



# young people

## **Social Outcome**

Young people are respected and valued and are actively involved in all aspects of community life in Wyong Shire. Young people are able to reach their full potential through positive social, educational, employment and cultural opportunities and experiences.



## Current Context

- **Young People in Wyong Shire**

There is significant discussion regarding the correct definition of the term 'Youth'. The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies defines the period of youth as spanning the ages from 10 - 24. This definition is also used by the Australian Medical Association and the World Health Organisation. Other peak bodies and organisations that work with young people define this period as spanning the ages from 12 – 24. The Department of Community Services (DOCS) defines young people for funding purposes as 12 – 18 years.

Wyong Council defines the period of 'Youth' as people aged between 12 and 24 years.

In 2006 there were approximately 22,700 young people aged 12 – 24 living in the Shire representing 16.5% of the total population. Between 2001 and 2006 the number of 12 - 24 years olds increased by 2,164 or by 10.5%.

The teenage years are a period of rapid emotional, physical and intellectual transition, where young people progress from being dependent children to independent adults.

This is often a period where young people face a range of life events and challenges and make decisions that can impact on them, their families and their communities in the immediate and longer term.

### Social Indicators

Youth unemployment rate.

School retention rates.

Participation rate 15–24 year olds at TAFE/University.



Some of these include decisions on schooling and career paths, relationships with families and peers, sexual behaviours, employment, financial decisions and contact with drugs, alcohol or the justice system.

For young people, the transition to adulthood is made more complex by the social, economic, environmental and rapid technological changes in Australian society over recent decades. Compared with young people from previous generations, young people today have fewer siblings and are more commonly living in either single-parent or blended families, or families with both parents in the workforce. The pathways from education to work are more varied and complex than in the past and often extend over longer periods; coupled with decreased job security this means that young people often live in the parental home for longer.

Young people who are unable to make the transition to adulthood smoothly can face significant difficulties and barriers in both the short and long term. As such, positive protective factors introduced in childhood need to be reinforced throughout these critical years as young people go through various transition points in life and this is a role for families, communities and governments alike.

*Source: Australian Health and Wellbeing Institute: Young Australians: Their Health and Wellbeing, 2007.*

Young people in Wyong Shire are a diverse and interesting group of people with a wide range of skills, abilities, interests and talents. They are particularly disadvantaged on the urban fringes and in the northern areas of the Shire. Young people indicated during the consultation process that they feel challenged by people's perceptions of young people generally, inadequate public transport, limited access to education, training and local employment and lack of entertainment opportunities.

All people – that is every age group, population group and from every geographic area involved in the consultations mentioned the need for young people to be a key focus area for the Shire moving forward for the future.



- **Promoting a Positive Image of Young People**

Young people and their portrayal in the local media was repeatedly identified during the community consultations as important, both to young people and the wider community. There was a clear link made by residents between the way young people are portrayed in the media and the way they are perceived in the community.

There was a strong feeling by young people that the majority of media articles portray young people in a mostly negative light, and when there were positive articles they were mainly related to achievements of individuals in terms of academic and sporting achievement. There was a strong feeling that these types of positive media articles were not representative of the broader positive youth culture on the Central Coast.

*“Older people are scared by what they see and hear about young people in the media.”*

*“In the paper we read negative stories about the bad things a minority of young people do. This is what the wider community judges all young people by.”*

*“The media only put across negative stories of young people. The positive stuff is not celebrated.”*

*“The media reinforces the community’s perception of young people as “bad” but most young people are not like this.”*

There was a strong desire and willingness by young people in the consultations to work together to challenge these negative perceptions and values.

- **Building Community, Connecting and Interacting.**

Like the wider population, young people expressed a concern that community values have changed and that people no longer talk to their neighbours or look out for one another.

