



# KEY ISSUES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SRG Issues Paper 2017

NORTHERN BEACHES  
COUNCIL

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## **BACKGROUND**

### **THE YOUTH STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP**

Northern Beaches Council established 11 Strategic Reference Groups to assist the Council in the development of the draft Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

In addition to providing input to the draft vision, priorities and objectives for the CSP, the Youth Strategic Reference Group (SRG) was also tasked to:

- Provide input to the vision, priorities and objectives for the Northern Beaches Draft Community Strategic Plan;
- Empower young people to initiate and participate in making the Northern Beaches a youth oriented place that responds to their needs;
- Provide opportunities for young people to plan, coordinate and engage in the delivery of programs and events;
- Identify opportunities for mentoring across the Northern Beaches Council
- Encourage and support youth participants (14 – 24 years) in participating in decision making, planning and engagement;
- Support ongoing use of technology for engagement with youth.

The Youth SRG met five times between September 2016 and June 2017 to consider a range of issues relevant to young people on the Northern Beaches. This work informed the development of the relevant goals and strategies for the Draft Community Strategic Plan.

### **THE PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER**

The aim of this key issues paper is to provide a summary of the key issues and priorities identified by the Youth SRG and to give detail to some of the relevant high level goals and strategies outlined in the draft CSP.

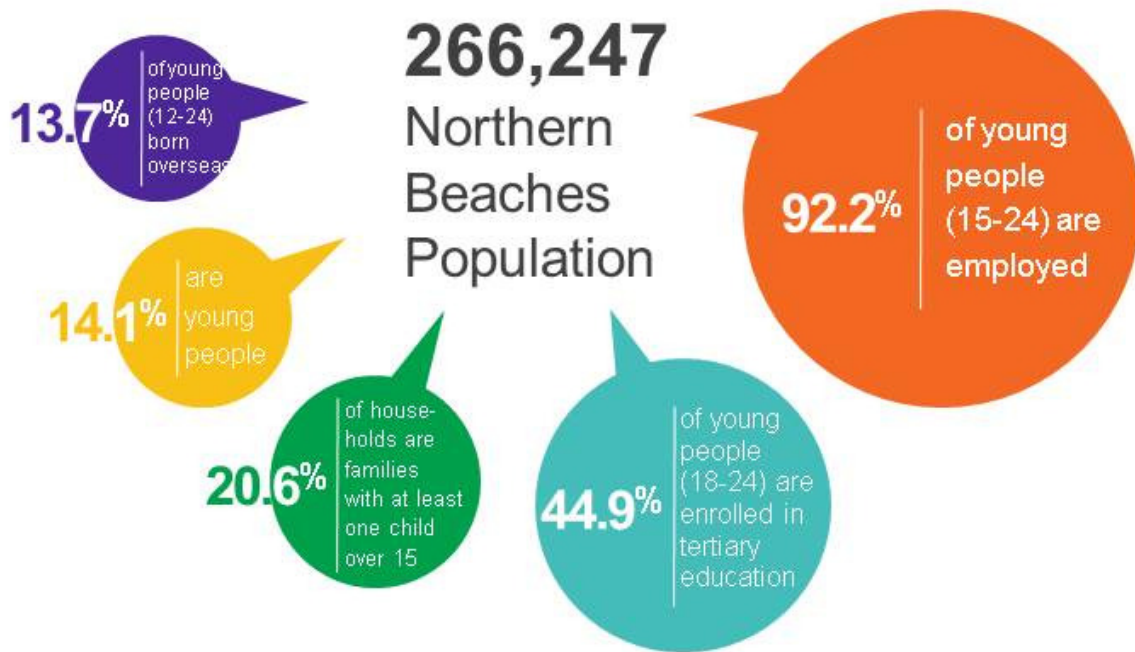
Further, the work undertaken by the SRG and the key themes that emerged from a workshop undertaken on April 27 will assist the new Council and the staff to better understand the key priorities for Young People on the Northern Beaches and how these might be addressed in future planning processes.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Youth SRG comprised the following 20 members:

Kylie Ferguson	Implementation Advisory Group
Roslyn Harrison	Local Representation Committee - Economic
Grace Blackford	Resident – Manly Ward
Ian Bowsher	Peninsula Community of Schools (PCS)
Jessica Chignell	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Eve Clark	Northern Sydney Local Health District
Isabelle Edwards	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Justene Gordon	The Burdekin Association
Kevin Harris	Resident – Manly Ward
Ryan Lagois	Resident – Narrabeen Ward
Su Young Lee	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Georgia Llewellyn	Resident– Narrabeen Ward
Olivia Murray	Resident – Pittwater Ward
Brittany Ryan	Resident – Pittwater Ward
Phillip Stone	Sydney North Primary Health Network
Rheza Tan	NSLHD - Headspace Brookvale
Amy Warren	Resident – Manly Ward
Brandon Wescott	Manly Community Forum
Sam Wilkins	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Lindsay Godfrey	Northern Beaches Council - Executive Manager Community Services

## A SNAPSHOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES



## OVERVIEW OF KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

The Youth SRG had a number of opportunities to consider the key issues and priorities for young people on the Northern Beaches and provide input into the development of the Draft CSP.

In addition to this work, members of the SRG were able to build on their current knowledge of the issues that affect young people on the Northern Beaches such as: young people and recreation, young people and housing, and transport for young people through a series of detailed presentations and discussions. Please see below further detail on these discussions.

### 3A. INPUT INTO THE DRAFT CSP

The initial meeting held on September 28 was a joint meeting of all the 11 Northern Beaches Council Strategic Reference Groups. During this meeting individual members were invited to contribute to the development of the Northern Beaches Draft CSP (Stage One), as well as give feedback on the draft Vision and the Issues Paper. Following this exercise any missing issues and opportunities from the initial CSP Issues Paper were identified and captured. Please see *Appendix 1* for more detail.

