



The City of Launceston's

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

FRAMEWORK

2016 – 19



Let us acknowledge and celebrate what youth can do to build a safer, more just world. Let us strengthen our efforts to include young people in policies, programs and decision-making processes that benefit their futures and ours.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I am proud to deliver the City of Launceston's Youth Engagement Framework for 2015 to 2017 as an ongoing step in ensuring our young people are heard, feel valued, contribute, bring new perspectives and play a meaningful role in our community.

True inclusion and empowerment of our young people begins with providing them with the opportunity to voice their ideas, make real decisions, and contribute to and participate in the social, economic, and cultural benefits of our community. It's about sharing power with adults and becoming genuine partners in creating a community we can all be proud of and equally participate in.

Research has shown that active civic engagement increases resilience and protects young people from at-risk environments and behaviour. It also shows that positive youth development helps ease their transition into adulthood.

When young people learn to identify, understand and take responsibility for the issues that affect their lives, they are able to grow in positive, constructive and conscious ways. Access, equity, social justice and empowerment directly lead to positive youth development.

The City of Launceston now seeks your input into the Framework to ensure that our youth engagement has meaning and provides a valuable experience for our young people and benefits to the broader community.

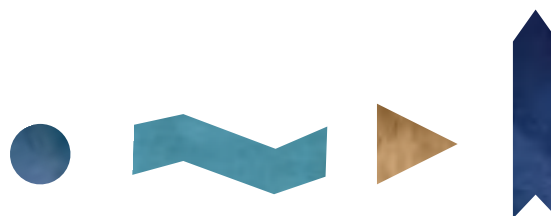
What will success look like? Launceston will have young people who are resilient and can positively handle life's challenges. They will be able to actively participate in education, training, employment and other areas of community life, and, therefore, access the economic, social and cultural benefits of our region. They will provide their voice into decision-making, and become genuine partners in creating an inclusive, creative and thriving community.



The City of Launceston Mayor, Albert van Zetten, Off the wall 2013.

The future of our community lies in the hearts and minds of our young people. I hope when we finalise the City's Youth Engagement Framework, it will help give a voice to what they see and what they hope for, so that we can all work together to foster a community that welcomes everyone and has equal opportunities for all.

Albert van Zetten
Mayor
City of Launceston
April 2015



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth Engagement Framework aims to provide a strategic approach to the City of Launceston's youth engagement in order to ensure that young people's diverse views, experiences and needs are valued and incorporated into our strategic planning. This in turn will ensure that young people are at the centre of the policies, strategies, services and activities that are developed for them.

The Framework incorporates our Vision, Aim, Values and Goals, and the Action Plan 2015/16 elaborates on how we will achieve these Goals:

GOAL 1 / Young people as leaders in shared decision-making with the City of Launceston and other agencies.

GOAL 2 / A diverse and inclusive youth voice into and out of the City of Launceston.

GOAL 3 / Young people have access to opportunities, resources and support.

GOAL 4 / Young people with a sense of social connectedness.

GOAL 5 / Young people with a sense of civic pride and an active interest in the local affairs of the municipality.

GOAL 6 / The City of Launceston enables leading-edge youth engagement opportunities.



We've also outlined who the City of Launceston's young people are (page 11), why we've taken this approach (page 15), the methodology used to develop the Framework (page 17), and what we are currently doing in youth engagement (page 19), including case studies on some of our successful projects. On pages 40 - 45 we've included the

Launceston College students' survey, together with an analysis of their responses.

If you would like to provide feedback on the Framework, you can respond to the key questions we've included at the end of each section. Alternatively, you can opt for providing your own feedback on the Framework. We welcome any and all comments

and suggestions.

We would like to acknowledge the work of those who have helped shape the Framework to date: the City of Launceston's Youth Advisory Group, Managers and Officers; Launceston College students; Gaylene Allen and Peta Bishop from Launceston College; and MoHow Consulting.

How you can respond to the Youth Engagement Framework

Visit www.yourvoicemyourlaunceston.com.au where you can provide your responses to the key questions provided. If you are 25 or under, there is also a youth survey you can complete.

Alternatively, you can provide written responses to:

Wendy Newton
Manager Community, Tourism and Events

The City of Launceston
PO Box 396
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

e: Wendy.Newton@launceston.tas.gov.au



Responses close on
08/05/15 !



Research shows that youth who have opportunities for meaningful participation in their communities are less likely to engage in risky behaviour. They tend to have higher self-esteem, be more physically active, show greater commitment to friends, families and communities, and are more likely to achieve healthy development.

United Nations, 2004



Poetry Wall, Laura Watts artist

1 / THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Vision

The needs, issues and rights of young people are heard, considered, acted upon and upheld in order to create an equitable, cohesive, creative, caring and sustainable community that recognises and values the positive contribution young people make to the City of Launceston.

The Aim

To engage young people in active citizenship so that they are enabled and empowered to voice their ideas and concerns, and take ownership over action and change for a positive future.

The Values

Equity/
the right to be heard

Respect/
the right to participate

Leadership/
the right to youth-led and shared decision-making



How can the City of Launceston work with young people, service providers and the wider community to positively contribute to the health and wellbeing of young people in Launceston? Give them a say and actually act on what the comments are.

Launceston College student



ACTION PLAN 2015/2016

GOAL 1 / Young people as leaders in shared decision-making with the City of Launceston and other agencies.

ACTIONS

- Develop an internal and external communications plan with YAG to promote YAG as the City of Launceston's primary way to engage with young people and to promote wider communication between YAG, the City of Launceston, Council and external agencies
- Enable YAG to directly present to Council on matters of importance as required

GOAL 2 / A diverse and inclusive youth voice into and out of the City of Launceston.

ACTIONS

- Review YAG's Terms of Reference and ensure that it is more closely aligned with what young people see as the benefits of joining such a group
- Develop an external communications plan with YAG to promote YAG to a wider cohort of young people in Launceston and to increase and diversify membership
- Link YAG more strongly to school-based leadership groups, UTAS and the business community, and develop partnerships of mutual benefit
- Develop a social media strategy to engage a wide cohort of young people

GOAL 3 / Young people have access to opportunities, resources and support

ACTIONS

- Develop a strategy to work more closely with high schools and colleges, particularly with SEC and SRC groups, as well as with UTAS and TasTAFE
- Develop and promote a quarterly youth newsletter for distribution via social media, YAG, high schools, colleges, TasTAFE and UTAS
- Explore with the City of Launceston management and officers an opportunity for young people to gain work experience in collaboration with other agencies



GOAL 4 / Young people with a sense of social connectedness

ACTIONS

- Continue planning and delivering special activities and events for National Youth Week and other opportunities with YAG and the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee

GOAL 5 / Young people with a sense of civic pride and an active interest in the local affairs of the municipality

ACTIONS

- Develop and promote a 'how to engage with the City of Launceston' flyer for young people and distribute through high schools, colleges, UTAS, TasTAFE and YAG
- Identify leadership opportunities for YAG members and promote the 'privilege of membership'
- Develop an orientation and recognition program for YAG members



Kulture Konnect program, a partnership with National Joblink

GOAL 6 / The City of Launceston enables leading-edge youth engagement opportunities

ACTIONS

- Promote a whole-of-City of Launceston approach to youth engagement by developing a Youth Engagement Policy for endorsement by Council
- Review the City of Launceston's Youth Policy and Youth Engagement Framework tri-annually
- Regularly monitor world trends and best practice in youth engagement

SECTION 1 Questions /

- 1.1/ *What would you change in the Youth Engagement Framework?*
- 1.2/ *What else would you include in the Youth Engagement Framework?*
- 1.3/ *What are some other ways that the City of Launceston can engage its young people or work with other organisations to do so?*

Just talk to us about things.