*“We have lost that community building and networking that happened when we used to be able to play cricket and soccer in the cul-de-sacs.”*



*"It's not a pretty picture - the community is not all facing the same direction like we should be – neighbours don't talk to each other, values and community pride aren't the same."*

When asked what changes they would make to their community, young people mentioned often that they would try to increase people's enthusiasm for making a community – engaging all people, making connections and linkages across the whole population in each community. Young people continually spoke about whole of community rather than just themselves as a population group:

*"We need children playing in our communities, young families and people outside – this makes a community a community."*

*"Intergenerational mixing in social spaces is important."*

*"Closer community, people out together on the street, laughter of people, more friendly people – families hanging out together."*

Young people regularly mentioned the importance of community events and activities that bring people together to link, connect and establish networks for example:

*"We used to have street parties in our street and neighbours having dinner together – that was great."*

They thought that people today have an "entitlement mentality" in that everything is about the individual. Young people were worried that there is no trust in the general community, and especially no trust of young people.

An important trend in connecting with people (especially for young people) is information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The Internet, mobile phones and blogging now play a significant role in the lives of young people. Young people increasingly use information and communication technologies to create their own communities, project their identities and to link with society. These technologies have become an important part of how children and young adults experience and learn to relate to the world.



Some interesting statistics relating to young people and their use of information and communication technologies are as follows:

- Four out of five 15 - 17 year olds in Australia own or have access to a mobile phone.
- Sixty per cent of all Australian teenagers use the Internet – the highest usage by any age group in the nation.

*Source: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth).*

It is important that Council utilises and learns about these technologies to enable relevant and current interactions with young people and to assist young people to use them positively, creatively and wisely.

- **Services for Young People**

Young people do not traditionally easily access services, programmes and supports. During the consultations, young people indicated that this is sometimes because of a lack of knowledge about a service, programme or activity; feeling scared or intimidated; or having had a bad experience previously. Young people indicated that they have high expectations of what a service should offer including; being open, welcoming and friendly, maintaining confidentiality, clear explanations of issues, and a high quality of service. There was a strong view expressed by all residents that Council had an important community service role with young people.

Specific comments made with regard to community services for young people were:

*“Gravity Youth Centre is a great example of a mix of different services for young people who need them.”*

- **Community Safety**

Young people expressed awareness that they are often considered as the perpetrators of crime, vandalism, graffiti and anti social behaviour in Wyong Shire. They believe that this is strongly linked to their portrayal in the media, and subsequent perception of all young people as intimidating, or the perpetrators of crime.



While young people acknowledged that there are some young people who are involved in these activities, they expressed a frustration at this perception as they have significant safety concerns of their own. Some of the main themes that young people spoke of in terms of their own safety are as follows:

- The level of bullying happening both inside and outside of schools;
- Concerned about people using drugs and the feelings of being unsafe in the area because of this;
- Worried about the level of graffiti and vandalism in the Shire; and
- Worried about P Platers and how they drive (too fast).

*"We feel scared of junkies. They make it feel dangerous and give a bad name to the area."*

*"Bullying in school and out of school is a problem."*

*"We hate that vandals wreck things and all young people get the blame for it. We are just as worried that things are damaged and that we can't use them either."*

- **Transport**

All population groups, both older and young, mentioned the impacts of a lack of appropriate transport on young people, ranging from social impacts to financial and safety impacts.

During the consultations, young people consistently reported the negative impacts of a lack of quality affordable transport, and how it is increasingly difficult for them to access employment, services, facilities and recreation options within Wyong Shire. For many young people, transport is the catalyst for their isolation and exclusion in the community.

*"It is very important to improve the transport system on the Central Coast for young people – for them it is so hard to get around."*



Similarly to the wider population, young people experienced a range of challenges associated with public transport in Wyong Shire as follows:

- **Costs:** The cost of public transport on the Central Coast is especially hard for young people who are on little or very limited income.
- **Indirect Routes:** What would be a fifteen minute trip to the beach is up to 1.5 hours on public transport.
- **Safety:** Young people who work casually are often required to work outside of normal working hours. This presents a challenge to young people travelling home on public transport – often they are on their own, travelling significant distances at night.
- **Social Impacts:** Transport in Wyong Shire has significant impacts on the social capabilities of young people. The cost, lack of services and indirect routes make young people quite isolated and unable to get to their social outings without the use of private transport.

Many people suggested special transport services for young people e.g. a beach bus service etc. The night owl bus was also mentioned regularly with people not understanding why it had ceased.

