOULD  
HAPPEN WHEN ADULTS ARE MAKING  
DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM AND  
TO HAVE THEIR OPINIONS TAKEN  
INTO ACCOUNT”.

(ARTICLE 12, UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD)



A vibrant, close-up photograph of two young women underwater. The woman on the left is smiling broadly, showing her teeth, and has her hand near her face. The woman on the right is also smiling, with her mouth open in a joyful expression, and has her hand near her head. They are both wearing blue and black patterned swimwear. The background is a deep blue with light rays filtering through the water.

## CAMDEN YOUTH NETWORK FOCUS GROUP SESSION:

- From the results of these surveys a focus group session was delivered with the Camden Youth Network to gain input from the local youth sector.
- A total of 23 people from local schools, youth services and government agencies attended and contributed to this consultation.
- This consultation aimed to develop strategies and actions that could support the needs of local young people based on the results of the two surveys.



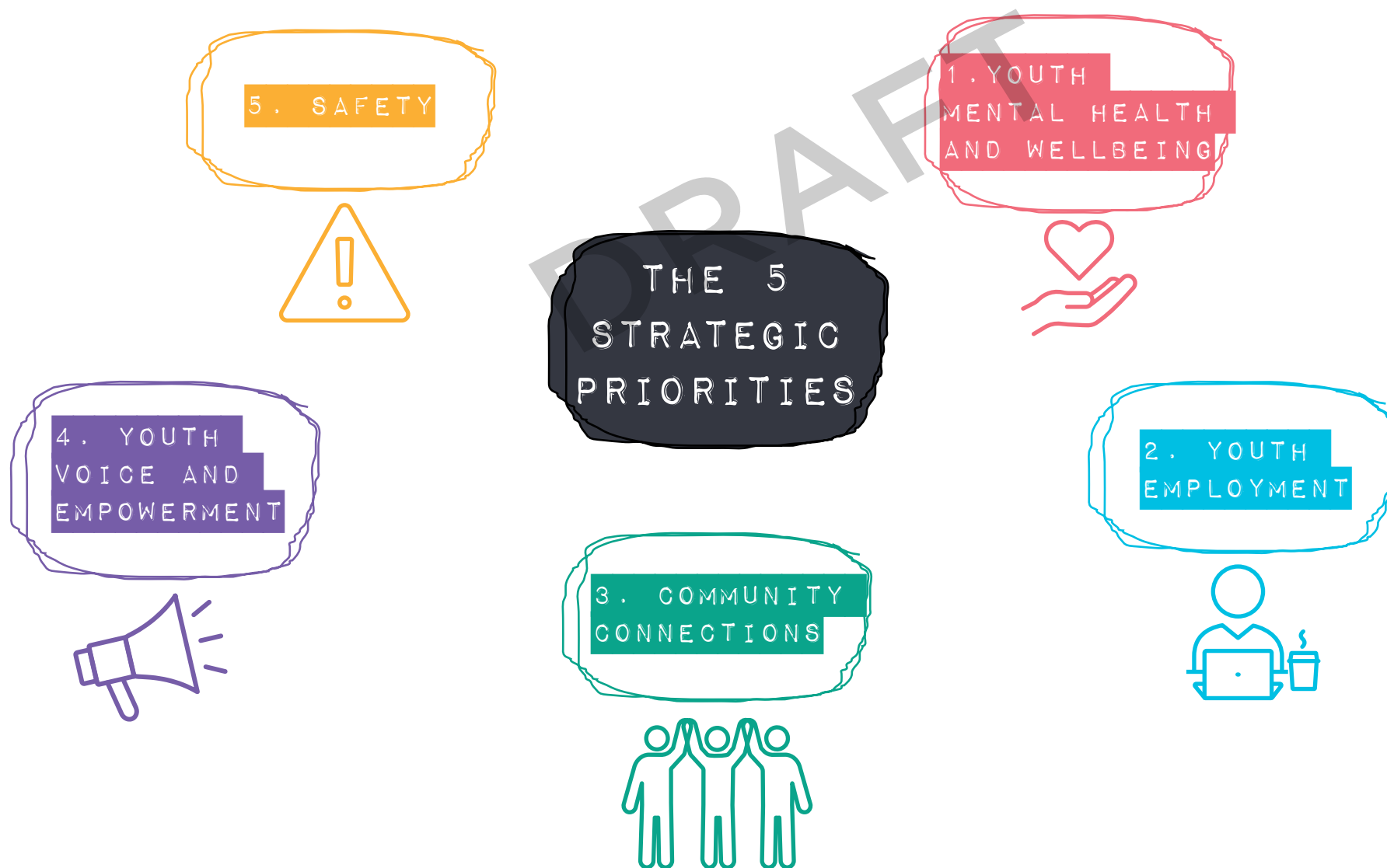


5

THE 5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## 5. THE 5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Overall, this consultation saw almost 1,500 responses from local young people, ensuring a significant proportion of the local youth population had their say in the development of the strategic priorities and the subsequent actions.





## 1. YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



In the first survey 53% of young people identified mental health and wellbeing as the most important focus area affecting them and other young people within the LGA.

Another question from this survey analysed young people's support systems. We found that 82.82 % of young people turn to their friends when in need of support. Young people also

indicated that they were likely to talk to their parents, siblings/ cousins or teachers when in need of support. Concerningly, 9.8% indicated that they talk to "nobody" when in need of support, suggesting a need for more awareness and training around youth mental health and the support services that are available.

"WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE CAMDEN COUNCIL COULD DO TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN RELATION TO THE FOCUS AREA?"