Launceston College student



2 / WHO THE CITY OF LAUNCESTON'S YOUNG PEOPLE ARE

With a population of over 67,000, the City of Launceston is home to approximately 5,297 secondary schoolers aged 12 to 17 and 6,837 tertiary education and independent young people aged 18 to 24, representing approximately 18% of Launceston's total population. (ABS 2011 data)

According to a recent survey of 237 Launceston College students:

1 / Only 9% feel like they have an opportunity to have a say in the decisions made about their community.

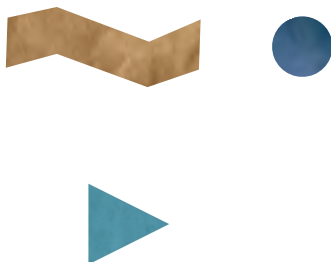
2 / 92% are engaged in some sort of activity in their community, including socialising with friends, sporting or recreational clubs, paid employment and volunteer work.

3 / The biggest challenges they see young people in Launceston facing include:

- A lack of employment opportunities;
- Balancing work/education with family and friends;
- Increasing drug and alcohol issues;
- Accessible and affordable transport options;
- Accessible and affordable housing options;
- Community attitudes towards young people; and
- Safety.

4 / The most important things to them over the next three years are:

- Finding employment;
- Continuing their education;
- Moving or travelling;
- Growing confidence and self-esteem; and
- Having a sense of belonging.



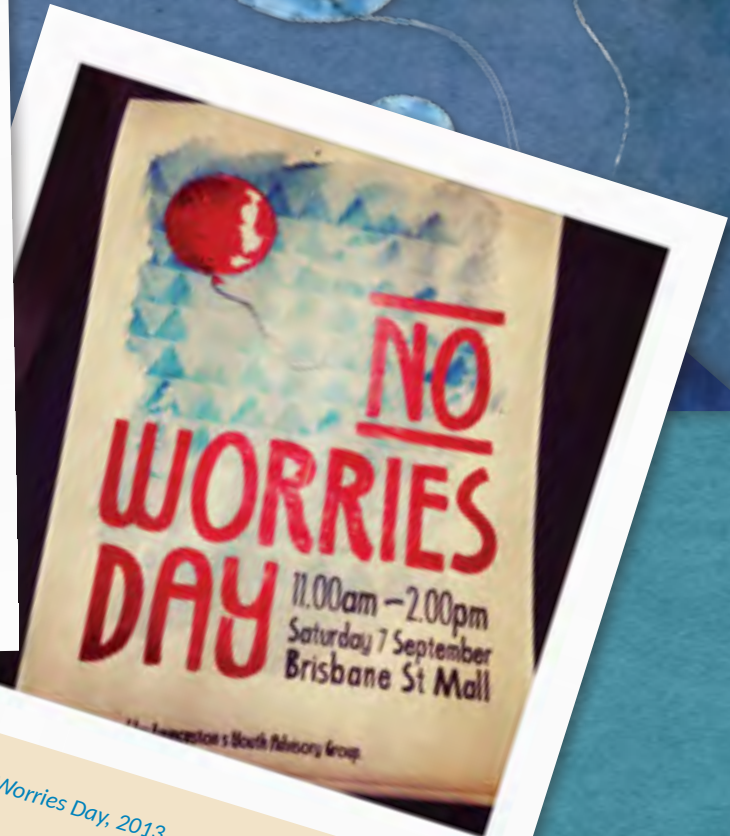


SECTION 2 Questions /

- 2.1/ *How can we provide more opportunities for young people to gain employment?*
- 2.2/ *What would improve young people's opportunities to balance work and education with family and friends?*
- 2.3/ *What do you see as the key drug and alcohol issues for our city and region? What's needed to prevent these issues becoming greater problems for our young people?*
- 2.4/ *What ideas do you have for making transport and housing more accessible and affordable?*
- 2.5/ *What do you see as the main concerns in regard to community attitudes towards young people? How can we improve these attitudes and demonstrate the contribution young people make to our community?*



YAG's No Worries Day, 2013



YAG's No Worries Day, 2013

- 2.6/ *What are the main safety concerns for young people? What's needed to ensure our young people feel safe within their homes and in their communities?*
- 2.7/ *How do we help young people grow in self-confidence and self-esteem?*
- 2.8/ *How do we ensure our young people feel a sense of belonging within their own communities?*

Do we have a role in making sure that young people are participating in community life? Or do we just focus on talking to young people in our community and listening to what they're saying? Or do they have an opportunity to be part of strategic planning on the policies that involve them?

City of Launceston Officer



3/ WHY A YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Youth Engagement Framework aims to provide a strategic approach to the City of Launceston's youth engagement in order to ensure that young people's diverse views, experiences and needs are valued and incorporated into our strategic planning. This in turn will ensure that young people are at the centre of the policies, strategies, services and activities that are developed for them.

The Framework articulates how we engage young people aged 12 to 25 who live, learn, work and visit Launceston in the social, economic and civic opportunities of Launceston and the region. It will align with a broader Social Inclusion Policy and a Community Development Framework that supports the Goals of the City of Launceston's Strategic Plan 2014/24 by providing a whole-of-City of Launceston approach to youth engagement.

Through the Action Plan 2015/16, it outlines how we will directly contribute to the ongoing development of young people by fostering active citizenship, as well as providing opportunities for capacity building, leadership and a connection to a broader social awareness.

The benefits of youth engagement for the City of Launceston include:

- More informed and relevant planning and decision-making, with clearer priorities for resource allocation
- More resilient, inclusive and diverse communities

➤ Young people that are more likely to stay in the region if they feel connected to the community

➤ Investing in future leadership and capacity building

The benefits of youth engagement for young people include:

- Developing leadership and other skills that improve employment opportunities
- Developing social skills, self-confidence and self-esteem
- Having a say on decisions that affect them
- Being recognised for the positive contributions they make to the community



The benefits of youth engagement to the community include:

- Developing a greater understanding of the needs and issues of young people
- Recognising the value, contribution and positive potential of young people
- Reducing unwarranted concern about the 'problems' of young people
- Retaining a skilled future workforce

Participation is an essential part of human growth, that is development of self-confidence, pride, initiative, creativity, responsibility, cooperation...this is [how] people learn to take charge of their lives and solve their own problems, [and] is the essence of development."