When asked what services would assist or benefit young people in their day to day life in Wyong Shire, every single young person mentioned the provision of reliable public transport as key to improving their quality of life. Cycleways and pathways were also important to young people. Young people often rely on bicycles, scooters, skateboards and walking to get them to the places they want to go and they continually mentioned the need for linked cycleways and pathways to make their journey safer and easier.

- **Employment and Education**

At the 2006 Census unemployment rates for young people aged 15 - 19 years were 20.2% and for 20 - 24 years 11.0%. These rates were significantly higher than comparative rates for Gosford City and Sydney Statistical Division as well as state and national rates. The unemployment rate for 15 - 19 year old has remained stable since 2001 whilst there has been a slight improvement in the unemployment rate for 20 - 24 years olds.



**Table 6.1: Youth Unemployment, 2006**

	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years	15 - 24 years
Wyong	20.2%	11.0%	15.3%
Gosford	15.3%	9.0%	11.9%
Sydney SD	14.3%	8.3%	10.4%
NSW	15.1%	9.3%	11.5%
Australia	13.1%	8.3%	10.3%

Source: ABS Census, 2006.

Table 6.2 shows apparent school retention rates for government schools in the Shire and NSW. In 2007 the apparent retention rate from year 7 to year 12 (defined as the proportion of students who started year 7 and have continued to year 12) was 44.3% in Wyong Shire, 20% lower than the State apparent rate (65.66%). There have been slight improvements in the rate since 2001.

**Table 6.2: School Retention Rates**

Year	Wyong LGA Apparent Retention Rate			State Apparent Retention Rate		
	7 - 10	10 - 12	7 - 12	7 - 10	10 - 12	7 - 12
2001	84.80	46.27	42.98	95.41	66.70	63.52
2002	87.54	53.19	46.04	95.89	68.89	65.20
2003	94.61	56.20	47.66	96.03	69.91	66.70
2004	88.81	55.35	48.45	95.38	70.37	67.48
2005	87.30	47.33	44.78	95.08	69.95	67.17
2006	87.56	53.86	47.83	95.51	69.59	66.37
2007	89.58	50.74	44.30	96.30	69.05	65.66

Source: Department of Education and Training, Planning and Innovation, Data Collection Unit.

Apparent retention rates from Year 7 to Year 10 and from Year 10 to Year 12 are also significantly below the apparent retention rates for NSW.

Active engagement in education, employment and training is a key ingredient in helping young people to make a successful transition from education to the workforce. Longitudinal studies have shown that young people who in their first year after school, have been mainly in either part-time work, unemployment or outside of the labour force are much less likely to make a successful transition to full-time employment. Research has also shown that problems faced by teenagers in their transition from full-time education to full-time work continue for young adults (*Dusseldorp Skills Forum, 2003*).



**Did You Know?****Are you meant to be at school?**

That's the catch phrase for a truancy protocol developed in partnership with Wyong Shire Council, The NSW Department of Education and Training and NSW Police. Designed around a School Leave Pass, the protocol aims to address the issue of local students using the Gravity Youth Centre Precinct and Skate Park at Lake Haven, as locations to truant. Young people will be asked to produce a school leave pass to account for a legitimate absence from school during normal school hours. A trial of the programme successfully ran throughout Term 4 2007. Based on this success, the programme will continue to operate, beginning with the commencement of the new school year in 2008. The protocol has been well received by students, teachers, youth workers and community members. The programme has been endorsed by NSW Police and Department of Education and Training, who want to help reinforce to school students that Gravity and other Shire facilities are not to be used during school hours.

Young people and the wider community mentioned employment for young people in terms of a provision of local jobs on the Central Coast to enable them to stay here rather than migrating to Sydney, Newcastle or even further away. Residents also stated the need for a focus on apprenticeships and traineeships and support of youth enterprise activities:

*"The area needs more work opportunities for young people and sufficient transport to get to work."*

*"We should be doing things to encourage small businesses to take on apprenticeships – employers don't know about apprenticeships."*

The consultations reported the need for increased collaboration between the education sector, service providers, government, local business and industry with the aim to increase local employment prospects for young people in Wyong Shire. The consultations also highlighted the need to support young people moving through the transition phase from compulsory schooling to further education, training and employment.