### THREE THEMES WERE IDENTIFIED

#### 1. THE NEED FOR MORE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

*"More media/marketing to raise awareness about the stigma around mental health and to show that services are available to anyone in need. Camden Council could also encourage schools and have programs at youth centres to be more open about the issues of mental health and the importance of self-care." (15-17 years, Female)*

#### 2. THE NEED FOR MORE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE

*"I feel like there needs to be more mental health services in the Camden area. There are some mental health areas, but I believe there should be more since mental health is very important to our wellbeing and others, we need to help each other out and prevent things such as suicide and self-harm. I feel like not everyone feels comfortable talking and I think there needs to be that bit of encouragement and help out there that will support others and give them the chance to speak out" (11-14 years, Female)*

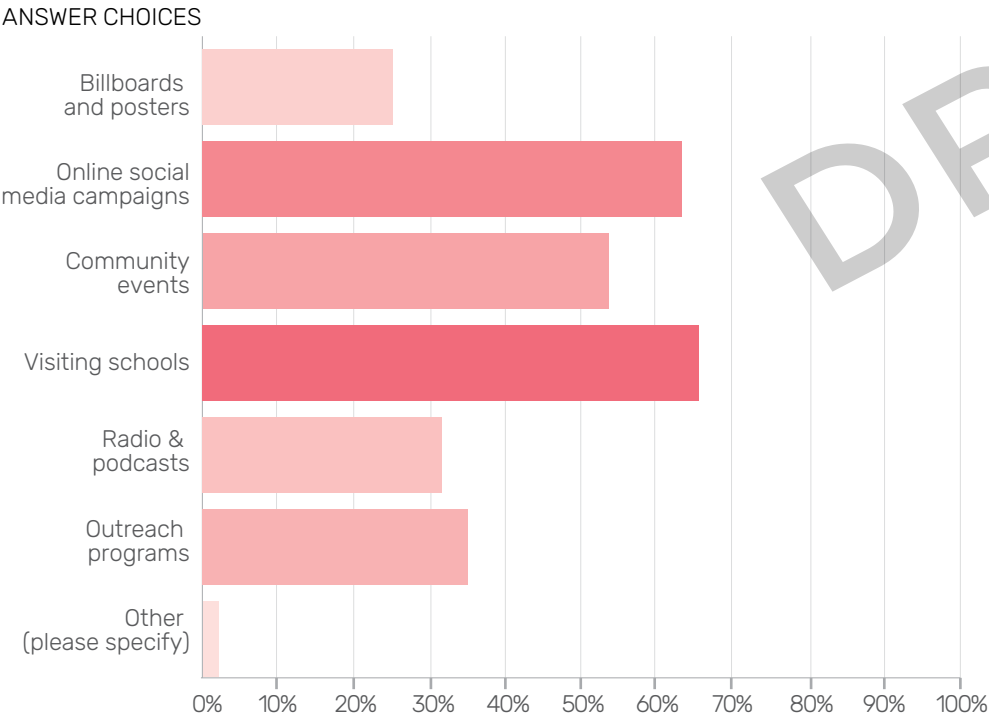
#### 3. THE NEED TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND GROUP-BASED ACTIVITIES THAT TARGET YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

*"Provide more ways to let people feel comfortable talking about how they feel or what they are going through. This could include things like group activities that could aim for better health, physically, emotionally, or mentally such as yoga which relieves stress. Organised group walks for young people through the park would give an opportunity for socialisation and a sense of community." (11-14 years, Female)*

A deeper analysis of the Mental Health and Wellbeing strategic priority was conducted through the second survey:

YOUNG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE LOCAL YOUTH SERVICES THAT ARE “FREE OR LOW COST”, THAT THEY ARE “EASILY ACCESSIBLE” AND THAT THEY ARE DELIVERED IN “YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES”.

Q5 IN THE FIRST YOUTH SURVEY YOUNG PEOPLE SAID THAT MORE AWARENESS ABOUT YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IS NEEDED. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Billboards and posters	25.28%
Online social media campaigns	65.91%
Community events	55.40%
Visiting schools	67.61%
Radio & podcasts	67.61%
Outreach programs	67.61%
Other (please specify)	67.61%



"WHAT TYPE OF MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS, EVENTS OR GROUP-BASED ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE CAMDEN LGA?"

ALTERNATIVE  
THERAPY SUPPORT  
GROUPS

"I would like to see more creative therapy like art therapy. Personally, art and using my creative abilities always calms me" (Female, 15-17)

LARGE COMMUNITY  
EVENTS THAT RAISE  
AWARENESS FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH

"I think Oran Park skatepark is the perfect opportunity for conversations around mental health. Skating and skate culture is prominent for young people and would be the easiest avenue to market" (Female 18-21)

PROGRAMS WITHIN  
SCHOOLS

"Support services, awareness days, people coming into schools to talk about their struggles" (Male, 15-17)

SPECIFIC SUPPORT  
GROUPS FOR  
MARGINALISED  
YOUNG PEOPLE

"A safe space for LGBT+ youths to talk about what they're struggling with without the fear of being made fun of or being outed" (11-14 years)



## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING ACTIONS TABLE

	STRATEGIC ACTION	LINK TO CONSULTATION	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	LEAD ORGANISATIONS
1.1	Delivery of soft entry events and programs that raise awareness for youth mental health and wellbeing	Young people indicated the need for more events, programs and group-based activities that target and/or help raise awareness for mental health.	Delivery of at least 4 annual events that raise awareness for youth mental health and wellbeing. Examples of these events include youth music events, skate events, art workshops, etc.	Ongoing	Camden Council and identified project partners
1.2	Advocacy for more youth mental health services within LGA	Young people indicated the need for more youth mental health supports within the area.	Additional funding secured from either state or federal governments to support youth mental health services within the Camden LGA.	2026	Camden Council
1.3	Providing free and low-cost spaces for youth mental health services to outreach in the Camden LGA	Young people indicated the need for more youth mental health services within the area. By providing spaces for services to outreach at low-no cost, we provide opportunities for this to take place.	Maintain or increase in the number of services who provide outreach support to young people in the Camden LGA.	Ongoing	Camden Council
1.4	Delivery of subsidised youth mental health training for young people, teachers or other people who directly support or are in regular contact with young people.	Young people indicated that they reach out to their friends, parents, and teachers when in need of support. Providing this training will ensure that more people within our community have the capacity to appropriately respond when young people need support.	Delivery of at least one free or subsidised youth mental health training session for young people, teachers and other members of the community who support young people (for example, sports coaches and parents)	Ongoing	Camden Council and identified project partners
1.5	Appropriate advertisement of youth mental health services through Council websites and social media platforms.	Young people indicated the need for more awareness about the mental health service available to them.	Up-to-date records kept on all Council websites and bi-monthly social media posts on Councils' social media platforms.	Ongoing	Camden Council and identified project partners
1.6	Delivery of Schools-Service Expos to raise awareness of services available	Young people indicated the need for more awareness of the services available to them and that they would like awareness programs to take place within schools.	Delivery of at least two annual School-Service Expos within local high schools	Ongoing	Camden Youth Network



