

2018 - 2021

BANYULE CITY COUNCIL YOUTH PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Developed by Banyule City Council
Youth Services in partnership with
the Banyule Community



Banyule
CITY COUNCIL



BanyuleYouthServices



FOREWORD BY MAYOR

I am pleased to present the Banyule City Council Youth Plan 2018-2021, a document that will guide and influence the planning and delivery of programs, activities, services and events for Banyule's young people over the next four years.

This service plan was developed following extensive consultation with a diverse range of over 860 young people, community members and local service providers to ensure it represented the voice of local Banyule young people aged 12-25 years. Young people were consulted via our biennial Youth Summit, surveys and discussion groups.

Young people told us they feel safe in Banyule; they believe and value that Banyule is culturally diverse and green, and they want us to continue to support youth programs, events and groups. Young people were also very clear that they wanted to maintain an active voice in their community, and wanted opportunities to be heard and to participate.

Young people also told us what their concerns were – mental health, relationships, pathways to future employment and education outcomes were on their mind.

Council takes its commitment to young people seriously and will continue to work alongside the community, youth sector and all levels of government to ensure that Banyule's young people are best represented as active citizens within our community.

Cr Mark Di Pasquale
Mayor – Banyule City Council

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF WURUNDJERI WILLAM PEOPLE

Banyule City Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which Banyule is situated, the Wurundjeri people, and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.



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Banyule City Council's Youth Plan 2018-2021 provides an integrated approach to ensuring that Council continues to value and incorporate young people in the work that they do, recognising them as engaged, active and contributing community members. The Banyule City Council Youth Plan was informed by extensive community consultation with over 860 individuals and sets out the Strategic Objectives for the next four years' planning and delivery.

According to the 2016 ABS Census there are 19,705 young people residing in Banyule, representing 16% of Banyule's total population. Forecast data indicates that the number of youth in Banyule will gradually increase by the year 2021. Banyule has a higher than average socio-economic profile that includes lower unemployment rates, higher median household income, home ownership and education levels compared to Greater Melbourne. There are significant pockets of the municipality that are among Victoria's most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, particularly the suburbs of Heidelberg West, Bellfield and Heidelberg Heights.

The work of Banyule Youth Services (BYS) is underpinned by several key guiding principles enabling us to work in a way that increases young people's sense of belonging and connectedness to their community. In our work we:

- Value young people
- Seek improved outcomes
- Meaningfully engage
- Actively Empower young people
- Value Diversity
- Enhance social connectedness for young people

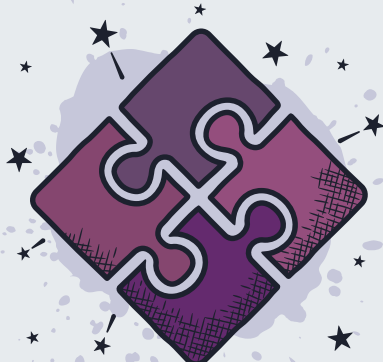
Through analysis of consultation data, research and sector priorities, five service level objectives have been identified that will guide the planning, operation, delivery and evaluation of Banyule Youth Services' actions throughout 2018-2021.

Under each of these strategic objectives, a number of actions have been identified to be undertaken over the next four years in order to deliver the identified objectives. An annual action plan will be developed to accompany the current plan and will further identify and refine supporting actions, time-frames, key performance indicators, responsibilities, and partners in delivering the plan's objectives.



1. To support and promote positive health and wellbeing

Banyule Youth Services is committed to improving young people's mental, physical and social wellbeing by facilitating access to appropriate information and services.



2. To advocate and collaborate

Banyule Youth Services is dedicated to active advocacy to ensure the best outcomes for our young people. We are committed to coordinating and participating in local networks, brokering partnerships and modelling youth sector best practice. We aim to keep up to date and respond to current trends and developments.



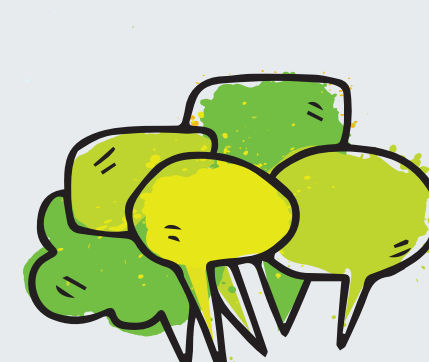
3. To build life skills and strengthen pathways

Banyule Youth Services recognises the importance of learning and skill development for young people. We facilitate a range of opportunities for personal growth, educational and employment pathways.



4. To recognise and celebrate

Banyule Youth Services works to ensure young people are acknowledged and recognised as valued contributing members of their communities, through the positive showcasing of their talents and achievements. We work to foster greater understanding and respect of youth culture and individuals.



5. To lead meaningful consultation and participation

Banyule Youth Services recognises the importance of young people's proactive role as key stakeholders in their community through collaborative consultation and action.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHAT MATTERS TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

Through our extensive consultation with over 860 Banyule young people we've developed a picture of what's important to them, what they want to know more about, what they want to see us advocate for, and what opportunities they'd like to be a part of. We asked young people what their top three issues were. Some of the things that mattered to them included:

27% want us to use **SOCIAL MEDIA** to educate young people



35% believe that we should be working with **LGBTIQ** young people



35% thought **BYS** should be assisting them with future **JOB SKILLS**



19% are concerned about **RELATIONSHIPS**



41% identify **MENTAL HEALTH** as a concern



23% are concerned about **DRUG USE**



35% are worried about **GENDER EQUALITY**

36% thought we should be **SPEAKING UP** for the rights of young people



35% thought we should be providing opportunities for young people to have a **VOICE** within the community.