This information was then presented back to the Youth SRG at the meeting held on November 9 and further feedback was sought to identify key priorities for young people, some of these included:

- Limited opportunities for young people to be active, showcase their talents and skills, and connect with their peers
- Limited range of tertiary education facilities and training opportunities on the Northern Beaches (including apprenticeships and university degrees)
- The ever increasing price of housing and lack of affordable stock and housing options, particularly for key workers, people on low incomes, people with a disability and young people
- Youth need more opportunities to be mentored, have their views incorporated, reduce homelessness, and access education and training
- Not enough support/infrastructure for active travel and small-scale accessible transit e.g. community buses and cycle ways
- Impacts of drug and alcohol intake on public health and wellbeing, including safety risks in public places
- Increased prevalence of mental health issues among young people.

For full details of this exercise please see *Appendix 2*.

### 3B. YOUNG PEOPLE AND RECREATION

Adolescence is a time where significant development occurs, where young people make choices which will affect their transition into adulthood. Positive experiences and support to learn and make positive choices is paramount during this period. This support can occur both at home but also within their community. Providing them with

opportunities to interact and engage in positive activities and programs can foster aspirations, skills and overall well-being which are vital to health and development of our young people.

Ongoing boredom and lack of relevant activities can lead to increased social isolation. Evidence supports a link between young people having nothing to do, and an increased risk of them participating in underage drinking and other anti-social behaviour. A self-perpetuating process of disengagement results as young people do not engage politically and socially outside of their demographic if they feel marginalised. Conversely, increased community participation is associated with better mental health and greater feelings of wellbeing and life satisfaction. Social and physical recreation activities can provide opportunities for young people to participate in community activities and feel genuinely valued, connect with other young people and across generations and interests, gain insights into their environment, and enhance skills, experiences and knowledge.

November's SRG meeting included a discussion on 'Northern Beaches Young People's Sense of Belonging and Connectedness with their Community, People and Place'. During this discussion the group identified sub-groups of young people based on how they identify themselves (values, beliefs, interests, attitudes) including younger and older age brackets across the 'young people' definition of 12-24 years; sexual minority (LGBTQA+); student status, disengaged; sporty; arty / creative; and disability. This highlighted the range of varied interests and motivations to connect with and participate in their community.

The group was also able to identify who else, other than Northern Beaches Council, was facilitating and offering opportunities for social and recreational activities, including sporting groups, education institutions, licenced venues, social media platforms, parents, Rotary, church groups, volunteering groups, and young people themselves.

From these discussions, the group worked in smaller groups to consider a 'persona' from a collection of images representing different sub-groups of young people, and encouraged to consider from their perspective how they make decisions about participating in different recreational opportunities. From this the group provided and gained insight into the different motivating factors and important considerations when planning these opportunities. These included how accepted they would be based on age and gender, how relevant it is based on their interests, how accessible the venue is both geographically and for people with disability.

The meeting ended prior to the last discussion point of the roles of Council and the community in increasing participation and benefits young people derive from recreational programs. However, this discussion took place during the SRG meeting in February 2017. The group discussed Council's role in coordinating and/or assisting community engagement and connecting the community with activities as well as finding solutions through consultation and running events and activities. They also discussed the role parents play in creating opportunities and linking their young people with activities. Local businesses were also considered potential stakeholders with ideas discussed around collaborative projects between them, Council and non-government organisations (NGO's).

### 3C. YOUNG PEOPLE AND HOUSING

Homelessness and the lack of affordable housing options for young people is an issue shared by communities across the country. The Northern Beaches is not immune to these issues and the flow-on effect it has on the broader community. Figures released in recent years by numerous agencies including State Government, Homelessness Australia, and Y Foundations report an increase in numbers of people, including young people, experiencing homelessness. The reasons are varied including family and domestic violence, mental health, relationship breakdowns, and financial difficulty. Mortgage and rental stress, where more than 30% of the household's pre-tax income is spent on mortgage or rental payments, is a significant and growing cause of homelessness.

The SRG meeting which took place in February 2017 provided an opportunity for the group to gain insight into homelessness, what it looks like across NSW, and more locally for the Northern Sydney region. It is an important conversation for the community to have, even for the Northern Beaches which is not a region typically referenced in figures and statistics about homelessness. The workshop also provided an opportunity for situations of homelessness to be considered from the perspective of a young person, understanding a significant risk factor for long term homelessness is the experience of youth (aged under 18 in particular) homelessness.

The definitions of homelessness as discussed throughout the SRG meeting were:

- Primary homelessness: rough sleeping, squats, cars
- Secondary homelessness: people on the move frequently, e.g. emergency accommodation, youth refugees, couch surfing
- Tertiary homelessness: living in premises with no security of a lease, no access to basic private facilities, e.g. medium – long term boarding houses, caravan parks
- At risk of homelessness: young people 'couch surfing'; beginning to disengage from school; experiencing family conflict
- Early intervention: focusing on building the capacity and resilience of young people, providing support before becoming entrenched in the cycle of homelessness

The difference between 'Social Housing' and 'Affordable Housing' was also defined:

- Social housing: NSW Public Housing; Community Housing (e.g. Link Housing)
- Affordable housing: property which is available to buy or rent at a lower rate than the market so people are able to meet other basic living costs such as food, clothing, transport, etc.

Healthy communities are characterised by a diversity of people and places. Without affordable housing options, communities become homogenous. More affordable and low cost housing options are needed to prevent homelessness, but this is only part



of the picture. Another part is the support available to people experiencing homelessness, and early intervention strategies when people are at risk of homelessness.

Julie Acton, Program Manager at Mission Australia, was invited to this SRG meeting to present the 2016 Northern Sydney Homelessness Data Project, a report undertaken by the community sector to gain a more comprehensive snapshot of homelessness across the Northern Sydney District. A total of 86 organisations were engaged to participate in the project, including government, non-government, religious based, funded and non-funded organisations, Council, and telephone referral lines. These organisations represent the support available to people experiencing homelessness or at risk locally to the Northern Beaches.