## 2. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



12.8% of young people said Youth Employment is the most important focus area affecting them and their peers. This consultation found five subcategories of youth employment and Council will commit to supporting these through this strategy.

### THE 5 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SUBCATEGORIES:

EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYMENT  
PROGRAMS  
& EVENTS

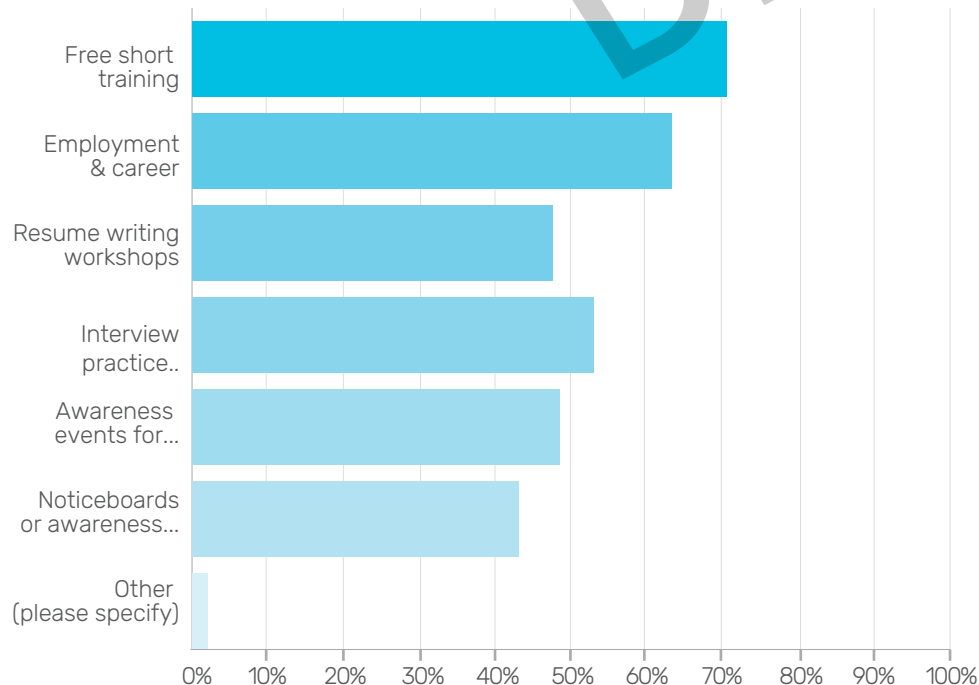
TRAINING

ADVERTISEMENT  
AND AWARENESS

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT  
SUPPORT SERVICES

### Q7 WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SURROUNDING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT?

#### ANSWER CHOICES



#### ANSWER CHOICES

#### RESPONSES

Free short training course	70.64%
Employment & career workshops	63.91%
Resume writing workshops	47.71%
Interview practice sessions	53.21%
Awareness events for the service that can support you to find a job	48.62%
Notice boards or awareness campaigns for employment opportunities	43.12%
Other (please specify)	2.45%

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACTIONS TABLE

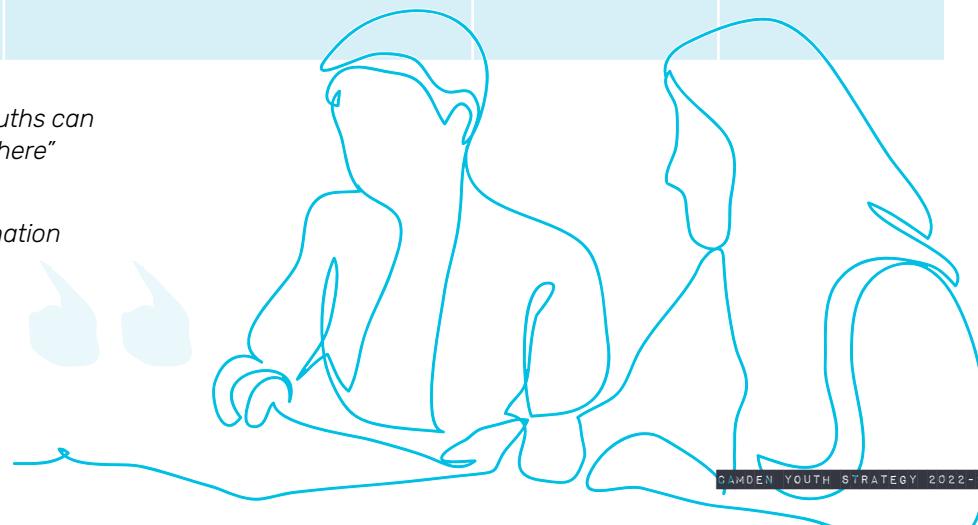
	STRATEGIC ACTION	LINK TO CONSULTATION	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	LEAD ORGANISATIONS
2.1	Advertisement of local employment opportunities and services through a centralised hub.	A common theme identified throughout the consultation was the need for more awareness and advertisement of employment opportunities that are available for young people.	Development of a platform that allows young people to learn about local employment opportunities and the support services available to them.	Ongoing	Camden Council and identified project partners
2.2	Delivery of free or subsidised skills courses each year.	Young people indicated the need for more training, specifically to help them in gaining entry level employment.	Delivery of at least two, free or subsidised course for local young people per calendar year.	Ongoing	Camden Council
2.3	Work with local industry to develop pathways and opportunities for young people to enter the workforce.	A common theme throughout the youth employment focus area was the creation of employment opportunities. By working with local industry to develop employment pathways for young people we will allow young people the best opportunity to gain local employment.	Development of a pathway program that enables young people to have increased access to local employment opportunities.	2026	Camden Council and identified project partners
2.4	Development of a localised careers expo.	Two common themes relating to the focus area of youth employment were awareness and advertisement and Employment Programs and events. The development of a localised careers expo supports both.	Development and delivery of an annual careers expo for young people.	2023, Ongoing	Camden Council (Economic Development and Activation)
2.5	Continuation of Camden Council's Traineeship program.	This specifically relates to employment opportunities. By continuing this program and guaranteeing a commitment to this Camden Council will provide employment opportunities for young people.	Annual review and continued commitment to the Camden Council Traineeship Program.	Ongoing	Camden Council (Human Resources)