Stan Burkey, 1993



City Park. Photograph by Louise Thrush

4/ HOW WE DEVELOPED THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Over 250 people have been involved in providing input into the development of the Framework.

The Youth Advisory Group was utilised as a key stakeholder in guiding the development of the consultation strategy and in the early drafting stages of the Framework.

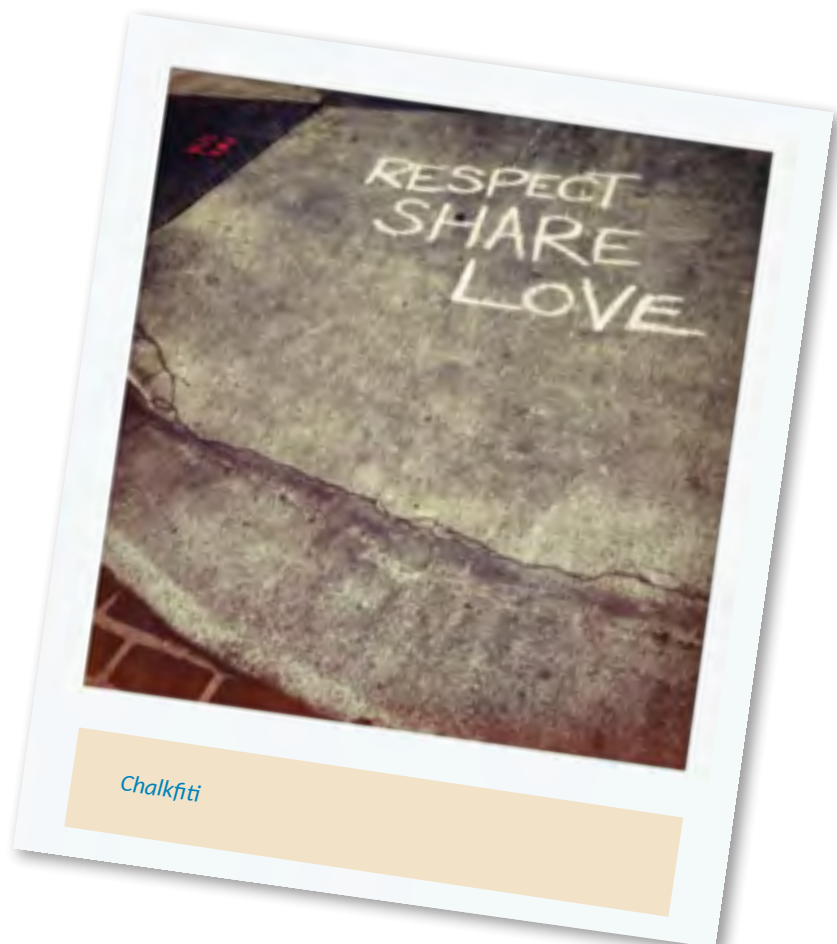
A consultant was engaged to help draft the consultation strategy and to undertake initial internal interviews with City of Launceston Officers and members of the Youth Advisory Group in December 2013. In briefing the consultant, guiding questions were developed, including:

- What is Council current's approach to youth engagement?
- What new opportunities are there to better engage our young people?
- Who do we engage with?
- Who don't we engage with?
- How are young people already engaged in the community?
- How can we better support external organisations and build capacity?
- What should Council's strategic role be in youth engagement?

A special YAG consultation session was held and members were also offered one-on-one interviews with the consultant, of which seven members took up the opportunity.

One City of Launceston Alderman was interviewed and seven Officers and Managers also took up the opportunity to be interviewed by the consultant.

Key themes were drawn from these conversations and were used to inform the design of targeted questions for a survey delivered to 237 Launceston College students. [See Appendix for Survey questions and results.]



Have an easily accessible and approachable program to involve youth of Launceston in relevant planning and other issues.

Launceston College student



5. WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY DOING

5.1/ Working with our young people:

The City of Launceston's Youth Advisory Group (YAG)

"To me, YAG acts as a link between the young people of the city and their council, allowing for both input, and a chance to receive feedback and guidance. I think that this role gives young people the chance to get more involved in the inner workings of Launceston, opening doors to new contacts, creating a firmer sense of community by being active within it, and instilling a sense of pride within all participants as a result of being able to see their ideas materialise through the actions of YAG, becoming a real part of what the city is."

Hannah, YAG member

Background

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is a Special Committee of Council that was formed in 1997 to act as a consultative link between the City of Launceston and young people aged 12 to 25 in the municipality.

YAG's main aim is to build social capacity by fostering leadership and civic pride. As a key avenue for young people to raise issues and make comment on matters important to them, YAG members provide advice to the City of

Launceston and other agencies on youth-specific and other issues.

Since its inception, YAG members have also contributed to the social and cultural wellbeing and liveliness of Launceston by running activities and events for

the whole community to enjoy, thereby positively promoting the contribution young people make to the city.



What initial consultations with YAG told us about YAG

BENEFITS

- YAG provides members a clear avenue to be able to make change and a better knowledge of the workings of the Council than their peers.
- There are benefits of skills building and development that come with running and organising various events.
- YAG is a good provider of leadership opportunities and ways to speak up.

GENERAL

YAG is the primary way young people engage with Council and breaks down the fear of talking to Council

YAG has little formal contact with the Council.

The Council doesn't really use YAG to the potential it could. YAG is used more for "feeding stuff into Council" rather than the Council using YAG as a tool for further youth engagement.



There are skills we got from organising and hosting an event. Wendy doesn't just chuck up a risk plan, she does it with us.

YAG member

In 2011, YAG members ran a six-month community awareness campaign to stop bullying.

YAG members created the concept and tagline, took the photo, wrote a script and music, recorded the voiceovers, and created an ad that was shown at Village Cinemas and promoted via social media and online.

YAG'S CURRENT STRUCTURE

- The current structure is autonomous, which is good.
- The informal, small-group structure is working in terms of meetings.
- Formal and informal engagement methods should be used to engage a wider youth population.

How it could work better

- YAG would like to become more involved in decision-making processes with the Council on a wider scale.
- Members would like more contact with Aldermen.
- Members would like to see better reach with young people who are outside the school system e.g. those who are employed, self-employed, etc.

We look at YAG sometimes and see 10 young people and think 'do people know how important this is? Do people know how much of a voice they can have? So if we could go out into the community more and say, 'this is how you could be involved'.

YAG member

What consultations with Council Officers told us about YAG

Are these young volunteers to work on projects that benefit Council? Are they a consultative group that come together to agitate ideas to bring back to Council? Or is this meant to be this cohesive group that's meant to work together to collectively achieve something? Depending on who is running it and who is involved, it could be any or all of these.

