

City of Port Lincoln

# YOUTH ACTION PLAN

2026-2031

DRAFT

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Barngarla People, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the City of Port Lincoln rests and their continuing connection to land, sea, culture, and community.

We pay our respects to Elders, past, present, and emerging, and we extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our community.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



On behalf of the City of Port Lincoln I am extremely proud to introduce the City of Port Lincoln's first-ever Youth Action Plan, a shared commitment to empowering every young person in our community, from our littlest learners to our emerging leaders.

Young people aren't just our future, they're shaping our community today. It's our job to make sure they have the spaces, support, and voice they need to thrive.

This plan was developed with young people at its heart, it reflects what we've heard from young people, service providers and organisations across Port Lincoln. It's about more than programs or projects, it's about creating a city where young people feel safe, seen, and supported. A place where parks, libraries, community centres and shared spaces are welcoming, inclusive, and vibrant hubs for connection, creativity, and belonging.

We're also proud to be working closely with youth organisations, schools, and community groups, whose passion and dedication ensure that our young people have real opportunities to lead, learn and be heard.

When we listen to young people, we build stronger communities. This plan is our promise to walk beside them, not just for them.

Together, let's make it happen for our young people today, and for the future we all share.

**Diana Mislov**  
Mayor, City of Port Lincoln

# WELCOME TO PORT LINCOLN'S YOUTH ACTION PLAN!

Young people are a big part of Port Lincoln. You learn here, play here, hang out with friends here, and help shape our community's future.

The Youth Action Plan provides a blueprint for Council's contribution to supporting young people in our community and will assist in delivering Council's Strategic Directions Plan Goal 2: Liveable and Active Communities, with a core focus on embedding the voices of young people aged 5–18 in Council decision making, and shaping services, programs and public spaces that support their wellbeing and development.

The Plan has a predominant focus on young people aged 5-18. It also acknowledges the needs of early years (0-5) and young adults (19-24) through advocacy and broader community level support.

If you want more detail, please read the Youth Background Report, which sits behind The Plan and can be found on our website.

## SCOPE

### The Plan focuses on:

- Activating Council spaces, facilities and programs
- Collaborating with local schools, youth organisations and service providers
- Advocating for resources and support to address emerging needs for young people

Direct service provision, such as the delivery of specialist services or case management, is outside the scope of this strategy. Where necessary, Council will continue to play an advocacy and lobbying role to ensure young people can access appropriate supports.

In addition, specific capital projects that support activities such as cycling and walking fall under other Council strategies, including the Walking and Cycling Strategy and the Open Space Strategy.

# OUR ROLE – HOW COUNCIL SUPPORTS YOUTH

Young people want clear, easy-to-understand support.  
Council’s role fits into three areas:



# OUR VISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Port Lincoln is a community where all young people feel:

**Safe** in their homes, schools, and public spaces

A place where all feel **welcome and included**

**Connected** through friends, clubs, culture, and community

**Inspired and supported** to learn, grow, and lead

**Able to have a say** in decisions that affect them

# PORT LINCOLN YOUTH — YOU'RE THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Port Lincoln is full of young people doing amazing things! Nearly 1 in 5 locals are aged 5–18, which means you make a huge impact on what our City looks and feels like.

Our youth community is super diverse including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, young people with disability, culturally diverse families, and young carers. All these different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences are what make Port Lincoln unique.

Young people are out there doing great stuff:

Around 75% of 15–19-year-olds are working or studying

Many are connected to local sport and recreation clubs

Lots volunteer, help out, and show up for your community

We also know that not everyone has the same opportunities. This Youth Action Plan is focused on breaking down barriers, so every young person feels welcome, respected, supported, and ready to thrive.

## PORT LINCOLN YOUTH SNAPSHOT

**15,037** people call Port Lincoln home and **young people make up 18.6% of the whole town!**

*\*Estimated population as at June 2024*

**6.2%** are aged 5–9

**6.3%** are aged 10–14

**6.1%** are aged 15–19

### A Diverse Community

**6.6%** of locals identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

**76 young people** (5–18) were born overseas

**4.4%** of people speak a language other than English at home

### You're Busy Achieving Big Things

**74%** of 15–19-year-olds are working, studying, or doing both

**18.9%** of people aged 15+ volunteer

**5.3%** of residents are primary carers, supporting family or loved ones

**10.3%** of people aged 15+ live with disability or need support with daily activities

### Sport Superstars

In **2025, 1,962 sports vouchers** were used by students from Reception-Year 9

*Australian Bureau of Statistics – Region Summary: Port Lincoln*

*\*\* Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (sports voucher data)*



## HOW WE ALREADY SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

We regularly host visits from local school groups to educate students on the role of Council and attend events and initiatives such as expos to promote career opportunities in local government.