The majority of residents reported that schools in Wyong Shire were one of the more positive aspects of living here. Residents acknowledged however the increasing pressure that schools are under in responding to the variety of social issues that are impacting on a young person's capacity to learn, and the fact that for some young people, the school curriculum fails to engage them therefore needing options in terms of alternative education programmes.



In a social sense, young people indicated that school or other educational institutions were one of the main places that they established friendships networks and connections.

Affordability of education (particularly in relation to tertiary education) was seen as a barrier to young people continuing their education.

Homework Centres were continually raised as an important programme/activity for children and young people to have better education opportunities that should be supported in the Shire.

- **Cultural and Entertainment Activities**

Both young people and the broader community who participated in the consultations identified the need for a wide range of programmes and activities for young people to participate in rather than activities and programmes that are just focused around sport.

There was a feeling from some residents that sporting activities (whilst very important) are reasonably well catered to and that there is a significant gap in the provision of other activities for example arts and cultural activities.

*"I would like to see less emphasis on sport. There are a number of creative activities that children and young people who are not sports minded could participate in, if the venues were available."*

*"I'd like to see more emphasis placed on children's activities that are creative (in contrast to sporting – which is also important) e.g. Venues for ballet, drawing, painting, drama, musical groups, cooking, life skills."*

All residents reported a lack of entertainment opportunities available for young people across the whole of the Shire, but in particular for those living in the northern areas. This is further exacerbated by the isolation of some of the smaller communities and an inadequate transport system, restricting young people's participation.

Young people reported that there is a shortage of live music venues and 'gigs' in the area, as well as limited local festivals and events. Young people believed that these types of events should happen regularly.



“We should have things like the Blue Haven Christmas festival and GOATS Youth festival held regularly throughout the year – not just once.”

Commonly, young people requested that ‘places of entertainment’ such as time zone, movies, outdoor cinemas, cafes and Zulu’s nightspot for example be more accessible, safe and more regular.

Affordable activities were also important to young people. They advocated for more low cost or subsidised events, activities and programmes.

#### Did You Know?

##### MUSE Group

MUSE is a group of young adults, aged between 12 and 18, that meets at Lake Haven Library every second Thursday. Over the occasional slice of pizza, members of the group discuss things that they have written or read recently. Members talk about lots of themes relating to books, including fantasy, horror, romanticism, gothic, adventure and historical fiction.

- **Inclusiveness – Youth Participation and Involvement**

The consultations identified common trends in terms of establishing and fostering meaningful participation and involvement by young people.

Residents identified the common themes as; Our young people are the future; young people’s input should be valued; our young people should be included not excluded from the community; young people’s inclusiveness and participation gives young people new skills and abilities; the importance of positive role modelling and mentoring; engaging young people at risk and recognising the resilience of young people.

Specific comments made with regard to the importance of youth participation and involvement, indicative of collective views are as follows:

*“Young people should be encouraged to be actively involved. Not just a token commitment.”*



**Did You Know?****Wyong Youth Advisory Council**

The Wyong Shire Youth Advisory Council is a group of young people aged 12 – 18 years, who formally meet to discuss how Council's policies and actions affect youth in the Wyong Shire and to make Council aware of young people's interests, ideas and recommendations for the shire. It provides an opportunity for young people to have a say and be heard about decisions that affect them and their communities. The Youth Advisory Council provides a link between young people and their local Council and promotes the positive achievements of young people. The Council is very proactive in researching youth needs and issues and are currently developing projects for the next 12 months. The Youth Advisory Council is passionate about providing leadership development and participation opportunities for young people of the Wyong Shire.

- **Diversity**

Young people talked about 'Diversity' in two main ways:

- Relating to acceptance and welcoming of people from different backgrounds; and
- Identity of young people.

Many young people discussed their view that many older residents in the Shire are fairly unaccepting of people from different backgrounds and cultures. Some young people had a direct experience of this behaviour from adult residents:

*"Racism is a problem for us. We have had horrible comments directed at us because we wear the headscarf."*

Most young people expressed their disgust at this behaviour and were very keen to work towards promoting and advocating for diversity in the Shire.