In her presentation, Julie Acton highlighted some of the findings:

- The Data Project took place over five days in February 2016. During this period 274 contacts were made, either face to face, over the phone, or email interaction resulting in assistance, support and/or referral
- The most common presenting issues were financial stress, mental health, and family and domestic violence
- More than 50% of referrals had more than one presenting issue
- Number of 'beds' for young people: seven seeking short term accommodation (up to three months); fifty nine for long term accommodation (three to eighteen months)

The workshop ended with a discussion about Northern Beaches Council's role in the topic of youth homelessness, and affordable housing options more broadly.

Discussion points included:

- With Council being the closest level of Government to the community, they are in a position to see and hear first-hand the trends, issues, and opportunities available. Council can use this information to educate the community and to advocate on behalf of community members
- More affordable housing options are needed on the Northern Beaches, and Council can provide influence during the planning and decision-making process of new proposed developments
- A healthy, resourced youth sector is equally important. Council can provide resources to maintain a strong sector, for example partnerships, sector development, and advocacy

When looking for support, information, or advice for young people who are experiencing homelessness, or any other issues putting them at risk, the SRG group listed their sources as online searches (Google), friends, and family members as well as through the school community such as teachers, school counsellors and student-run campaigns.

### 3D. YOUNG PEOPLE AND TRANSPORT

Transport is extremely important in every community as it enables access to the following: services, facilities, environments, various social networks, activities and events. Access to sufficient public transport is a significant issue that affects the community at large due to the isolating geography of the Northern Beaches. However, young people, who may not have access to private modes of transport due to their age or for financial reasons are particularly more reliant on public transport than others.

The difficulty that young people face in accessing transport has been acknowledged by various former Council papers and documents, including the former Pittwater Social Plan 2012-2016, former Pittwater Emerging Issues Paper: Youth and Families and the former Manly Council Youth Strategy 2014. These plans suggested that young people are reliant on public transport for a number of reasons such as: getting around the Northern Beaches, establishing and maintaining social interactions and networks and accessing services and facilities. Public transport on the Northern Beaches mainly resides on 'trunk routes' or main roads such as Pittwater Rd, Warringah Rd and Barrenjoey Rd, therefore roads outside of these main thoroughfares or 'feeder routes' are not as well serviced and therefore present problems to young people who cannot easily access the main routes (Pittwater Social Plan 2012-2016).

The negative consequences for this poor access to public transport for young people includes disengagement from social networks and support services, lack of access to education, particularly tertiary education and increased difficulty in accessing employment (Pittwater Social Plan 2012-2016).

At the meeting held on April 27, 2017 a discussion was held with the Youth SRG on the issue of young people and transport on the Northern Beaches. With the imminent arrival of the B-Line service on the Northern Beaches this discussion was timely as there may be future opportunities to influence decisions around service re-design. The main points captured from this discussion were:

- Young people require faster and more direct transport
- Services are needed later in the evening
- Transport increases the independence of young people, who can then become less reliant on parents
- There is a need for greater connection between transport modes (e.g. bus to train)
- There is a lack of transport to the west, for example transport to Macquarie University
- There needs to be better off-road cycle paths
- Difficult suburbs to use public transport include: Frenchs Forrest, Belrose and Terrey Hills, Bayview and Ingleside
- Transport is a deciding factor when considering University choices.

For full details on this discussion please see *Appendix 3*.

## WORKSHOP

The next step for the SRG was to build upon the body of work that has been undertaken and to deliver a Key Issues for Young People paper as a reference for the incoming Council in September 2017.

The SRG meeting on 27 April 2017 included a one hour workshop. The aim of the workshop was to focus in depth on identified goals and strategies for the Draft CSP (Stage Two) that were particularly relevant to young people.

Members were divided into two groups, with each group allocated a certain number of goals and strategies to explore in relation to the potential barriers and opportunities that exist.

The notes from the workshop were then circulated to committee members for their review and comment. For full details and notes on this workshop please see *Appendix 5*.

## KEY THEMES

There were a series of key themes that emerged from the workshop, these are: places and spaces for young people, engaging young people and employment and training opportunities on the Northern Beaches and the health and wellbeing of young people and their families. These themes are explored in more detail below.

### Places and Spaces for Young People

There was strong theme that emerged from the workshop around generating public spaces on the Northern Beaches that were more inclusive of young people. There was a feeling amongst members of the SRG that there isn't much of an offering of public spaces and venues that accommodated the needs of young people. The group felt that most public places on the Northern Beaches catered for those less than 12 years old and their families however did not have much to offer youth. One of the other key issues raised by the SRG was around access; even when there are some great places in the community for young people they can be hard to access due to lack of transport and isolation, for example YOYO's. Another key barrier was the negative perception and stigma sometimes held by the broader community about young people 'hanging out' in public.

One of the solutions offered by the group was to build more 'inclusive' public spaces that met the needs of a diverse group of users and that also encourage inter-generational connection, rather than designated spaces for particular groups. Adapting current public outdoor places was also to become more multi-purpose was also discussed, for instance skate parks that incorporated open spaces for handball, or a mixed ball court and picnic tables. This idea could also be adapted to suit Council's current indoor spaces, such as: YOYO's (Frenchs Forrest), Ted Blackwood Memorial Hall (Mona Vale), Manly Youth Centre and PCYC (Dee Why). These community spaces could be customised to enable young people to run their own events and activities, such as band nights.