*"Free short courses, more frequent RSA RCG courses, anything to help youth get into the work force, opportunities to network with employers who can give the youth that further opportunity"* (Female, 18-21)

*"Sessions on how to write resumes and cover letters, or ways to present yourself in interviews"* (Female, 18-21 years)

*"Having a specific place where Youths can see what jobs are available and where"* (Male, 15-17)

*"Host more frequent career information events"* (Male, aged 18-21)





### 3. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Throughout this consultation young people articulated that they wanted “more youth group activities to introduce us to people in our age group” (Female, 11-14 years), and to feel a stronger sense of community, amongst their peers. 11.79% of these young people identified this as the most important issue to them. The results of this consultation indicate young people would like Council and relevant agencies to support this in the following three ways:

- Increased Programs, Events and Activities;
- Creating Inclusive Communities; and
- Supporting Environmental Sustainability.

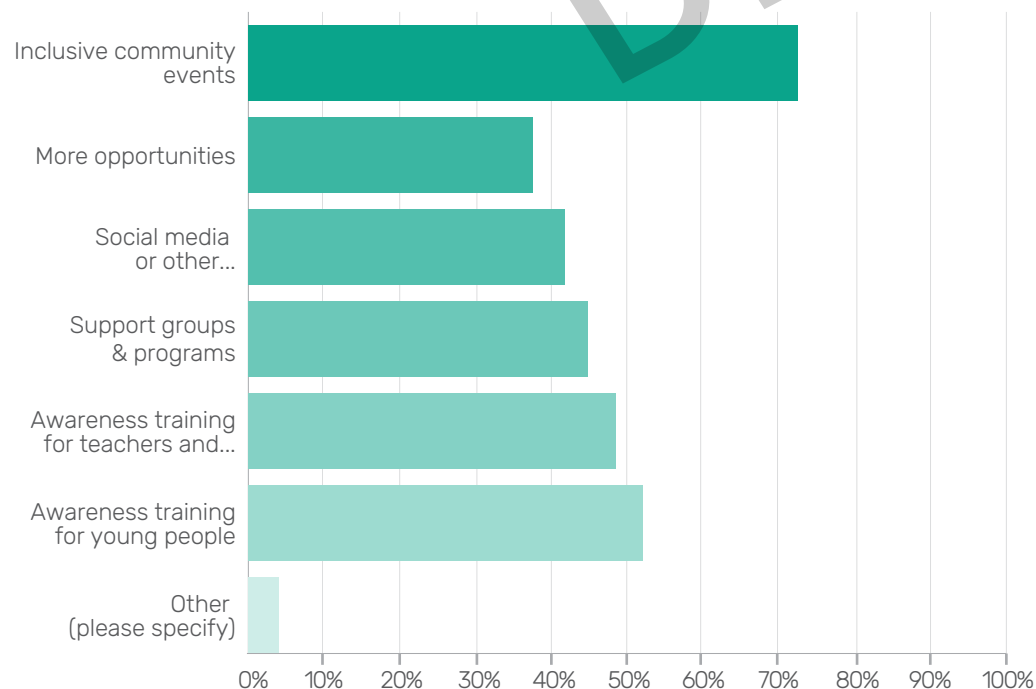
*“Offer more opportunities for youth to come together in a safe and friendly environment”*  
(Male, 11-14 years)

*“Hold awareness and interactive activities and days, educating young people on multiculturalism and the variety of cultures in Australia”* (Male, 15-17)

*“The Council to support the environment through free planting programs, native flora and fauna awareness and encouraging teens to be connected with their environment”*  
(Female, 15-17 years)

#### Q9 IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK CAMDEN COULD BE INCLUSIVE?

##### ANSWER CHOICES



##### ANSWER CHOICES

##### RESPONSES

Inclusive community events eg. multicultural festival or wear it purple day event	72.76%
More opportunities for people to tell their stories in a public forum	38.78%
Social media or other awareness raising campaigns	41.99%
Support groups & programs	45.19%
Awareness training for teachers and youth workers	49.36%
Awareness training for young people	53.21%
Other (please specify)	4.81%