Young people were also concerned at the wider population's interpretation of what an acceptable young person is. There was discussion about the many different 'types' of young people that exist in the Shire and that all groups of young people have something valuable to offer:



*"All sorts of young people should be able to be involved and participate – even if they aren't considered as the right 'type' of person. It's not realistic to have school captains and prefects representing all the young people in the Shire. We are all different."*

- **Places and Spaces for Young People to Come Together**

Young people's use of places and spaces in the Shire is often quite controversial, whether that controversy is a perception or a reality. Young people described the limited opportunities in the Shire where they can access safe and affordable entertainment venues to socialise and meet people.

Often, the places where young people come together and gather as a group, presents perceived or real problems for the wider community. Young people frequent public places and facilities such as shopping centres because these social areas serve as good meeting and 'hanging' places.

During the consultations, residents mentioned the need for both formal and informal venues where young people can meet. By informal venues, people described cafes, shopping centres etc and by formal venues they described community centres, youth centres and places where more organised programmes and activities take place. Young people expressed a desire that when planning community facilities for young people, the facility is included as one in a hub of other activities. For example:

*"Hubs of facilities are good – not just a facility for young people out on it's own – it needs to be linked with other things – restaurants, cafes, entertainment venues, outdoor space. We want to be included not excluded."*

Young people also regularly mentioned their limited access to community facilities. For example:

*"We are locked out of the Extreme Sports Park at San Remo. It was built there for people to use and now it is locked. It was advertised as a shared space but it isn't in reality."*



“There shouldn’t be just church activities in the community centres on the weekend. It should be open to everyone. When we are at the skate park and need to go to the toilet or get a drink we aren’t allowed into the new community centre in the place where we live.”

Access to technology is also important as a means for social interaction, for example, MySpace, Facebook, YouTube and MSN.

Young people, like the broader community were also concerned about the ongoing maintenance of existing facilities. They felt that all of Council’s facilities should be maintained so that they look open and inviting and not scary places where ‘bad’ things happen.

Facilities in public places and spaces such as seating, bubblers, BBQ areas, shade, toilets, garbage bins, lighting and phone boxes were also mentioned as important to young people.

- **Environment**

The environment was mentioned by young people in terms of retaining the green open spaces, places where young people can get outside and exercise and kick a ball, etc.

They were also concerned that the natural environment should be preserved for future generations, e.g. National parks, trees, wetlands etc.

*“There should be more green open spaces and more trees need to be planted.”*

Young people love that the area is clean and has clean fresh air. In the future, young people envisioned that the area will be a lot greener with parks and open space, and the wetlands would be protected and well cared for.

- **Health**

During the consultations, the main themes that emerged for young people in relation to health were:

- Lack of GPs;
- Long waiting lists;
- Family issues impacting on wellbeing;



- Mental health issues (both personal and non personal);
- Drugs and alcohol; and
- Work versus life balance for families.

Most young people had extreme difficulty in accessing health services on the Central Coast, and when asked what the Shire would be like in 20 years from now, young people indicated that it would have adequate medical services, and doctors, and waiting lists would not be too long.

## What We Can Do

### What Council Can Do:

Council has a key role in supporting, developing and involving young people in the decisions and directions of the Shire.

#### *Gravity Youth Centre*

Currently, Council supports two Youth Worker positions operating out of Gravity Youth Centre at Lake Haven. These positions encourage the collaboration of services and stakeholders towards positive solutions and coordinates ongoing programmes, ensuring they demonstrate a commitment to the wellbeing of young people and the wider community. These roles also work on building better relationships with young people and other sections of the community towards a more harmonious and responsible community and to improve the safety and security of the environment for the community as a whole.

Wyong Shire Council's 'Gravity Youth Centre', at Lake Haven, is one of the most innovative and popular facilities of its type. Situated adjacent to the Lake Haven shopping Centre, Gravity offers an innovative holistic approach to youth services.

Gravity is the setting for an exciting and rewarding community project - the development of a community park. The project includes the Delta amphitheatre, which has been created with the support of Delta Electricity.