City of Launceston Officer

➤ There needs to be a way of engaging young people who are not interested in being involved in YAG to find a new way to engage young people that is valued and has impact.

➤ YAG has been subtle engagement in civic affairs for young people that come along to YAG.

➤ The empowering part of YAG is that young people get to design the messages that get sent to their peers.

➤ There have been good outcomes from YAG's involvement with the antisocial behaviour project, particularly in regard to the members' ability to influence outcomes and initiatives.

YAG's Youth Homelessness campaign, Youth Homelessness Matters Day, April 2014



What the Launceston College survey told us about YAG as an engagement method

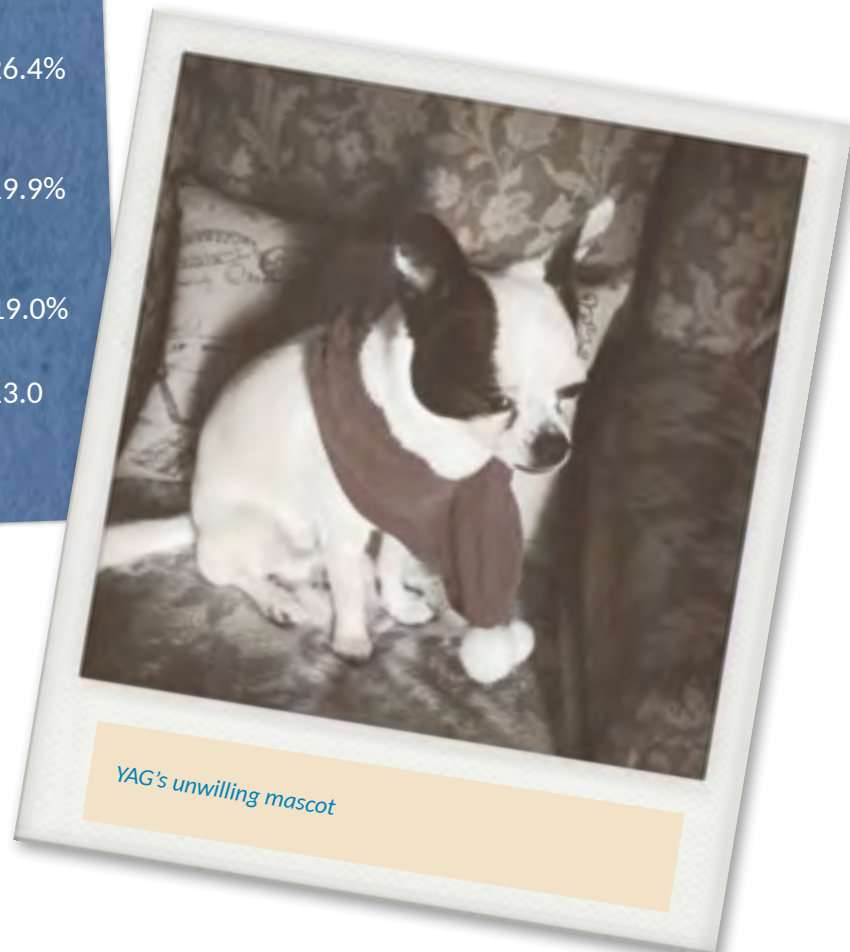
Four percent of students are currently engaged in a youth action group and approximately 17% felt that Council running a youth advisory committee or youth council was a good way to engage young people. This was the fourth most popular response in the category.

Only 7% of students have heard of YAG, however, when asked what opportunities would encourage

them to work with Council to make the community a better place, students indicated several

key areas in which YAG members are currently involved:

Skills development	50.9%
Getting a say into local planning and other issues	38.4%
Leadership opportunities	26.4%
Opportunities to develop and run youth activities and projects	19.9%
Opportunities to work on specific youth issues	19.0%
Learning about how Council works	13.0%





Conclusion

Initial consultation suggests that YAG still has a role to play as a Special Committee of Council as the 'first port of call' between young people and the City of

Launceston. YAG members would benefit from more skills and leadership development opportunity, with further recognition and a 'privilege of

membership' attached to those who regularly attend meetings. YAG membership needs to be diversified if it is to be more representative.





SECTION 5.1 Questions/

- 5.1.1/ *What role should YAG play in the Council's Youth Engagement Framework?*
- 5.1.2/ *How can YAG better achieve the goals young people have identified as wanting from such a group e.g. skills development, leadership, getting a say into local planning and other issues?*
- 5.1.3/ *How can the Council increase and diversify YAG's membership in order to make it more representative?*
- 5.1.4/ *What other ways can the Council engage young people who do not want to commit to a group such as YAG?*
- 5.1.5/ *What skills development opportunities would benefit young people? What opportunities could Council provide?*
- 5.1.6/ *What leadership skills would be beneficial to young people?*
- 5.1.7/ *What current youth issues are the most important to our young people and the greater community?*
- 5.1.8/ *How can the City of Launceston better utilise social media as an engagement tool with young people?*

5.2/ Working with schools, colleges and universities



SEED (STUDENT EXECUTIVE EQUITY DEVELOPMENT)

Work more closely with schools, colleges, universities, etc.

Launceston College student

SEED (Student Executive Equity Development) is a new pilot program run by the City of Launceston's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to help foster leadership and enable Launceston student council projects to get up and running.

Up to \$500 per annum is available for two Launceston high schools or colleges for innovative projects that meet the Selection Criteria and that demonstrate benefits to students, schools and the wider community.

Working with schools, colleges and universities: Council Bursary and Scholarship


The City of Launceston's Bursary and University Scholarship are great examples of our

commitment to learning and innovation, and our investment in the community of Launceston.

The City of Launceston's University Scholarship is awarded annually to a student commencing university studies. This Scholarship is valued at \$4,000 per year for three years, subject to satisfactory academic progress unless extenuating circumstances apply.

The City of Launceston's 'Springboard to Higher Education' Bursary is awarded annually to students graduating year 10 from the six state high schools.





SECTION 5.2 Questions/

- 5.2.1/ What are other ways the City of Launceston can work with schools, colleges and universities to better engage young people and foster active citizenship?*
- 5.2.2/ How can the City of Launceston support education providers in the work they do in fostering our young people*
- 5.2.3/ How can the City of Launceston get a broader voice from schools, colleges and universities into policy and planning?*
- 5.2.4/ How can social media be better utilised to get a broader youth voice into the City of Launceston?*



City Park



YAG's Flowers for Friendship Day

The Care Factor

At Fusion Northern Tasmania ...we've found that The Care Factor has been a useful resource as it practically highlights key challenges for young people to work on. Our hope is to continually use the resource provided in our Mentoring Program (FLYP Leadership) as a way of supporting local young people. Funnily enough, it's also been helpful for our workers and volunteers as they engage with others despite The Care Factor being designed for Year 7 students! We are grateful for the work that has been put into this program.