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS ACTIONS TABLE

	STRATEGIC ACTION	LINK TO CONSULTATION	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	LEAD ORGANISATIONS
3.1	Delivery of inclusive training or awareness event.	This was developed from the subcategory of creating an inclusive community. Delivering training or hosting events that raise awareness for inclusion will reduce stereotypes and enable Camden to grow as an inclusive community.	Delivery of at least two awareness events or inclusive trainings each year.	Ongoing	Camden Council and identified project partners
3.2	Julia Reserve Youth Centre as a member of ACON's "Welcome Here Project".	This action has been developed to help in the creation of inclusive communities. By joining this project, we commit to ensuring that Julia Reserve Youth Precinct is an inclusive place for the LGBTIQA+ community.	Continued membership of project.	Ongoing	Camden Council
3.3	Annual skate events being delivered at Julia Reserve Youth Precinct.	This is related specifically to the theme of young people wanting more youth events, programs, and activities.	Delivery of at least two skate events per calendar year.	Ongoing	Camden Council
3.4	Development of an annual comprehensive Youth Week program.	This is related specifically to the theme of young people wanting more youth events, programs, and activities.	Delivery of an annual youth week program with at least 10 activities for young people to participate in.	Ongoing	Camden Council and identified project partners
3.5	Ensuring young people can voice their opinions around local sustainability practices.	This relates to the subcategory "environmental sustainability". By involving young people in decision making around environmental sustainability we empower them to make long term environmentally sustainable choices and create a more connected community.	Young people are aware of local sustainability programs and opportunities and have the opportunity to be involved in relevant community consultations and programs related to this.	Ongoing	Camden Council (Community Planning and Development, Environment and Health)
3.6	Development of a Julia Reserve website.	The development of this website will ensure young people have a centralised online tool to discover and learn about the events, programs and activities that are available within the Julia Reserve Youth Precinct.	Development and continued support for a website that provides up-to-date information about Julia Reserve Youth Precinct and the relevant programs that will help young people connect with each other.	2023	Camden Council



#### 4. YOUTH VOICE AND EMPOWERMENT



When asked in the first survey “In what environments do you get a say about the issues that affect you?” more than 15% of young people responded that “they never get a say about the issues affecting them”. When this was explored further in the second part of this consultation young people identified that surveys, creative workshops, online forums and suggestion boards/boxes are the most common way young people would like to have their voices heard.



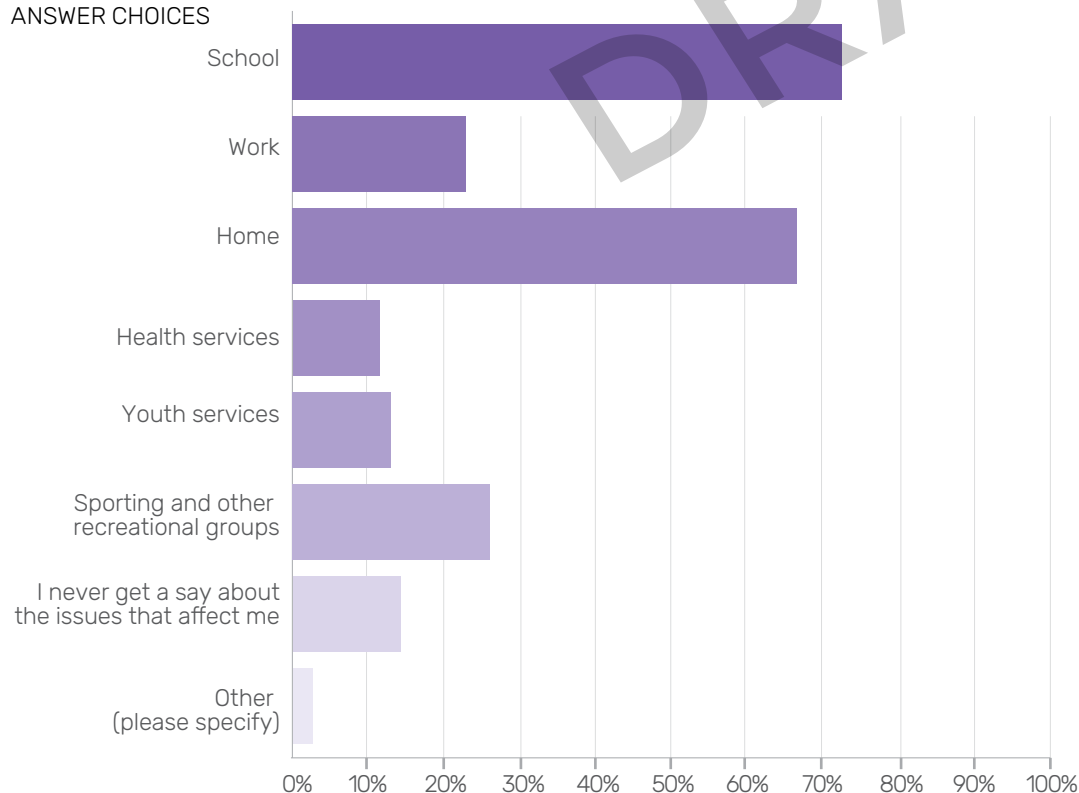
*“Listen to young people because sometimes we actually have great ideas on how to improve the Camden area”* (Female, 11-14 years)

*“Get their opinions by doing surveys and workshops”*  
(Female, aged 22-24)



#### Q15 IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ENVIRONMENTS DO YOU GET A SAY ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU? (PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT ARE RELEVANT TO YOU)

##### ANSWER CHOICES



##### ANSWER CHOICES

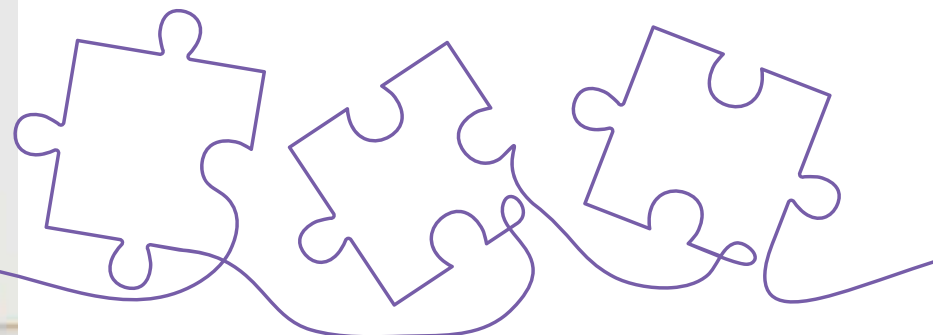
##### RESPONSES

School	58.83%
Work	22.42%
Home	66.52%
Health services	10.92%
Youth services	12.95%
Sporting and other recreational groups	26.93%
I never get a say about the issues that affect me	15.43%
Other (please specify)	2.04%