Another big drawcard at Gravity is the skate park. The centre has been the venue of high quality competitions and has attracted some of the Central Coast's best known young skaters.



Key Projects:

- Gravity Community Park Makeover
- Youth Access Protocol
- Truancy Protocol
- Youth Advisory Council
- Youth Week
- Sustainability Street

*Wyong Youth Advisory Council*

Wyong Shire Youth Advisory Council is designed to provide a link between Wyong Shire Council and young people of the shire.

Ranging in age from 12 - 18, the youth representatives include school, TAFE and University students and come from various cultural backgrounds.

The role of Council is to:

- Address existing and future needs of young people in Wyong Shire;
- Foster a safe community where young people are respected, have opportunities to belong, and feel they are valued in the community;
- Enhance communication with young people – listening, responding and providing feedback about matters impact on their quality of life;
- Involve young people in meaningful ways in civic life, such as planning and decision making processes, and in voting and elections;
- Promote a positive image about the role young people play in the community and celebrating their achievements;
- Represent the needs of young people to community agencies and other spheres of Government, and advocate for the provision of infrastructure to enable young people to access accommodation, social, educational and employment opportunities, and support services;
- Be responsive, provide accessible services and facilities and support young people's needs and further development; and
- Continue to work in partnership with Youth Services e.g. PCYC, LINKS, Samaritans, Oasis, RYSS, etc.



Council's role in relation to young people could further be enhanced by:

- Developing a Strategic Plan for young people;
- Reinstating the Youth Development Officer Position; and
- Supporting and enhancing the Youth Advisory Council.

#### **What Other Organisations Can Do:**

- Involve young people.
- Enhance communication with young people.
- Represent and advocate with young people.
- Promote a positive image of young people.
- Ask local young people to solve a community problem/issue.
- Work in partnership to ensure adequate services, programmes and activities for young people.
- Write letters to community members (especially young people) who contribute to the community.

#### **What the Community Can Do:**

- Be understanding of the challenges facing young people.
- Raise funds for a youth led organisation or event.
- Work together to create a great future for young people.
- Be inclusive of young people.
- Nominate a local young person for an award.

#### **What I Can Do:**

- Avoid pigeon holing of young people and generalising about their behaviour, opinions or ideas.
- Be understanding of the challenges facing young people.
- Work together to create a great future for young people.
- Be inclusive of young people.
- Volunteer for a youth based service, sporting group etc.
- Be a youth mentor.



### Young People Action Plan

What we aim to achieve	How we are going to achieve it and why	Timeframe	Council Section Responsibility & Involvement of Other Sections	Community Partners	Resources
A Strategic Approach to young people in the Shire	Develop an inclusive strategic plan for young people in partnership with Wyong Youth Advisory Council, young people, youth specific services and other organisations to provide a collaborative approach to servicing resourcing and supporting young people.	Years 1 & 2 2008/09 & 2009/10	<b>Future Planning</b> Community Development	Youth Advisory Council Youth Workers Youth Services Young People	\$10,000 (Funding allocated in 08/09 Management Plan)
	Reinstate a Youth Development Officer within the Community Development Section of Council to implement the actions from the strategic plan.	Year 2 2009/ 2010 & ongoing	<b>Community Development</b>	Youth Advisory Council Youth Workers Youth Services Young People	\$80K per year
	Continue to work in partnership with key youth services e.g. PCYC, LINKS, Samaritans, Oasis etc.	Current & Years 1 - 5	<b>Community Development</b>	Youth Advisory Council Youth Workers Youth Services Young People	Within existing
A positive image of young people	Continue to support the Youth Advisory Council as a representative group of diverse young people, including a financial contribution to allow projects to be implemented and evaluated e.g. Imagineering Project	Years 1 - 5	<b>Community Development</b>	Youth Advisory Council Youth Workers Youth Services Young People	\$10K per year (Funding allocated in Management Plan)
	Wyong Youth Advisory Council to work with Council's Communications Unit and other media outlets to educate and create awareness of the contribution of young people make and the issues they face.	Year 1 2008/09	<b>Community Development,</b> Youth Advisory Council, Communications Unit.	Young People Youth Interagency	Within existing
	Work in partnership to run events and activities that showcase the skills, talents and abilities of young people e.g. Youth Week.	Current & Years 1 - 5	<b>Community Development</b>	Youth Advisory Council Youth Workers Youth Services Young People	Grant funding & within existing.
Places and spaces for young people to come together	Implement guidelines produced by the Youth Action Policy Association (YAPA) for assessments of new Development Applications.	Year 2 2009/10	<b>Development Assessment,</b> Future Planning	Developers forum, Developers Community Development Youth Advisory Council Young People	Within existing