The group expressed the need for public spaces that encourage un-structured recreation, as opposed to just structured recreation (sport), this could include beach

volleyball nets, wall ball, table tennis facilities and outdoor public performance spaces/stages. As an alternative to permanent infrastructure ideas were raised around Council facilitating a 'pop-up' style infrastructure for events, productions and general recreation. Please see below a list of the 'barriers' and 'opportunities' identified by the group in relation to this theme:

## **BARRIERS**

- ▶ Lack of open spaces
- ▶ Access to venues (eg. no public transport)
- ▶ The stigma and perception of young people
- ▶ Space needs to be multipurpose
- ▶ Lack of venues/ facilities for young people to utilise (e.g. music venues)

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- ▶ Multi-purpose spaces for people of all ages (including young people, not just children)
- ▶ Outdoor performance spaces
- ▶ Pop-up infrastructure
- ▶ Table tennis in public spaces
- ▶ Design spaces that encourage social interaction
- ▶ Provide spaces/ venues that can be used by young people for a range of activities (e.g. live music)
- ▶ Provide spaces that facilitate un-structured recreation (e.g. beach volleyball, mixed use courts, wall ball etc.)
- ▶ Skate parks that are multi-purpose, e.g. meet the needs of a diverse group
- ▶ Free outdoor gyms in parks that are compatible with fitness technology such as MapMyFitness or KOMPAN Cross Systems

## **EFFECTIVELY ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

The SRG gave feedback that Council does not always effectively engage with young people. Engagement in this context refers to the ability to communicate with young people and engagement through events, activities and programs. One of the identified barriers to effectively engaging with young people was that Council does not know the correct channels to communicate effectively with young people; traditional marketing and communication methods have limited reach. Further to this, young people do not see the Council website as a tool that they would use; their preferred method to receive information and communicate is through social media and alternative avenues. The group also felt that some Council branded events for young people can be seen as 'a bit lame', particularly by those over 18 years old. Another issue was the lack of access to a large population of young people to engage with, such as university students.

Communicating through social media and marketing events and programs for young people through social media influencers was suggested as a solution to young people engaging better with Council run activities. The other suggestion was to expand the scope and variety of programs on offer to young people in order to engage with those that may not be interested in music only events. Throughout the duration of the SRG meetings there was some discussion around how young people can be involved in decision making, including Council decision making processes.

Please see below a detailed list of the identified ‘barriers’ and ‘opportunities’ in relation to youth engagement

## **BARRIERS**

- ▶ Some “young people only events” can be seen as a bit lame
- ▶ Council website is not a tool that young people use
- ▶ Some events are only promoted through traditional means of communication e.g. Shoreshocked
- ▶ Not knowing how to connect with young people
- ▶ Knowing the right channels to connect with young people
- ▶ We don’t have a university, therefore communication with a bulk population of young people is difficult

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- ▶ Communicating through social media influencers
- ▶ We need a diverse range of events, not just music events to engage young people
- ▶ Council model for Youth engagement in decision-making incl. Youth consultants group, youth volunteers and youth forum

## **LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

The SRG identified the lack of learning and development opportunities for young people through Council and generally on the Northern Beaches. It is important to note here that this theme is slightly limited to the topic of volunteering as the group was reviewing the draft goals and strategies in the CSP which relate specifically to volunteering opportunities. However, from this topic some broader discussions around learning and development opportunities for young people emerged.

The group felt that volunteering was valuable for young people in providing experience in the workforce and developing life skills, however suggested that training opportunities, rather than traditional volunteering was more appealing to young people. There was a sense amongst the group that volunteering can sometimes be an unattractive opportunity for young people as there is a perception that these organisations and committees are predominately comprised of older members. The other barrier to employment and training for young people was that they tend to have to move out of area or travel long distances for these opportunities.

The group expressed strongly that young people on the Northern Beaches are genuinely interested and motivated by opportunities to further develop their skills and education which assist in preparing them for their future, particularly the workforce. There were a range of creative solutions offered by the SRG on how to improve learning and development opportunities for young people on the Northern Beaches. One of these ideas included Council facilitating opportunities for young people to develop 'real life' skills and experience through training, innovative workshops and entrepreneurship programs that would prepare them for the workforce. Another idea offered by the group was to facilitate and encourage the development of creative and collaborative workspaces, such as a co-lab in a library or shared office spaces.

## **BARRIERS**

- ▶ Volunteer opportunities and committees are consist of mainly older people
- ▶ Not the right opportunities being offered
- ▶ Volunteering - can conflict with desire to earn money
- ▶ Knowing who to contact in Council for work experience opportunities
- ▶ Feeling judged as a young person
- ▶ Disconnect between training/education and job demand. E.g. an oversupply of graduates in one industry
- ▶ Young people have to move out of area or travel for university

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- ▶ Skills development workshops for young people such as social; media, public speaking an volunteering to learn new skills
- ▶ Promote volunteering opportunities to young people, such as youth committee's
- ▶ Volunteering provides young people with opportunities to experience the workforce, build their resume, build life skills and experience for interviews
- ▶ There is a genuine interest from young people to get involved in social justice causes and charities
- ▶ Incorporate private spaces within libraries for young people to work together and collaborate on ideas
- ▶ Offer training opportunities so that young people are better equipped for future opportunities
- ▶ Offer more social innovation and entrepreneurship workshops that offer real life training such as how to run a business
- ▶ Facilitate the development of local creative, collaborative workspaces and shared offices

## **THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES**

There was limited time to explore the wellbeing of young people and their families during the SRG workshop, however we know that through the course of the previous

SRG meetings and through extensive consultation with young people, their families and local services that this is a key issue; therefore we felt it needed to be addressed in this paper.

Children and young people develop within a network of important relationships and connections; the family unit, particularly parents are a key influence within this network and therefore when working with young people it is important that we keep this in mind. Families, in their many contemporary forms, and the family home are the environments in which most children and young people learn their core life values, gain a sense of personal safety and connectedness and develop their sense of identity. It is where they develop and grow, form the base of their physical and emotional wellbeing, and where life-long relationships are forged (Youth and Families Paper, 2014). Parents are an important and positive influence in a young person's life and therefore it is crucial that Council engagement strategies with young people incorporate parents.

Traditionally there have always been barriers to engaging effectively with parents of young people. Such barriers include the negative stigma or perception about parents attending such workshops and seminars, that somehow this implies that they need assistance in parenting and caring for their child. Therefore it is employ a strengths based approach to parent engagement that acknowledges the expertise, skills and knowledge that parents already have.