## YOUTH VOICE & EMPOWERMENT ACTIONS TABLE

	STRATEGIC ACTION	LINK TO CONSULTATION	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	LEAD ORGANISATIONS
4.1	An integration of surveys and outcome measurement across all of Council's Youth Programs.	Young people indicated that they would like to have their voices heard through surveys. By developing surveys for our youth programs, we can use these to support focus area four, youth voice and empowerment whilst also allowing for continuous improvement in our programs.	Development of relevant surveys and other youth engagement tools that will allow us measure outcomes and have youth voice embedded in all of our youth programs delivered by Camden Council. Ongoing review of these.	2024	Camden Council
4.2	Delivery of training on how to integrate youth voice and empowerment into organisations.	This relates to the section of the consultation that found many young people felt that they didn't get a say in issues that affect them.	Training session, delivered through Camden Youth Network or other means.	2023	Camden Council and identified project partners
4.3	The continuation of Camden Youth Council.	The continuation of the Camden Youth Council ensures Council leads by example when ensuring youth voice and empowerment is embedded within our community.	Monthly meetings with the Camden Youth Council who work on an advisory and project delivery capacity for Council's youth programs.	Ongoing	Camden Council
4.4	Advocacy for qualitative research that allows local young people to have their voices heard regarding important matters.	As a part of the Camden Youth Network focus group session the need for qualitative research with young people to increase youth voice was raised.	Increased number of meaningful qualitative research opportunities for local young people to participate in.	2026	Camden Council and identified project partners



## 5. SAFETY



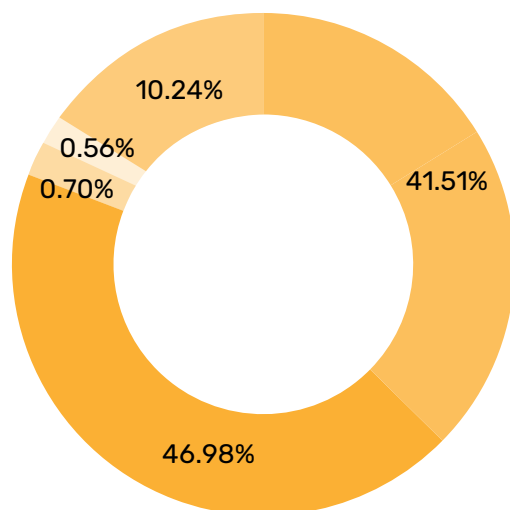
The fifth strategic priority that this strategy will commit to is “Safety”. While the majority of young people identified that they felt safe within the Camden LGA, this is something Camden Council want to keep as a priority and continue to improve on. This also aligns with strategy 5.1.1 of the Camden Community Strategic Plan to “Foster strong, cohesive, healthy and safe communities”

Safety includes all forms of safety from providing safe places, to ensuring that young people are educated to be safe online or to make safe decisions all the way through to ensuring that services and adult support systems in their lives have the training and opportunity to be as child safe as possible, thinking through a child protection lens.

*“Provide safe places where people can feel comfortable and open” (Female, 15-17 years)*

*“Providing information resources for youth in school, known safe places for people to go” (Female, 18-21)*

### Q12 I FEEL SAFE WITHIN THE CAMDEN LGA?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	46.98%
Agree	41.51%
Neither agree nor disagree	10.24%
Disagree	0.70%
Strongly disagree	0.56%



## SAFETY ACTIONS TABLE

	STRATEGIC ACTION	LINK TO CONSULTATION	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	LEAD ORGANISATIONS
5.1	Development and implementation of a Child Safe Framework for Council.	By developing this framework Council will lead by example in creating safe communities for our children and young people.	Implementation of a Council wide Child Safe Framework, including annual reviews.	2024	Camden Council (multiple departments)
5.2	Implementation of a Youth Safety Forum (involving local young people).	This relates to both focus area four, youth voice and empowerment and focus area five, safety.	Annual Youth Safety Forum being delivered with Police, Council's Community and Safety Officer and other relevant parties. Young people given the opportunity to raise concerns.	Ongoing	Camden Council and identified project partners
5.3	Domestic Violence Escape kits being available at Julia Reserve Youth Precinct.  Provide access to resources such as escape bags and hygiene products.	This provides a safe space for young people in the area who need appropriate resources to escape from unsafe environments.	Monthly audits by staff to ensure these are available and in good condition.	Ongoing	Camden Council and identified project partners
5.4	Child Safety Training being delivered for all who work or volunteer at Julia Reserve Youth Precinct.	This provides a safe space for the young people of the area ensuring they have access to appropriately trained staff and volunteers.	100% of staff and volunteers who work at Julia Reserve Youth Precinct receive this training.	Ongoing	Camden Council and identified project partners







THIS CONSULTATION SAW ALMOST 1,500





## RESPONSES FROM LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE,





6

HOW THE CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY  
WILL SUPPORT THE CAMDEN  
COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN



## 6. HOW THE CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY WILL SUPPORT THE CAMDEN COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Camden Community Strategic Plan (CSP) outlines the Camden community's long-term vision and goals. It sets the key directions for the whole local government area and aims to improve the quality of life for all residents. The Camden Youth Strategy will contribute to achieving the community's broad vision by focusing on what can be done for young people aged between 12 and 24 years. Detailed in the table below are the key directions, objectives/strategies and the principal activities of the Camden Community Strategic Plan that the Youth Strategy will support.