38% identify **BULLYING** as an issue



35% identify **RACISM** as an important issue



40% want us to provide relevant **INFORMATION** to local young people



28% want us in **SCHOOLS** to cover some of the topics not in the curriculum



34% want us to advocate for & work with young people with **DISABILITIES**



42% think we should **SHOWCASE** successful young people

37% thought we should be delivering **EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS**



HOW WILL WE LISTEN & ACT?

We have heard our young people. Throughout the next three years just some of the work we will undertake will include:

Health & Wellbeing

- Maintaining a ‘no wrong door’ approach, providing short term supported referral to young people via face to face, phone and social media.
- Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people through the development and delivery of responsive leadership, artistic, creative, inclusive programs and school workshops. We will continue to deliver a range of accessible recreational opportunities with the aim of promoting positive wellbeing and social connectedness.
- Offering an after-hours outreach program in Banyule where youth workers provide referral, support, information and advocacy to young people.
- Maintaining & providing accurate, accessible, updated & timely information via a range of online communication tools and brochures.

Collaborate & Advocate

- Providing safe, supportive social and advocacy opportunities for LGBTIQ young people.
- Delivering a range of inclusive skill building programmatic responses and supportive social opportunities for young people with disabilities.
- Supporting the Banyule Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community by creating strategic opportunities, developing community links and delivering inclusive programs.
- Participating in and providing executive support to the Banyule Nillumbik Youth Services Network (BNYSN) and advocating for identified priority issue areas.

“I love youth service activities. I can always be who I am and feel able to be loved and respected.”



Lifeskills & Pathways

- Providing a range of free creative and technical training and pathways opportunities for young people to work in the music, communication, creative arts and event management industries.
- Providing opportunities for young people to undertake work experience placements to provide them with opportunities to develop skills and employment pathways.
- Encouraging and providing young people with diverse opportunities to engage further with their communities and promoting opportunities for volunteering, leadership and civic participation.
- Delivering various programs to enhance employability and life skills.

Recognise & Celebrate

- Working with young people to create an engaging and contemporary annual youth festival to celebrate the contributions young people make to the community.
- Promoting and celebrating youth culture via the delivery of programs giving young people opportunities for recognition, leadership, planning and skill development.

“There’s always a variety of different things to do and learn. You can create whatever you want at Jets”



Consult & Participate

- Delivering a biennial Youth Summit working alongside a diverse representation of young people from Banyule and working with them in partnership to advocate for and/or deliver their Summit recommendations.
- Committing to undertaking ongoing consultation with a diverse range of local young people in various settings to ensure young people in Banyule continue to maintain an active voice in all youth planning.

The purpose of this plan is to provide an evidence based, realistic and practical direction for Council to meet the needs of Banyule's young people for the next four years. The Youth Plan will provide the framework to progress and implement the strategic objectives and key themes. An annual action plan will be developed to accompany this plan for young people and will further identify and refine actions, time-frames, key performance indicators, responsibilities and partners in delivering the plan.



"Everyone's accepting and diverse and I can be myself for once"

"Our vision for Banyule is that all young people are valued, empowered and engaged in our community"



**OUR VISION
FOR BANYULE**
IS THAT ALL YOUNG
PEOPLE ARE VALUED,
EMPOWERED AND
ENGAGED IN OUR
COMMUNITY.

MISSION STATEMENT:
BANYULE YOUTH SERVICES VALUES,
ENGAGES AND EMPOWERS YOUNG
PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 12-25
YEARS WHO ARE LIVING, GOING TO
SCHOOL, WORKING OR SOCIALISING
IN THE BANYULE COMMUNITY.





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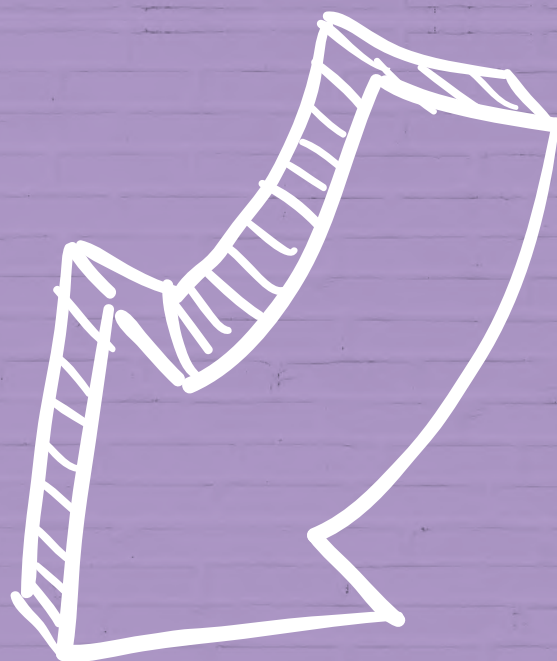
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BanyuleYouthServices

Supporting diversity,
inclusion & equity for all