There are many opportunities for Council to effectively engage with parents of young people that builds upon their current skills and knowledge. An opportunity exists for Council to facilitate the delivery of a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to parent engagement, this could include parenting with youth organisations, NSW Health and Headspace to run programs, workshops and seminars that empower parents to make change where needed and to focus on fostering a more positive family unit.

Vital to the health and wellbeing of young people is access to services and support. Access to community and youth services for young people and their families has been identified as a significant barrier as the majority of these services are located in the southern geographical area of the Northern Beaches (For example: Sydney Drug Education Counselling Centre (SDECC) Manly; Headspace Brookvale; Youth Reach Brookvale; Burdekin Brookvale; Mission Australia Brookvale; StreetWork Manly). The stigma that surrounds mental health has also been identified as a significant barrier to young people and their families seeking help

An opportunity has been identified by some local youth focused services to provide outreach support to young people and their families across the whole Northern Beaches region as per their funding requirements. This includes youth services that are located in the broader Northern Sydney region but are funded to achieve outcomes on the Northern Beaches. It is envisaged that this would be delivered via a 'Health Hub', where young people and their families could access various services on a specific day.

Please see below some detail around the identified 'barriers' and 'opportunities' to the wellbeing of young people and their families:

## BARRIERS

- ▶ Access to services that are predominately located in the southern part of the LGA
- ▶ Limited resources (financial and human) available within the youth services sector and Council
- ▶ Stigma associated with mental health that inhibits young people and their families from seeking help
- ▶ Negative perception around parents attending parent engagement opportunities
- ▶ Parents are time poor
- ▶ Traditional parent engagement style is not always effective (e.g. seminars, workshops, info sessions)

## OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Wellbeing Hub of services for young people and families in a northern location on the peninsula
- ▶ A coordinated approach to engage with parents, in particular utilising 'informal' opportunities for engagement
- ▶ Inter-generational events that meet the needs of young people and their parents



## CLOSING COMMENTS

The intent of this key issues paper was to summarise the work that has been completed by the Youth SRG in identifying the key priorities for young people on the Northern Beaches and utilise this work to inform the incoming Council in September 2017. These priorities were identified through various discussions on key issues and a workshop held with the Youth SRG on April 27. The key issues that emerged for young people on the Northern Beaches included:

- Young people and transport
- Affordable housing for young people
- Recreation and young people
- Development and learning opportunities for young people
- Engaging with young people effectively
- The wellbeing of young people and their families

The SRG has also been able to identify a number of key opportunities for young people on the Northern Beaches which may assist Council by providing some ideas on how to address these issues in the future.

**APPENDIX 1 – NOTES FROM YOUTH SRG MEETING  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28 2016**

[http://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Joint\\_Strategic\\_Reference\\_Group\\_Meeting - Vision Session Notes - workshop results.pdf](http://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Joint_Strategic_Reference_Group_Meeting_-_Vision_Session_Notes_-_workshop_results.pdf)

## APPENDIX 2 – NOTES FROM YOUTH SRG MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 9

### Item 5.3 **NORTHERN BEACHES YOUNG PEOPLE'S SENSE OF BELONGING AND CONNECTEDNESS WITH THEIR COMMUNITY, PEOPLE AND PLACE**

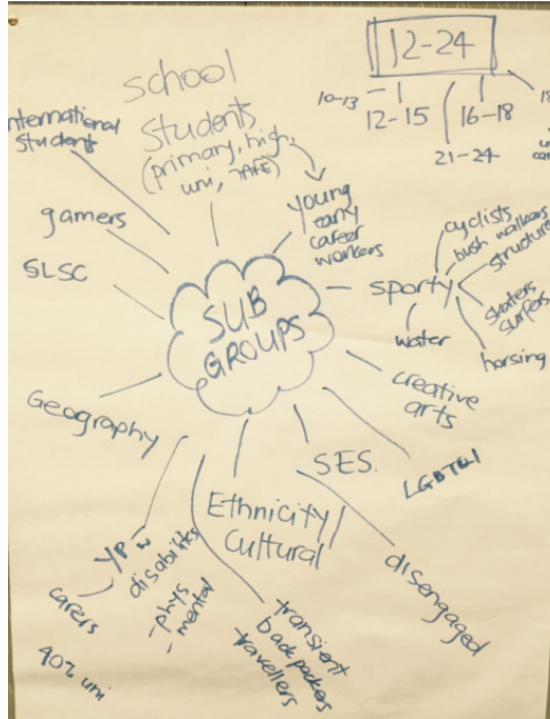
#### **DISCUSSION**

Suzi Pawley, Youth and Families Coordinator provided an overview of the Northern Beaches young people sense of belonging and connectedness with their community, people and place and highlighted the following points:

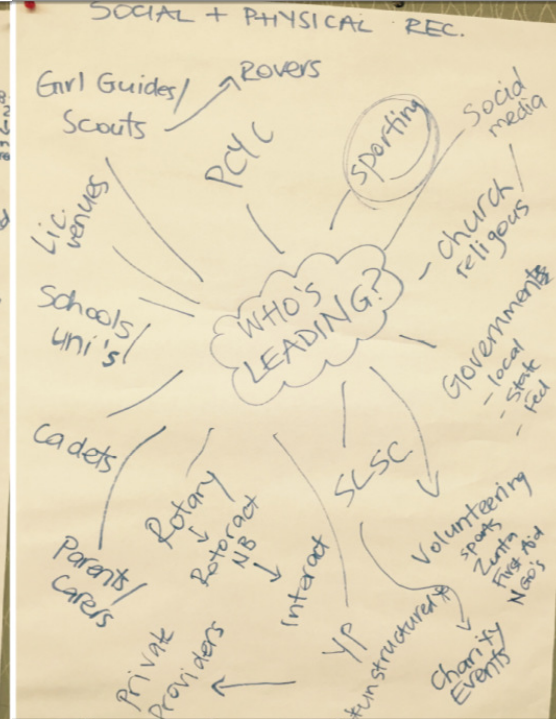
1. Challenges & Opportunities for Young People on the Northern Beaches
  - Northern Beaches young people – demographics
  - Sub groups
  - Current planning – meeting the needs of sub groups
  - Who are the providers / leads?
  - Barriers
  - Strategies for Northern Beaches Council
2. Activity 1
  - Who are our young people?
  - Who are our youth sub-groups?
3. Activity 2
  - Meeting the needs of sub-groups
4. Activity 3
  - Youth Persona
  - Barriers & Strategies

A summary of the workshop is below.