KEY DIRECTION	OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES	2022-2026 Delivery Program Principal Activities
<b>Welcoming – Embrace our vibrant and diverse community</b>	W1.1 Support initiatives that build and foster community cohesion W1.2 Celebrate creativity and grow diversity W1.3 Promote and facilitate equitable access to services, facilities, and community initiatives W3.3 Address community needs through provision of services and facilities targeting specific user groups	W1.1.1 - Implement strategies that support community inclusion for all community groups W1.2.2.1 - Develop and deliver an annual program of community initiatives that celebrate diversity W1.3.3.2 - Negotiate licence agreements for Julia Reserve, Wanneroo Offices, and other community spaces W3.3.1.1 - Establish and facilitate interagency networks to identify and address community needs
<b>Liveable – Strong and integrated links between our people and our services</b>	LB2.2 Enhance town centres and public spaces	LB2.2.2 - Develop and deliver a public art strategy and support public art activities
<b>Prosperous – Advanced local economic opportunities and job creation</b>	P2.1 Strengthen education, training, and career pathways	P2.1.1 - Partner with stakeholders to advocate for or develop education and training programs that support business and industry needs P2.1.2 - Provide opportunities to accelerate youth employment in the Camden LGA
<b>Balanced – Providing sustainable and responsible solutions that enhance our heritage</b>	B1.4 Facilitate community education and citizen science programs to foster appreciation and understanding of the natural environment	B1.4.1 - Deliver community education programs on environmental protection and care
<b>Leading – A successful advocate for our people and places</b>	L1.1 Advocate to realise our vision for Camden's future L2.2 Council builds opportunities for continuous improvement through service delivery that reflects need	L1.1.1 - Be an effective advocate for the Camden community's needs L2.2.2 - Implement innovative initiatives to further embed a culture of continuous improvement across Council L2.2.3 - Conduct service reviews to increase efficiency and effectiveness of service, creating best value for our customers



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HOW THE CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY WILL  
SUPPORT THE NSW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



## 7. HOW THE CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY WILL SUPPORT THE NSW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People developed by the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young people and launched in April of 2022 highlights six commitments made by the NSW Government to the children and young people of NSW. Many of these objectives correlate with the findings of our localised consultation and strategic priorities that we have identified throughout this strategy document. The table below details these state-wide objectives and how this localised strategy supports these.

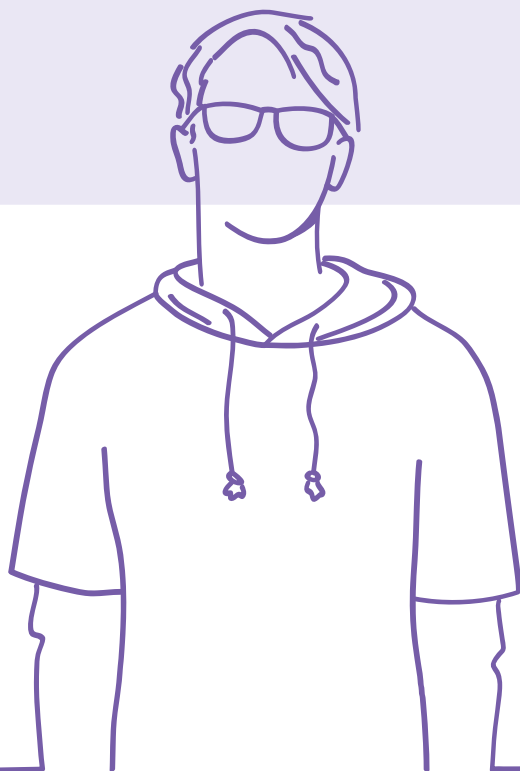
	NSW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2022 PRIORITIES	LINK TO CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY PRIORITIES	CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY ACTIONS THAT WILL SUPPORT THESE STATE-WIDE PRIORITIES
1	Hope for the future – Children and young people’s individual learning and interests are fostered through education, training and skills development which supports them to grow and prepares them for their future. They are supported to be independent, engage in society and to join the workforce.	Links directly to strategic priority two of the Camden Youth Strategy: Youth Employment	2.2: Delivery of Free or subsidised skills courses each year 2.3: Work with local industry to develop pathways and opportunities for young people to enter the workforce
2	Love, connection and safety – Children and young people feel safe, loved and nurtured. They can connect and build friendships with others. They feel that they belong to a wider community, social or cultural group. They are free from neglect, abuse and violence.	Links to multiple strategic priorities in the Camden Youth Strategy. In particular, strategic priorities 3 and 5; Community Connection and Safety.	3.1: Delivery of inclusive training or awareness event. 3.2: Julia Reserve Youth Centre as a member of ACON’s “Welcome Here Project” 5.1: Development and implementation of a Child Safe Framework for Council 5.2: Implementation of a Youth Safety Forum (involving local young people)
3	Health and wellbeing – Children and young people’s mental, physical and emotional health is nurtured and supported to enable them to flourish.	Links directly to strategic priority one of the Camden Youth Strategy; Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing.	1.2: Advocacy for more Youth Mental Health Services within LGA 1.3: Providing FREE and low-cost spaces for Youth mental health services to outreach in the Camden LGA 1.4: Delivery of subsidised youth mental health training for young people, teachers or other people who directly support or are in regular contact with young people.
4	A good standard of living – Children and young people are provided with the necessities they need to thrive. Children and young people do not live-in poverty and are provided with adequate services and resources to operate in society.	Whilst there isn’t a strategic priority within the Camden Youth Strategy that links directly to this commitment, they all indirectly support this and will create a good standard of living for the young people of Camden.	1.6: Delivery of Schools-Service Expos to raise awareness of services available 2.2: Delivery of Free or subsidised skills courses each year 3.5: Ensuring young people can voice their opinions around local sustainability practices.



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THEY ARE PART OF A COMMUNITY  
THAT SUPPORTS THEM TO BE PROUD  
OF THEIR CULTURE, DIVERSITY AND  
INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY.