We have included the provision of a Council employee trainee program into our Enterprise Agreement to implement a Council trainee program for candidates aged 15 to 21.

### ADVOCACY

We undertake advocacy and lobbying of key government departments and other bodies on behalf of young people. For example, together with CEG we lobbied the SA Skills Commission for additional financial support for youth undertaking traineeships and apprenticeships for costs associated with travelling to Adelaide. We have also supported local organisations such as West Coast Youth and Community Support lobby for funding for initiatives such as the community night bus that provides safe transport home for young people.

### YOUTH COORDINATOR

We have engaged a Youth Coordinator to support the activation of council spaces for young people, foster collaborative partnerships and advocate for young people on challenges and systemic barriers that fall outside Council's direct scope and resourcing.



## PORT LINCOLN LIBRARY – MORE THAN JUST BOOKS

A welcoming hub for learning, creativity & connection:

- LEGO & STEM Clubs, Storytime, School Holiday Activities
- Toy Library, free Wi-Fi, quiet study areas
- Literacy packs & early learning resources

## SPACES TO EXPLORE, PLAY & CONNECT

A few places & spaces we manage:

- 14 playgrounds & 7 BBQ areas
- The Parnkalla Trail – 22km coastal walking track
- A safe beach enclosure with lockers, showers and accessible ramp access
- The community BMX track & skate park
- Key sporting facilities, including:
  - \* Centenary Oval
  - \* Kirton Oval
  - \* Poole Oval
  - \* Tennis Courts
  - \* Ravendale Sporting Complex

These public spaces support an active, social lifestyle in beautiful settings across Port Lincoln.



## ARTS, EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Our Nautilus Arts Centre

- Hosts music, comedy, arts & youth-friendly shows (400+ capacity)
- The gallery shop supports local creators, including local young artists
- There are gallery spaces for exhibitions by local artists of all ages

### Tunarama

We hold the Tunarama festival in January each year. A free to attend festival that has a range of events and activities for young people.

### ArtEyrea

Run by council and supported by Country Arts SA via the Arts and Cultural Facilitator, ArtEyrea give young people chances to join creative workshops and build skills, confidence and self-expression.

## VOLUNTEERING (18+)

Want to build confidence, gain experience, and give back? Opportunities include:

- Mill Cottage, Library, Nautilus Arts Centre, Cruise Ship Program

## YOUTH AWARDS

Each year, Council presents an award to a graduating Year 12 Student from each of the secondary schools located within Port Lincoln who have shown outstanding leadership and service to the community. We also present the Young Citizen of the Year Award, and the annual Port Lincoln Art Prize event includes the Youth Category.



## GRANT FUNDING

We provide funding to West Coast Youth and Community Support for programs and events such as the annual Snag and Roll Skate Park Event. We also support other organisations such as sporting groups to deliver programs and initiatives to support young people participate.

## BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Council owns a range of facilities that are leased by organisations who provide services to the community including youth. These include Flinders Theatre (local cinema) and the UniHub Facility. Council worked collaboratively with UniHub to bring this much needed tertiary education facility to the region, reducing the requirement for our young people to have to travel to Adelaide and beyond for study. We provide a space to West Coast Youth and Community Support for their Youth Hub facility, a youth-friendly, accessible space for young people to gather.

## PORT LINCOLN LEISURE CENTRE

We own the Port Lincoln Leisure Centre, an important facility where young people gather to learn to swim, play sport and connect with each other.

## CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

We support the Children's University, with the Port Lincoln Library being a Learning Destination, and Mayor Mislov has been appointed as an Ambassador for Children's University.

## YOUTH COLLECTIVE

We are a part of the Youth Collective, a network of youth services working together to:

- Share ideas
- Spot emerging needs
- Improve support for young people across Port Lincoln

We meet monthly to make sure youth voices and needs are heard.

# HOW WE LISTENED

To build this Youth Action Plan, we engaged with young people, schools, and organisations across Port Lincoln to find out what's working, what's missing, and what matters to young people.

## HOW WE ENGAGED

- 23 sessions with local youth services (like Headspace, Mentally Fit EP, Uni Hub, TAFE SA & Aboriginal Access Centre, West Coast Youth and Community Support + more)
- Every primary and high school in Port Lincoln
- 223 surveys completed by young people (aged 5–18) and families

## WHAT YOU TOLD US

### Who Responded

- Mostly aged 11–13
- 56% male, 42% female, 2% not stated
- Most answered for themselves

### How You Get Around

- 67% get dropped off
- 49% walk

### Where You Spend Time

- Foreshore – 54%
- Leisure Centre – 52%
- Parks & ovals – 44%
- Nearly half visit Council spaces a few times a week

### How You Spend Your Free Time

- Hanging out with friends – 76%
- Sport – 66%
- Video games – 60%

### Clubs & Groups

- 70% are in a local club or group
- 73% feel positive about being involved
- Common themes: friends, fun, community, staying active

### What You Think of Council Spaces

- 67% positive, 31% neutral
- You want:
  - \* More social spaces
  - \* Better maintenance
  - \* More outdoor + recreation options
  - \* Stronger inclusion opportunities

# IN YOUR WORDS

**What You Like**

- Great places to hang with friends and family.
- Climbing equipment and reading areas at the library
- I love the basketball court.
- Swimming in the enclosure and kicking the footy.