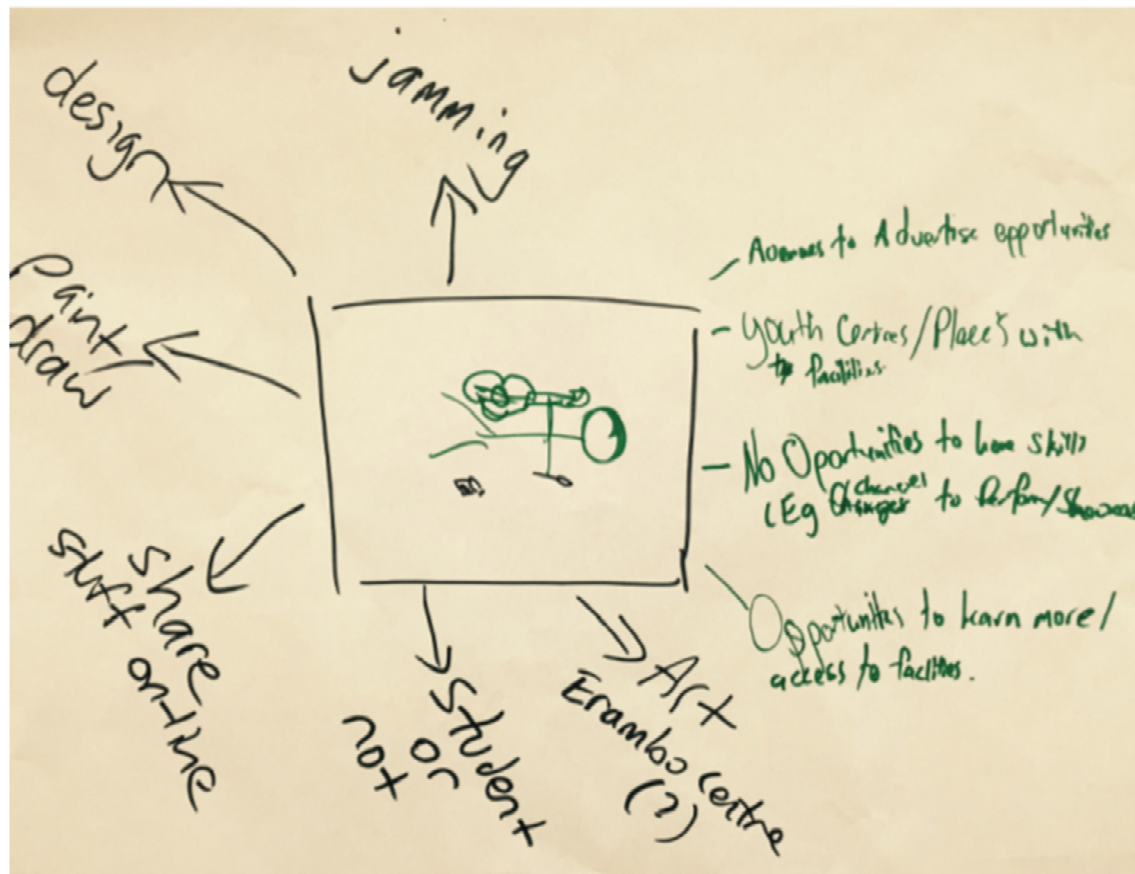
**Youth Subgroups**



**Providers/ leaders**



**Art & culture – barriers and opportunities**



## Tertiary students – challenges and opportunities

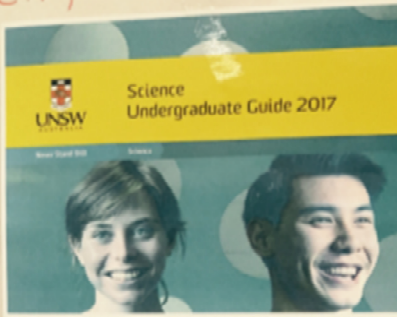
**UNI STUDENT**

**Challenges**

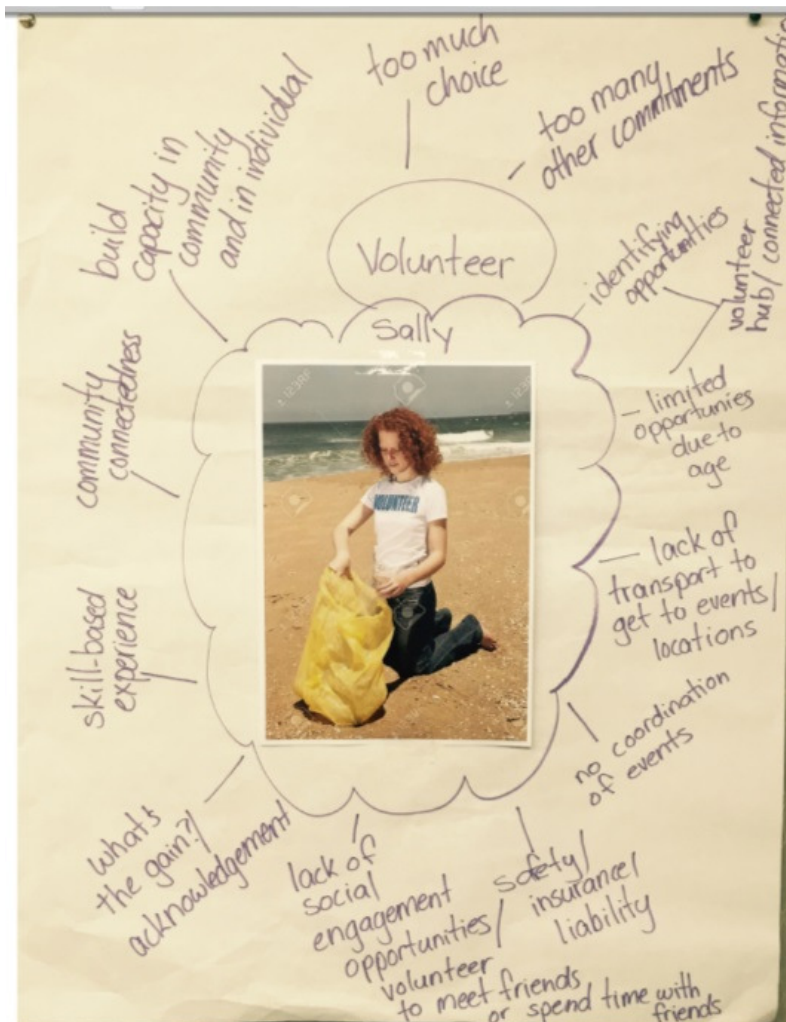
- Accessibility
- Cost (cost benefit)
- Time - workload during semester
- People attending
- Passion or reason
- Awareness - through social media, friends, mailing lists
- Wellbeing (physical/mental)