Andy Beeston, Fusion Northern Tasmania

The Care Factor is a program aimed at helping young people better engage with each other, their schools and the wider community. The program targets Grade 7

students and comprises a series of 6 one hour workshops on positive communication, fighting fair, respect, diversity, and rights and responsibilities in public places.

It also links students to a range of community services to ensure they can be more resilient in looking after themselves and each other.



As the peak youth body for the non-government youth sector in Tasmania, the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) has had a long involvement with the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC).

I believe that NYCC plays a vital role in educating and informing youth workers through the specific youth and sector information dissemination service it provides. This service effectively enables workers to keep informed of the work of others, find out about opportunities for service and skill development, as well as opportunities for collaboration. I have seen workers actively engage with NYCC over time, collaborating on projects of dual interest such as regional events, and in responding to issues of shared concern. This results in less duplication of services across the region, improved services, more informed workers and effectively better outcomes for young people in the region.

NYCC is unique in that it is closely connected with local Council so there are significant opportunities to identify the needs of young people in the municipality and the northern Tasmanian region, and to effect the necessary change.

Joanna Siejka, Chief Executive Officer, YNOT

6/ WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES: THE NORTHERN YOUTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NYCC)

Established in 1991, the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC) is a special committee of Council as defined in the *Local Government Act (TAS) 1993, s. 24*.

The primary purpose of NYCC is to provide an opportunity for Federal, State and Local Government and non-government youth service providers to come together to achieve a more coordinated approach to youth issues across northern Tasmania.

NYCC's aim is to provide a way for services to work cooperatively on youth issues and to enable agencies to share resources in order to provide the best range of appropriate services to young people in the region.

NYCC currently has over 130 members and in the last two years has provided advice to the City of Launceston and State and Federal Governments on a wide range of issues, such as social inclusion, the retention of young people in high school and college, personal searches of young people in custody, and the impact of the Federal Budget.

The City of Launceston provides resources to coordinate the bi-monthly meetings, which includes a small grants program for member organisations to run programs,

projects and activities that directly enable young people to participate in activities that they would not normally be able to participate in, remove barriers to young people actively and equally participating in their community, provide leadership opportunities for young people, and provide professional development opportunities.

NYCC members also collaborate on projects that enable young people to participate in activities and programs that provide social, artistic and health and wellbeing benefits.



Eyes Up Eric! Campaign Launch.





Eyes up, Eric! Campaign to stop mobile phone use while driving

The Eyes Up, Eric! is a regional campaign that aims to help stop young people using their mobile phone while driving.

The campaign was developed after consultation with 400 students demonstrated that 41% text, make and take calls, and check Facebook while driving. Young people are also

hesitant to ask other drivers to stop using their phone while behind the wheel because they consider the risk is low - yet research suggests crash-risk increases at least fourfold.



SECTION 6 Questions/

- 6.1/ What are other ways the City of Launceston can work with agencies to better engage young people and foster active citizenship?*
- 6.2/ How can the City of Launceston support youth providers in the work they do in fostering our young people?*
- 6.3/ How can the City of Launceston get a broader voice from agencies that work with young people into policy and planning?*



Brain Foetus, Off the Wall 2014 winner

7 / PROJECTS TO BUILD SOCIAL CAPACITY: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Through its annual planning process, the City of Launceston identifies, develops and runs projects, programs and activities independently and in collaboration with other agencies to engage young people and address priority issues.

Supporting the Tasmanian Youth Conference

Each year, the City of Launceston partners with the Youth Network of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Youth Forum to deliver a Tasmanian Youth Conference aimed at addressing specific issues of importance that have been identified by young

people and the youth sector.

Previous topics have included “Should I stay or should I go”, which looked into the reasons young people transit to and from Tasmania and “Anti-dote”, which looked at the

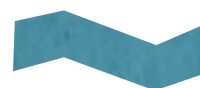
ways young people could positively handle discrimination in all its facets. In 2014, the Conference is aimed at employment issues that young people face.

Off the Wall Graffiti Prevention and Reduction Program

Off the Wall is an innovative way of engaging the whole community and enabling active citizenship in taking ownership of the problem of graffiti crime. It is based on best-practice

and includes a street art competition to engage artists in legitimate work, a students’ program, information for schools on how to engage students in the early identification of graffiti

crime and a diversionary program for young offenders and at-risk youth.



Supporting Kulture Konnect

The City of Launceston has supported National Joblink's innovative Kulture Konnect program since its inception in 2013.

The program aims to connect young migrant people aged 16-24 to activities and services in northern Tasmania, and has been highly successful in attracting over 40 young people to each program.

The program was Highly Commended in Human Rights Week Awards 2013 for "assisting young CALD people to better connect to their new community and encouraging cultural awareness and communication to break down barriers and address racism."

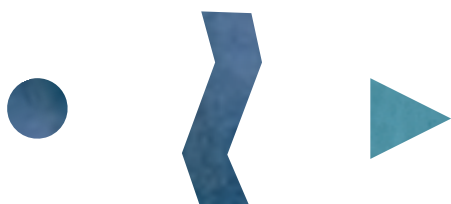


Kulture Konnect, 2014

Supporting Fuse Magazine

The City of Launceston partners with The Examiner and other stakeholders to produce an annual magazine for youth, by youth, about youth, called Fuse.

Now in its sixth year, the Fuse Committee, comprised of students representing various northern high schools and colleges, along with TasTAFE and UTAS, select a range of youth topics to research, investigate and report on. It offers leadership opportunities as well as skills development in journalism, graphic design, photography, reviewing and interviewing, together with a glimpse into the issues, ideas, concerns and topics that interest our young people.



SECTION 7 Questions/

- 7.1/ What are other ways the City of Launceston can work with agencies to better engage young people and foster active citizenship, particularly with those young people who are 'hard to reach'?*

- 7.2/ How can the City of Launceston get a broader youth voice and youth agency voice into the annual planning process to ensure the 'right' projects, programs and activities are supported?*



YAG's Launceston: Vision It



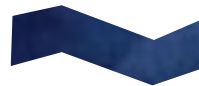
Step Up: Postcards between Grade Six and Grade Seven

Step Up was designed in 2009 as a transitioning strategy to engage Grade 6 students in expressing their thoughts, concerns and questions about the step up to Grade 7.

Through an exchange of postcards, Grade 6 students questioned their feeder school's Grade 7 students about their school, classes, teachers and experience, and the Grade 7

pen-pals responded with helpful hints, suggestions and welcoming encouragement. The themed responses were collated and distributed to the schools that took

part so that they could identify strategies to help their own students with the step up.



*Were you worried about anything when you were in year 6?
Was it easy to make friends?*

Grade 6 student

You are really going to enjoy grade 7 so you don't need to worry.