	NSW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2022 PRIORITIES	LINK TO CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY PRIORITIES	CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY ACTIONS THAT WILL SUPPORT THESE STATE-WIDE PRIORITIES
5	Environments for joy and fun – Children and young people have spaces and opportunities to engage in activities for recreation and leisure. These spaces are enjoyable, welcoming and safe.	Links to multiple strategic priorities in the Camden Youth Strategy. In particular, strategic priorities 3 and 5; Community Connection and Safety. This NSW Government commitment is also embodied in the development and strategic direction of the Julia Reserve Youth Precinct.	3.3: Annual Skate events being delivered at Julia Reserve Youth Precinct 3.4: Development of an annual comprehensive youth week program 5.4: Child Safety Training being delivered for all who work or volunteer at Julia Reserve Youth and Community Centre.
6	Respect and Acceptance – Children and young people feel respected, accepted and included in society. They are part of a community that supports them to be proud of their culture, diversity and individual identity. They are free from discrimination, racism and structural violence.	Links directly to strategic priority four of the Camden Youth Strategy; Youth Voice & Empowerment.	3.1: Delivery of inclusive training or awareness event. 3.5: Ensuring young people can voice their opinions around local sustainability practices 4.2: Delivery of Training on how to integrate youth voice & empowerment into organisations 4.4: Advocacy for qualitative research that allows local young people to have their voices heard regarding important matters 5.2: Implementation of a Youth Safety Forum (involving local young people)







8

OUR STRATEGY IN ACTION; THE JULIA  
RESERVE YOUTH PRECINCT



## 8. OUR STRATEGY IN ACTION: THE JULIA RESERVE YOUTH PRECINCT

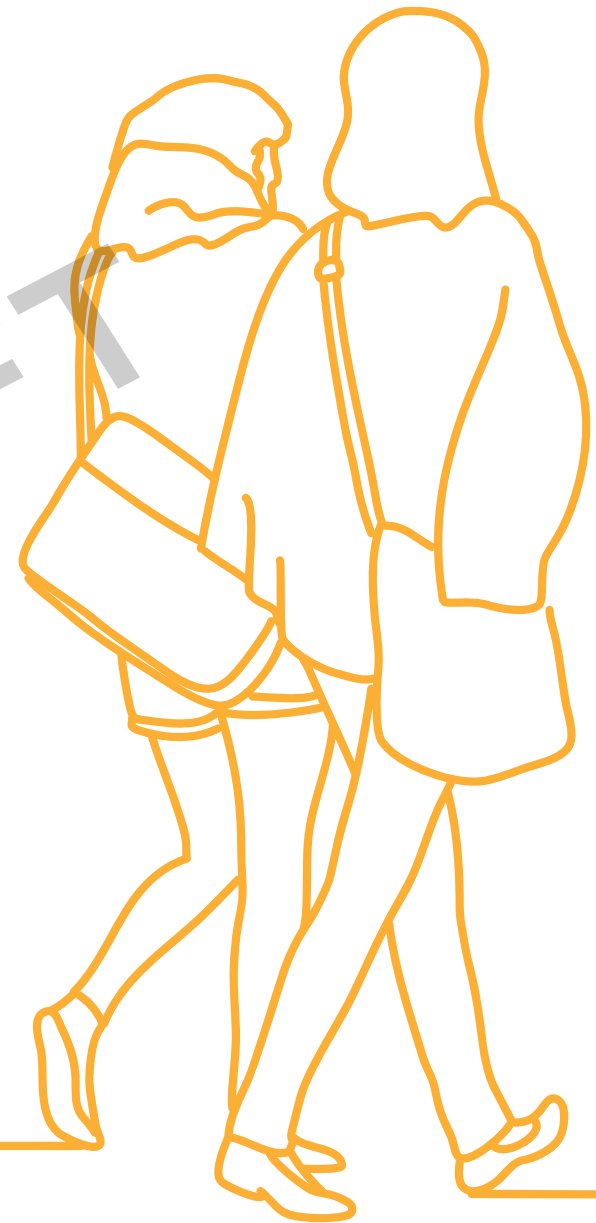
Julia Reserve Youth Precinct located in Oran Park is a purpose-built youth facility designed to support the young people of Camden. Located within the precinct is a state-of-the-art skate facility, basketball courts, parkour training area and a purpose-built youth centre.

Camden Council has adopted a co-location model of service delivery for the youth centre, providing youth services the opportunity to outreach from the facility creating a holistic support structure for young people. This directly supports strategic action 1.3 to "Provide free and low-cost spaces for Youth mental health services to outreach in the Camden LGA".

The youth centre also boasts a large auditorium space and activity rooms ensuring the centre has capacity to deliver a variety of recreational and cultural programs for the youth of Camden. Council intends to utilise these spaces as soft entry points to ensure young people are aware of the support systems that are available to them, whilst also giving them the opportunity to connect to their community as identified in the third strategic priority. Equally, this space will be used to support strategic action 1.1; "Delivery of soft entry events and programs that raise awareness for youth mental health and wellbeing", 2.4; "Development of a localised careers expo" and 5.2; "Implementation of a Youth Safety Forum".

Julia Reserve Youth Centre will be a safe, inclusive space for all young people, giving people aged 12 to 24 years the opportunity to have their voices heard, whilst empowering them to grow and develop. This facility and the subsequent operating model are a clear example of Camden Council's commitment to supporting young people through the strategic actions and priorities outlined within this strategy.

For more information about Julia Reserve or the support systems available within the facility please email [JuliaReserve@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:JuliaReserve@camden.nsw.gov.au)





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## 9: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Camden Council would like to thank all those who have been involved with this consultation and encourages residents of all ages to contact our Youth Team if they would like more information about this strategy. To contact our Youth Team please email [Youth@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Youth@camden.nsw.gov.au)

Camden Council is committed to supporting our local young people and recognises the importance of local government in fostering and supporting their development.





DRAFT



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