**Opportunities**

- Engage uni/TAFE societies.



## Volunteers – barriers and strategies



## APPENDIX 3 –

### NOTES ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND TRANSPORT DISCUSSION

#### 27 APRIL 2017 YOUTH SRG WORKSHOP

##### Notes from discussion on Young People and Transport

##### Why does good transport matter for Northern Beaches Young People?

- Good transport enables young people to do more social activities.
- Good transport is safer for young people – there is safety in numbers on the bus however there are still concerns at night time.
- Good transport results in less drink driving.
- Good transport matters as Under 18's are not able to drive and it saves time asking parents.
- Good transport results in increased independence for young people.
- Car Sharing Apps? Safety around Uber is a concern.
- Modern Technologies – motorised bikes, electric cars, gadgets.
- Shared paths need to be separated – ones for bikes, one for others.
- How does bike transport work in with buses?
- Topography is difficult for bike riding.
- There is a concern over bus stops near parks/ interchanges.
- Missing connecting transport – transfer routes
- Young people need buses that stop at Wynyard, Town Hall and Central – this allows access to University UTS and USYD.
- Transport is a deciding factor on University choice.
- There is a challenge in getting to Macquarie University.
- Importance of the east – west route to Macquarie University, St. Leonards and Chatswood.
- Buses finishing at 9pm is too early for University students.
- Transport NSW needs to explore student bus to Macquarie University
- Free wi-fi on buses will be an excellent use of time for students to study whilst in transit.
- Difficult spots are Frenchs Forest, Belrose and Terrey Hills.
- There is nothing straight along Warringah Road - from Chatswood to Dee Why.
- School routes are better for before/after school activities.
- Better off road cycle paths – too dangerous on road.

## APPENDIX 4 – DRAFT CSP GOALS AND STRATEGIES

### 9 FEBRUARY 2017 YOUTH SRG WORKSHOP

List of key CSP Goals/strategies covered in Youth Strategic Reference Group workshop on April 27.

- Places for People:
  - **Goal 7.** Our well-designed public spaces inspire social interaction and inclusion and support health and wellbeing
    - **7 a)** Develop urban design requirements that support the health, wellbeing, safety and inclusion particularly for seniors and people who live with a disability
    - **7 b)** Collaborate with the community to design public open spaces and neighbourhoods that cater for a wide range of uses and social interaction
  - **Goal 8.** Our community is healthy, active and engaged with the Northern Beaches lifestyle and various recreational opportunities
    - **8 a)** provide well maintained and safe public spaces that equitably support the active and passive recreational activities of the community
    - **8 b)** Encourage and promote healthy, active living through collaborative partnerships with government agencies, community and sporting groups
    - **8 c)** Encourage a broad range of activities that enable social interactions, stimulate wellbeing, and support people at each stage of their life.
- Community and Belonging
  - **Goal 9.** Northern Beaches culture is stimulated through the arts and a variety of cultural and creative events:
    - **9 b)** Expand cultural activities, events and creative opportunities, including safe nightlife opportunities across the area

- **9 c)** Provide more events and opportunities for young people to socialise in formal and informal ways
  - **Goal 10.** Our community feels safe and supported
    - **10 a)** Enable our community to feel safe and supported through the provision of quality services
    - **10 b)** Promote social inclusion through neighbourhood programmes
    - **10 c)** Build stronger communities where neighbours know and support each other
  - **Goal 11:** Our community is open and friendly, providing social and cultural opportunities for everyone
    - **11 a)** Facilitate a strong sense of community by encouraging community groups and volunteer opportunities
    - **11 b)** Enable all people- irrespective of age, gender, identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, mobility or cultural background- to participate in community life by breaking down institutional and social barriers
- Vibrant Local Economy
  - **Goal 13.** Our local economy provides a range of employment and education opportunities to match the skills and needs of the population
    - **13 a)** Facilitate new higher education and vocational training opportunities on the Northern Beaches
    - **13 d)** Expand employment, training and education opportunities for young people and people experiencing social disadvantage
- Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity
  - **Goal 16.** Our community and visitors are able to easily access and enjoy the diverse villages and places within the Northern Beaches

**16 a)** Improve public and active transport options and connectivity to better meet the community needs for travel within the area



## APPENDIX 5 – YOUTH SRG WORKSHOP NOTES - 27 APRIL 2017

Youth Strategic Reference Group – Workshop Notes- 27 April 2017

### PLACES FOR PEOPLE

**Goal 7: Our well-designed public spaces inspire social interaction and inclusion and support health and wellbeing**

**a) Develop urban design requirements that support the health, wellbeing, safety and inclusion particularly for seniors and people who live with a disability**

Barriers:

- Over-development, lack of space
- Competing demands
- Access to more spaces
- Lack of open space, sports fields
- Access and transport
- Space needs to meet demands and be multipurpose
- The rule of 10 (10 purposes)
- Stigma and perception of young people

Opportunities

- Re-focus on young people
- Multipurpose spaces for people of all ages – European model
- Outdoor performance spaces
- Table tennis tables
- Amphitheatre / multipurpose function
- Pop-up infrastructure for young people

**b) Collaborate with the community to design public open spaces and neighbourhoods that cater for a wide range of uses and social interaction**

Barriers:

- Perception of young people/stigma
- Not offering the community the opportunity to collaborate
- Open space designed for people under 12 and families but not for young people

Opportunities:

- Designate spaces for young people
- Design spaces that encourage social interaction
- Legal graffiti walls

**Goal 8: Our community is healthy, active and engaged with the Northern Beaches lifestyle and various recreational opportunities**

**a) Provide well maintained and safe public spaces that equitably support the active and passive recreational activities of the community**

Barriers:

Opportunities:

- Public transport key issue (YOYOS is isolated)
- Mona Vale Hall – having the venue set up for youth activities
- Northern youth health hub

**c) Encourage a broad range of activities that enable social interaction, stimulate wellbeing, and support people at each stage of their life**

Barriers:

- Some “young people only events” can be seen as a bit lame by over 18s
- Food & wine events sound a bit expensive and mature
- Need more food based events that are affordable e.g. Noodle Markets
- Council website is not a tool that young people use
- Some events are promoted in a clinical way e.g. Shoreshocked
- How do we connect with young people, what are the right channels to use?
- We don’t have a uni therefore communication with a bulk population is difficult
- Those in the community not knowing how to run an event and there are a lot of forms to fill out e.g. street parties
- Big events are popular but can have adverse impact on local neighbouring residents (disgruntled due to noise, rubbish, parking etc.)

Opportunities:

- Free outdoor gyms in parks eg park in Brisbane. “KOMPAN Cross Systems” featured in Good Design Awards – it is an app that personal trains you and keeps your records whilst using public exercise equipment
- Young people learning through skill development workshops such as social media and public speaking and volunteering to learn skills such as stage management, sound mixing desks, event experience - promotes both personal and career development
- Promote volunteering opportunities on committees e.g. WYAC
- We need more events that aren’t just music based. Select other interests e.g. food, art, workplaces, Australian Open of Surfing
- All age events are better but they need to appeal to young people
- Communicating through influencers – different avenues – those that have heaps of followers e.g. Chica Bonita
- Council events are seen as a bit lame, attract people with \$5 tacos and well known restaurant names which already have a good following

**COMMUNITY AND BELONGING**

**Goal 9: Northern Beaches culture is stimulated through the arts and a variety of cultural and creative events**

**b) Expand cultural activities, events and creative opportunities, including safe nightlife opportunities across the area**

Barriers:

- Not a lot of live music venues
- Venues and money – music
- Practice venues
- Noise

- Access to venues

Opportunities:

- Opportunities for local musicians – live music
- Building open spaces that cater to the needs of young people
- Indoor places for music events
- Enhance current venues / make more attractive – not just community halls / meet the needs of internal/external hirers
- Upgrade community spaces and with storage
- Pop up activities – outdoor cinemas, can move around, moveable stage, mobile stage

**c) Provide more events and opportunities for young people to socialise in formal and informal ways**

Barriers:

Opportunities:

- Sporting events for young people – build on the beach culture, build it and they will come
- Outdoor tennis tables / pool
- Band nights
- Look for more informal opportunities
- Allocate open space for informal recreation
- Skate park, multipurpose
- Food van, not permanent infrastructure – what is the food offering – is it inexpensive?
- Existent bowling clubs (Avalon)

**Goal 11: Our community is open and friendly, providing social and cultural opportunities for everyone**

**a) Facilitate a strong sense of community by encouraging community groups and volunteer opportunities**

Barriers:

- Volunteer opportunities and committees are full of older people
- Feeling judged as a young person
- Not the right opportunities
- Knowing who to contact within Council for opportunities

Opportunities:

- There is a genuine eagerness to be involved in social justice causes eg Amnesty
- Resume building, diversity, go overseas for charity, life building skills, builds on experience in an interview
- There is a genuine interest and desire to help
- Desire to earn money as opposed to volunteer
- Duke of Edinburgh volunteers approach Council. Schools have Duke of Ed coordinators to match opportunities, and they want meaningful opportunities

**b) Encourage a broad range of activities that enable social interaction, stimulate wellbeing, and support people at each stage of their life**

Barriers:

- Some young people experiencing these above issues
- The Northern Beaches is insular and monocultural and not diverse in identity

Opportunities:

- More diverse opportunities eg bring a Mardi Gras event to Northern Beaches so that more of the population get exposure to all types/diversity
- People are interested in mental health and opening up that discussion

**Goal 13: Our local economy provides a range of employment and education opportunities to match the skills and needs of the population**

**a) Facilitate a new higher education and vocational training opportunities on the Northern Beaches**

Barriers:

Opportunities:

**d) Expand employment, training and education opportunities for young people and people experiencing social disadvantage**

Barriers:

- The difficulty of meeting the job demand for a growing number of young people in future years
- How do we keep young people here on the Northern Beaches
- The natural desire for young people to move away to experience other parts of Sydney for various reasons eg adventure, independence, housing, education, employment
- Libraries turning into co-lab spaces
- The decision to choose a uni is mainly focussed on the course that is offered, then the location

Opportunities:

- Look at how big business is structuring their organisations eg job titling
- Innovative roles at big business and having those roles on the Northern Beaches
- Offer training opportunities in the form of innovative workshops so that young people are better equipped for future opportunities
- More social innovation and entrepreneurship workshops with real life training such as running a business
- Allow creative co-lab workspaces
- Council should make this easier to create these spaces, shared offices, internship
- Council to work with Frenchs Forest Hospital to create more youth-friendly jobs