**What You Want Improved**

- “More chill spaces for older kids.”
- “Fix the BMX track or add a pump track.”
- “More shade, seating, and water fountain.”
- “Add exercise equipment”

# WHAT WE HEARD FROM STAKEHOLDERS WHO SUPPORT YOUTH

Young people are facing several challenges when it comes to support and opportunities:

- Mental health services often have long wait times, and alcohol, drug, and gambling support is limited, especially for younger teens.
- Safe and affordable housing is in short supply, leaving some young people homeless or living in overcrowded homes.
- Driving lessons, tests, and transport options can be expensive or hard to access.
- Not enough fun activities for young people.
- Lacking safe and culturally welcoming spaces.
- Many young people also don't know what services are available, and programs sometimes struggle to keep youth engaged.

Stakeholder feedback aligns with broader trends relative to young people:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Housing and cost of living pressures
- Transition to adulthood
- Participation and engagement
- Youth voice and inclusion

# WHAT COUNCIL WILL FOCUS ON

Council's focus areas are:

## **FOCUS AREA 1: Activating Council Spaces, Facilities and Programs**

Council will work to making public spaces more welcoming, inclusive, and fun for young people.

We will:

- Explore ways to improve accessibility, inclusiveness, and safety in youth spaces
- Support youth activities, sport, art and recreation in Council spaces
- Keep listening to young people about what makes a space feel welcoming
- Explore youth-led projects (e.g., art, signage, or pop-up spaces)
- Keep improving maintenance and cleanliness where needed

## **FOCUS AREA 2: Collaborating with Local Organisations**

Council will continue to strengthen partnerships across schools, youth services, clubs, and community groups.

We will:

- Work closely with the Youth Collective to identify shared priorities
- Support joint programs between schools, youth services, clubs and community groups
- Assist in strengthening communication, so young people know where to find help
- Promote accessible, low-cost activities for all ages
- Celebrate youth culture, leadership, and achievements

## **FOCUS AREA 3: Advocating for Resources and Emerging Needs**

Some issues are bigger than Council and are beyond the capacity of local stakeholder organisations but they still matter to young people. Council will advocate for better support and investment.

We will advocate for:

- Better access to mental health services
- Improved transport options and more driving lessons/test availability
- Affordable and safe housing
- Culturally safe services, especially for Aboriginal young people
- Accessible, inclusive spaces for young people with disability
- External funding and investment for community-run programs that respond quickly to emerging issues

## YAP ACTIONS

Action	Team	Role	Timeframe				
			Current	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2030/31
<b>Focus Area 1: Activating Council Spaces, Facilities and Programs</b>							
Make public spaces more welcoming, inclusive, and youth-friendly through improved design, programming, and opportunities for recreation and connection							
1. Introduce initiatives and increase awareness of community spaces and facilities to encourage youth and families to explore their local surroundings. For example, via the community e-newsletter, social media, my local app and website.	CCR	Provider	Within operational budget				
2. When upgrading Council facilities and spaces, explore opportunities to make them accessible and welcoming for young people. Enhancements may include youth-friendly seating including solar powered smart benches, shaded areas, IT connectivity (e.g. public wi-fi) and informal play or activity elements that support social connection and recreation.	P&P ICT LIB NAC	Provider	Within project scope				
3. Continue to connect young people to physical activity opportunities (structured and non-structured) via the Connected and Active Communities Program.	CCR	Provider	Within operational budget	Subject to funding			
4. Continue to deliver events and activities at the Port Lincoln Library where young people, families and carers can learn, play and connect.	LIB	Provider	Within operational budget				
5. Continue to provide dedicated spaces for West Coast Youth and Community Support's Youth Hub, and UniHub Spencer Gulf, including consideration of all reasonable facility modifications required to support ongoing service delivery.	P&P	Provider	As per project scope				
6. Implement priority actions from Council's Open Space Strategy and Walking and Cycling Strategy to enhance walking and cycling connectivity across the City.	P&P CA&O	Provider	As per project scope				
7. Continue to implement the Local Area Traffic Management Council School Precinct Plan actions to improve safety for walking and cycling to school.	CA&O	Provider	As per project scope				
8. Advocate and seek funding and investment for key projects identified in the Open Space and Walking and Cycling Strategy, such as improvements to the BMX facility and the development of a pump track.	P&P	Provider	Subject to grant funding/as per project scope				
9. Further develop and advocate for youth-focused arts and cultural programs and projects to support existing and emerging young artists in partnership with Country Arts SA and other relevant stakeholders.	CCR NAC	Provider	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
<b>Focus Area 2: Collaborating with Local Organisations</b>							
Strengthening partnerships with schools, youth service providers and community groups to deliver coordinated and effective support for young people.							
10. Continue to support local community-based social inclusion and wellbeing programs for young people through Council's Community Grant Funding.	CCR	Provider	Within operational budget				
11. Support and assist the distribution of the Port Lincoln Organisations and Services Directory, developed by West Coast Youth and Community Support to young people their families and support networks.	CCR	Collaborator	Within operational budget				
12. Promote and support youth leadership programs that empower young people to develop skills, build confidence and grow independently, such as via the Connected and Active Community Program, and the YMCA Youth Parliament Program.	CCR	Collaborator	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
13. Continue active participation in the Youth Collective to share initiatives and enhance support and opportunities for young people.	CCR	Collaborator	Within operational budget				
14. Work collaboratively with local schools and youth organisations to ensure representation from young people in council consultation processes and development of relevant Council projects and initiatives. For example, via Headspace and West Coast Youth and Community Support Youth Advisory Committees.	CCR	Collaborator	Within operational budget				