What we aim to achieve	How we are going to achieve it and why	Timeframe	Council Section Responsibility & Involvement of Other Sections	Community Partners	Resources
	Facilitate the extension of the Lake Haven Youth Access Protocol and Truancy Protocol model to other areas in the Shire to enhance positive relationships between young people and local shopping centres.	Year 3 2010/11	<b>Community Development</b>	Shopping Centres Local Businesses Youth Services Youth Workers Young People Police DET	Within existing
	Ensure that appropriate participation/ consultation strategies are implemented to attract a broad range of young people's input into the planning, design and implementation of places and spaces e.g. Skate Parks, playgrounds, community centres etc.	Years 1 – 5	<b>Future Planning,</b> Community Development, Open Space & Recreation	Young People Youth Services Youth Workers Developers Sporting Groups Schools, Public Art Committee	Within existing
	Ensure that Council and non Council front line staff managing public spaces who have contact with young people undergo regular training to update skills and knowledge in working with young people.	Commencing Year 2 2009/10 & ongoing.	<b>Community Development</b> Rangers		\$2K per year
Inclusiveness, Youth Participation and Involvement	Provide real opportunities for youth participation and leadership on appropriate Council and community projects, programmes and committees.	Years 1 – 5	<b>Community Development,</b> Future Planning, Open Space & Recreation, Youth Council.	Young People, Schools, Youth Services, Youth Workers	Within existing
Employment and Education opportunities	Facilitate partnerships and linkages with government, business, community and education providers to seek avenues (including funding options) for programmes which develop and improve the education and skill base of young people in the Shire e.g. Alternative education, school retention etc.	Years 1 – 5	<b>Future Planning,</b> Community Development, Economic & Corporate Planning	Government, Business, Training Providers, Education Providers, DET	Within existing
	Promote the availability and benefits of Apprenticeships and Traineeships to young people and local employers, including opportunities within Council.	Years 1 – 5	<b>Community Development,</b> Communications Unit	DET, Schools, Education Providers, Alternative Education Providers, Community Education	Within existing
	Support the expansion of programmes including Workwise, ET Australia, Youth Connections and mentoring e.g. Plan-it- Youth	Years 1 – 5	<b>Community Development,</b> Future Planning	DET, Schools, Education Providers, Alternative Education	Within existing



What we aim to achieve	How we are going to achieve it and why	Timeframe	Council Section Responsibility & Involvement of Other Sections	Community Partners	Resources
	Explore the establishment of the R U Mad? Leadership development Programme.	Years 2 - 5	<b>Community Development</b>	DET, Schools, Education Providers, Alternative Education	\$5K per year
	Continue, expand, promote and publicise the Wyong Shire Council Scholarship programme to assist young people accessing tertiary education opportunities within the region.	Years 1 - 5	<b>Corporate Services, Communications Unit</b>	DET, Schools, TAFE, University, Other Education Providers	\$ Required in Year 2 to expand. (\$10K currently allocated in Management Plan)
	Support the establishment and implementation of homework help programmes (including young people from CALD backgrounds).	Years 2 - 5	<b>Community Development, Libraries.</b>	CC Multicultural Project, NGO'S, Education Providers	\$2K per year
	Expand the role of Libraries and community centres as additional venues for education and training to provide young people access to computers, internet, resources and reading materials (Prioritise in isolated areas with limited transport).	Years 1 – 5	<b>Library Services, Community Development.</b>	DET, Schools, Education Providers, Alternative Education Providers, Community Education	\$ Required