Grade 7 student



Junction Arts Festival. Photograph by Louise Thrush

8/ OPPORTUNITIES, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT: COMMUNITY-WIDE CITY OF LAUNCESTON PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The City of Launceston manages a range of facilities and open spaces with opportunities for young people from the region to engage in social, recreational and other activities.

The Royal Park Skate Park offers recreational facilities along with the city's only legal graffiti wall. In 2013 and 2014, the City of Launceston partnered with Skateboarding

Australia to conduct a range of skatehub workshops for young people in the region at both the Royal Park and Ravenswood Skate Parks, and there are events

held throughout the year at both locations as various youth agencies utilise the locations to engage a broad range of the city's young people.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK SURVEY RESULTS: LAUNCESTON COLLEGE

Number of respondents

237

Age of respondents

16 years old	62	
17 years old	125	
18 years old	48	
Transgender	0.4%	1
Male	48.5%	115
Female	51.1%	121
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	3.8%	7
Culturally or Linguistically Diverse	10.8%	20
A person with a disability	1.6%	3
Not applicable	83.8%	155



Which suburb or town do you live in?

Beaconsfield	1%	4	Invermay	2%	5	Prospect	6%	16
Beauty Point	0%	1	Karoola	0%	1	Punchbowl	0%	1
Beechford	0%	1	Kings Meadows	1%	3	Ravenswood	1%	3
Blackstone Heights	1%	3	Launceston			Relbia	0%	2
Blackwood Creek	0%	2	(includes East, South and West)	17%	41	Riverside	6%	16
Blessington	0%	1	Legana	5%	13	Rosevears	0%	2
Bracknell	0%	1	Lebrina	0%	2	Rowella	0%	1
Bridgenorth	1%	3	Longford	0%	2	Scottsdale	1%	3
Bridport	1%	4	Loira	0%	1	Springfield	0%	1
Carrick	0%	2	Lulworth	0%	1	St Helens	0%	2
Cressy	0%	1	Mayfield	0%	1	St Leonards	0%	1
Deloraine	3%	8	Meander	0%	2	Summerhill	2%	6
Elizabeth Town	0%	1	Mole Creek	1%	3	Travellers Retreat	0%	1
Exeter	1%	3	Mowbray	3%	7	Trevallyn	3%	9
Flowery Gully	0%	1	Newnham	3%	7	Turners Marsh	0%	2
George Town	2%	6	Newstead	1%	4	Youngtown	3%	7
Grindelwald	0%	2	Norwood	4%	10	Westbury	0%	2
Hadspen	1%	1	Perth	2%	6	Windermere	0%	1
Herrick	0%	1						

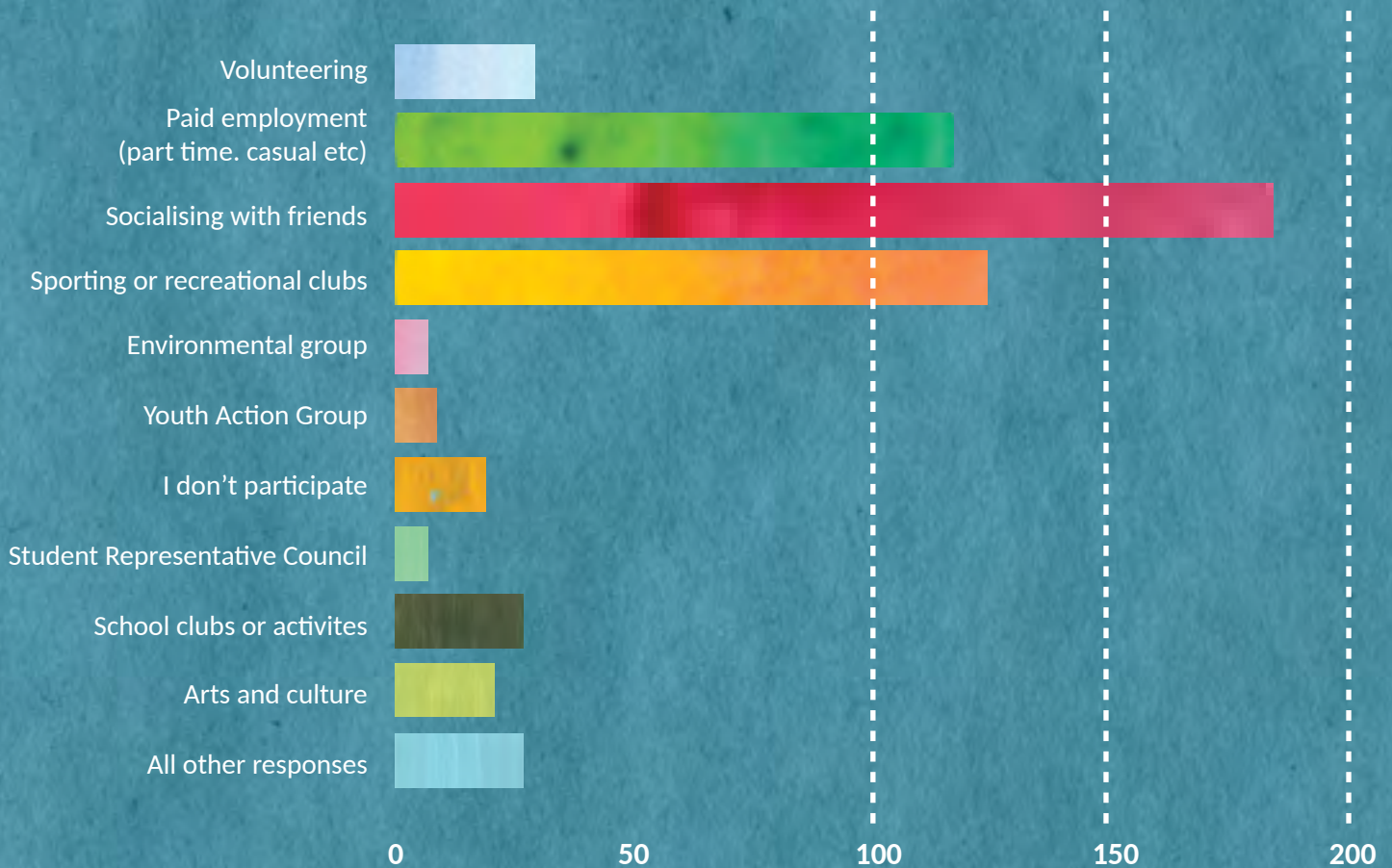
Do you feel you have an opportunity to have your say about the decisions made about your community?

Sometimes	37.6%	86
Yes	9.2%	21
No	53.3%	122

In addition, there are 27 text responses to this question. Of these responses, the most common themes are:

- Voting (not being able to vote);
- Not being given the chance; and
- Not knowing how to.
- "I have no idea where or what to do even if I wanted to."

How are you engaged in your community? You may tick more than one box.



What's good about being a young person in Launceston?