Action	Team	Role	Timeframe					
			Current	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
15. Work collaboratively with local stakeholders to seek grant funding and other investment to deliver large scale events and initiatives aimed at young people that celebrate them including music, arts and entrepreneurship.	CCR	Collaborator	Subject to grant funding					
16. Collaborate with TAFE, local childcare providers and other stakeholders to deliver the Flying Start Grant targeting community youth to choose to study Early Childhood Development, inclusive of the development of a mentor program to support them through their studies.	P&C	Collaborator	As per project scope					
17. Continue to participate in local careers expos and other events and initiatives that promote and support youth employment outcomes.	P&C	Collaborator	Within operational budget					
18. Collaborate with youth organisations and other key stakeholders to design and deliver programs and events that activate Council spaces and facilities during school holiday periods and at other appropriate times to engage and support young people, such as Youth Week events.	CCR	Provider	Within operational budget	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>Focus Area 3: Advocating for Resources and Emerging Needs</b>								
Championing youth priorities outcomes and supporting innovative, community-led programs that address evolving issues.								
19. Advocate for the promotion and use of the Office of Youth Digital Youth Hub to support young people as they transition into adulthood.	CCR	Advocator	Within operational budget					
20. Advocate for initiatives targeting cost barriers to support young people participating in recreation activities.	CCR	Advocator	Within operational budget					
21. Advocate for programs and initiatives that address barriers to youth employment such as driver's education and travel and accommodation costs associated with traineeships and apprenticeships.	CCR	Advocator	Within operational budget					
22. Advocate for pathways and initiatives, such as the Uni Hub, TAFE SA and other educational and career pathway stakeholder organisations, that supports young people to achieve their educational goals.	CCR	Advocator	Within operational budget					
23. Continue to implement a civic engagement program for delivery to school groups to educate young people about Council's role, how they can connect, engage and be involved with Council.	CCR	Provider	Within operational budget					
24. Continue to advocate for improved public transportation for the region to assist young people to be able to move around easier and access facilities and programs.	CCR	Advocator	Within operational budget					
25. Recognise and celebrate young people's contributions and achievements with the community via the community e-newsletter to foster understanding, connection and a positive profile of young people.	CCR	Collaborator	Within operational budget					
26. Continue to resource Council's Youth Coordinator position to support the activation of Council spaces for young people, foster collaborative partnerships and advocate for young people on challenges and systemic barriers that fall outside Council's direct scope and resourcing.	CCR	Provider	Within operational budget					
27. Continue implementation of provisions within Council's Enterprise Agreement to establish a trainee program, ensuring sustainable pathways for young people into Council employment.	P&C	Collaborator	Within operational budget					
28. Support local volunteer organisations to promote opportunities for young people through Council communications, helping them build skills and contribute to the community.	CCR	Provider	Within operational budget					
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

**Team**

CA&O - Civil Assets and Operations  
 CCR - Community, Culture & Recreation  
 ICT - ICT & Innovation  
 LIB - Library  
 NAC - Nautilus Arts Centre  
 P&P - Places and Presentation



# CONTACT

For further information on the  
**Youth Action Plan 2026-2031**  
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