FACILITIES: 109 RESPONSES

Aquatic Centre	8
Aurora Stadium	2
School	9
LGH	2
Library	6
Village Cinemas	7
City Park	1
Public toilets	6
Shops	5
Sport	9
Free WiFi	7
Skate Park	5
Mall	4
Gorge	4
Nothing	5

"Professional facilities in Launy are great."

"Lots of places for activities."

"Good local businesses."

"Plenty of clubs for different sports/activities."

"It is a great city that's all I can say."

"Everything is readily available minutes from home."

"School choices are good."

SERVICES: 97 RESPONSES

Buses	19
Headspace	12
LGH	7
KFC	2
Police	6
Schools	9
Shops	3
Nothing	9

"Services like the police are very friendly and good at their job."

"Great health services."

"Comfortable places to hang out."

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT: 116 RESPONSES

Breath of Life	39
Village Cinemas	18
Fair bit	15
Nothing	13
Festivale	6
New Years	5
AFL	4
Aurora Stadium	2

"Growing number of events to participate in."

"There are a lot, everyone gets involved."

"Not enough functions for people under 18."

ENVIRONMENT: 89 RESPONSES

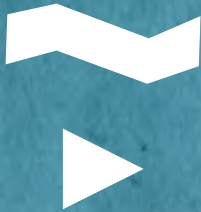
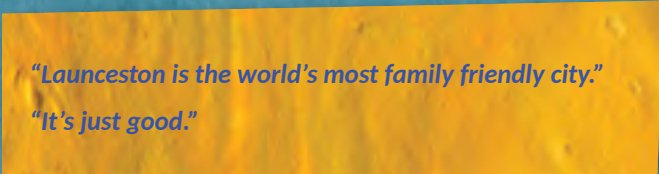
Gorge	23
Parks	21
Clean	13
Trees	7
Nothing	4



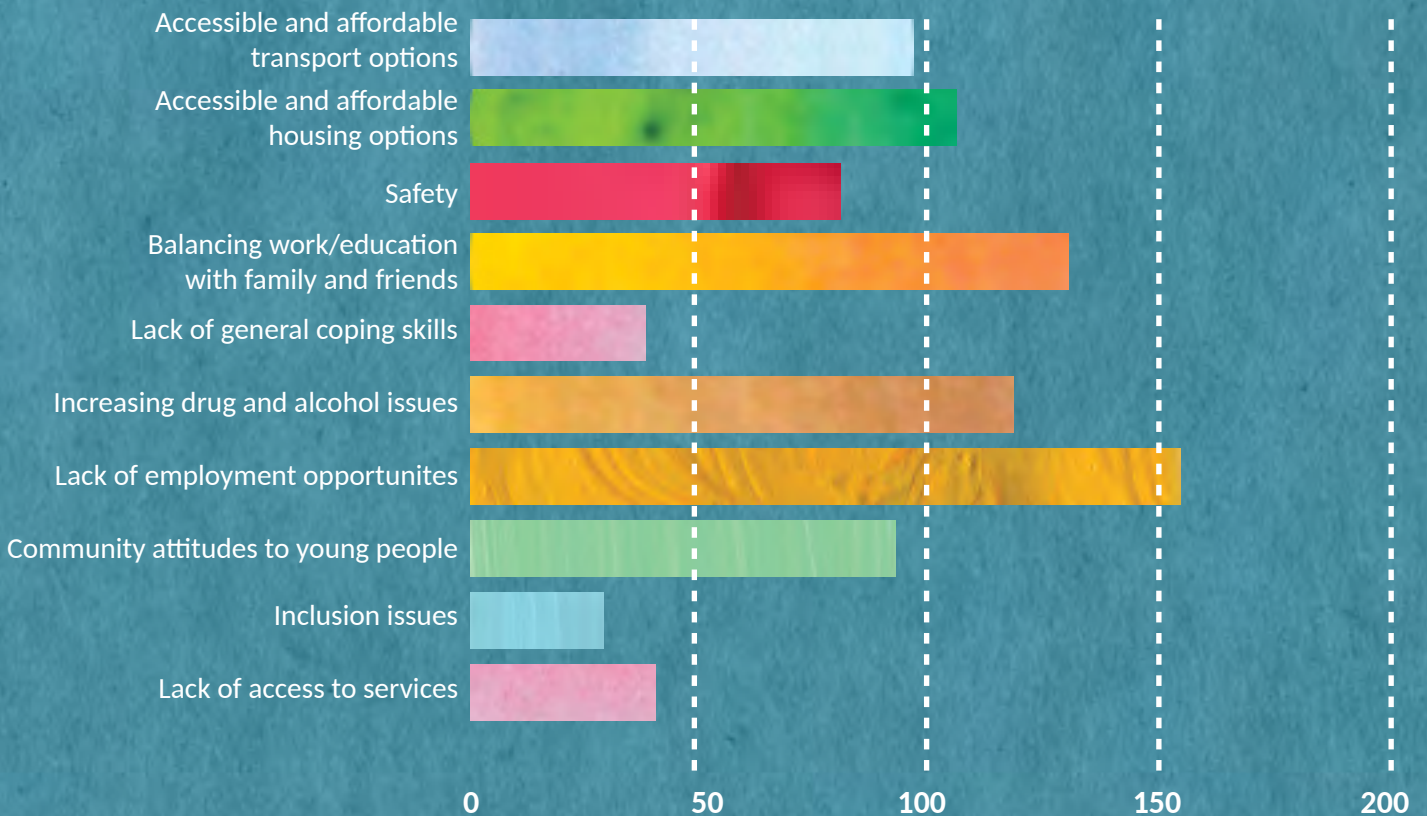
PEOPLE: 74 RESPONSES

Friendly 24	Good 6
Bogans 9	Nice 6

OTHER: 29 RESPONSES



**What challenges to young people in Launceston currently face?
You may tick more than one box.**



Lack of employment opportunities	69%
Balancing work/education with family and friends	58%
Increasing drug and alcohol issues	52%
Accessible and affordable housing options	47%
Accessible and affordable transport options	43%
Community attitudes to young people	40%

"Youth unemployment is a pressing issue in Tasmania and Launceston in particular."

"Launceston is more so a place to retire or raise a family or visit for a holiday not so much to grow up and start a successful career."

"Stereotyping of some young people."

OTHER RESPONSES 24

Parking	6
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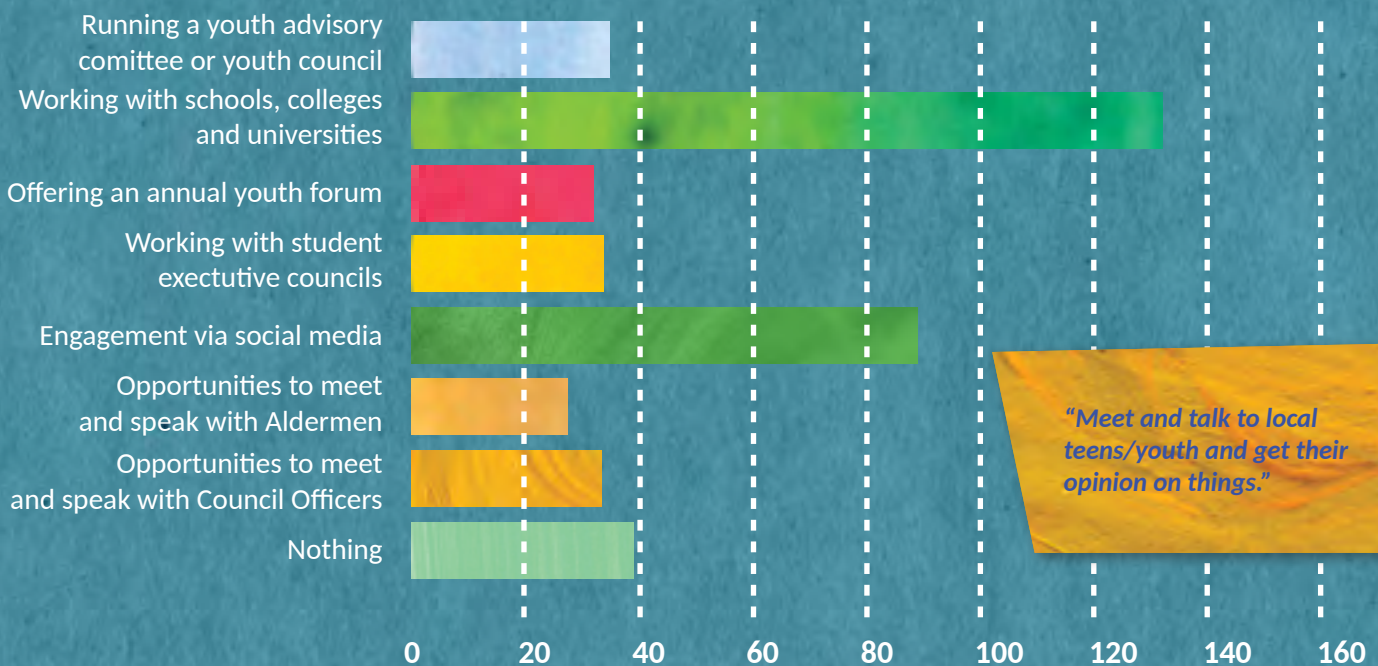
What are the most important things to you over the next 3 years? You may tick more than one box.

Finding employment	75%
Moving or travelling	62%
Growing confidence and self-esteem	50%
Gaining better health and wellbeing	38%
Owning my own home	34%
Having a sense of belonging	33%
Caring for parents	19%
Having a leadership role	17%
Building better networks	16%
Doing volunteer work	8%

"Fixing this town."

"Getting my licence."

How could Council work with young people to make Launceston a better place for young people? You may tick more than one box.

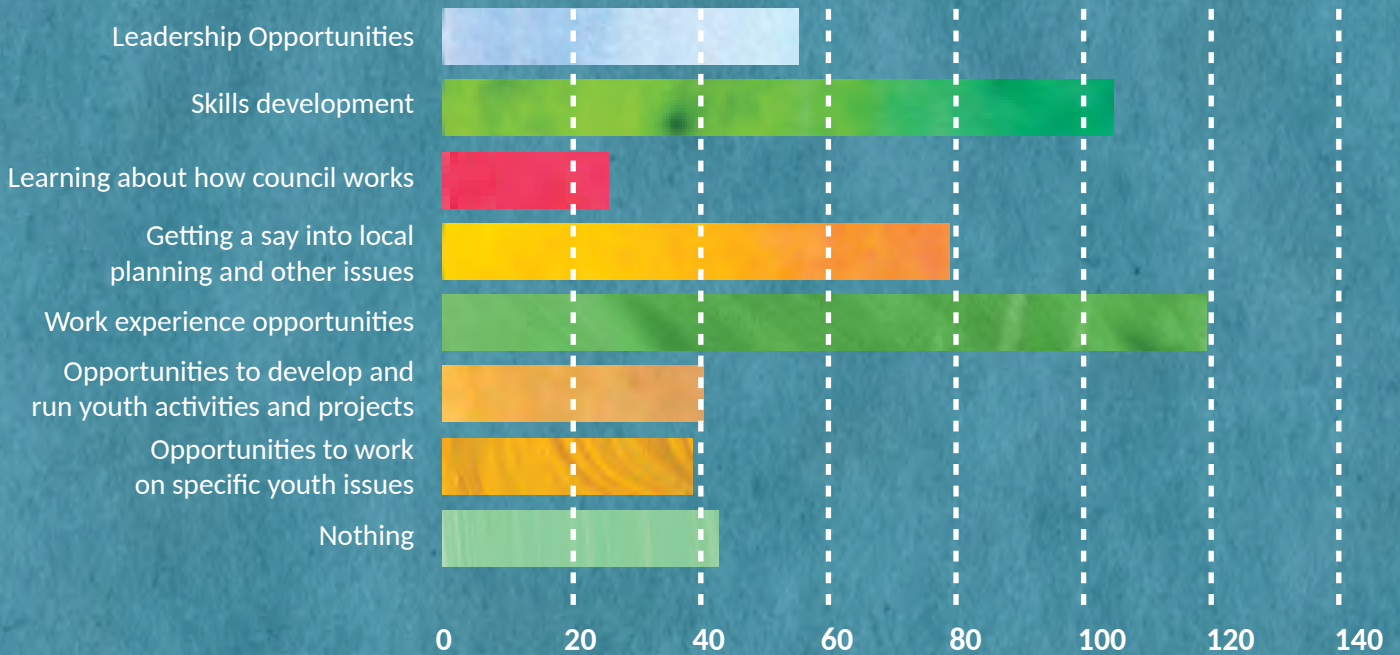


"Meet and talk to local teens/youth and get their opinion on things."

Have you heard about Council's Youth Advisory Group (YAG)?

Yes	7.6%	17
No	92.4%	206

What opportunities would encourage you to work with Council to make the community a better place?



How do you think Council could work with young people, service providers and the wider community to positively contribute to the health and wellbeing of young people in Launceston?

Of the 98 responses, the most common themes are:

Give young people some sort of say	11%
More activities	10%
Work with schools, colleges and unis	7%
Provide health and wellbeing (including mental health) education	6%
Provide specific meetings and workshops	6%

"Have an easily accessible and approachable program to involve youth of Launceston and relevant planning and issues."

"Get young people involved in activities and giving them things to do other than drink."

"Reach out via social media as most young people are on some form of social media. Hold events only involving young people."

"Talk to them about what they feel needs changing then get a wide variety of aged people to form a group."



Photograph by Connie Lippis

Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston

PO Box 396, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

T 03 6323 3000

E contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au

www.launceston.tas.gov.au