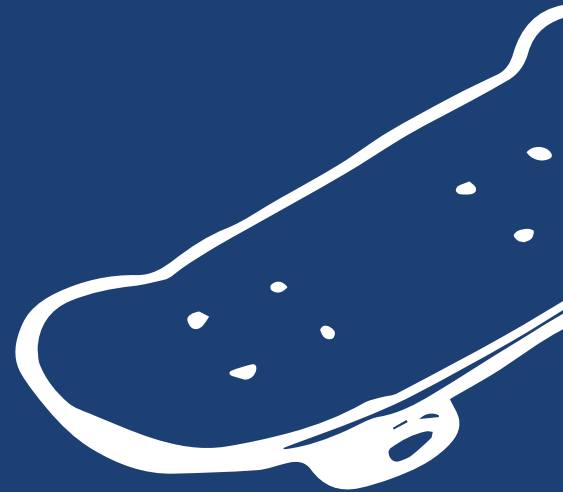


YOUNG TAMWORTH



Tamworth Youth Strategy and
Action Plan 2024-2028
DRAFT

VISION

A region that is well-connected and easy to access, with a welcoming, tolerant and accepting community that includes, respects and values young people.



ARTWORK: Alissa Vongphachan, Tamorth

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

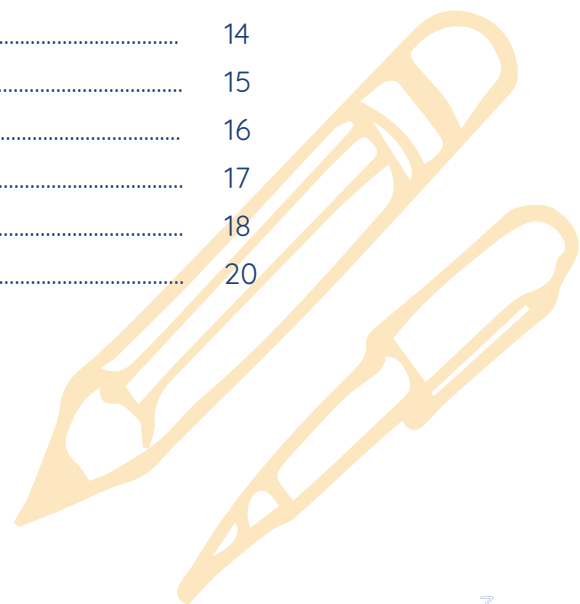
Tamworth Regional Council would like to acknowledge the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the traditional custodians of this land.

We would like to pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our Region.



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



The Tamworth Regional Youth Strategy has been developed to help guide how Tamworth Regional Council, local services providers, schools, clubs and government departments build a region that supports young people.

Notably, it is the first time we have had a Strategy of this type and my fellow Councillors and I see it as a demonstration of Council's commitment to the youth of our region.

The strategy sets out how we can support young people to be mentally, physically and socially healthy, be prepared for the regional jobs of the future, access services and opportunities locally, be valued as part of the community and feel they belong, understand who they are and their place in the world.

I am confident that the Tamworth Regional Youth Strategy will be a catalyst for positive change and a platform for strengthening the bond between Council and the young people of our community.

Russell Webb
Tamworth Region Mayor

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH MAYOR



The Tamworth Region, alongside the rest of Regional NSW, has experienced severe shocks and stresses over recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic, drought, fires, floods and other stresses have had an unprecedented impact on our community's sense of togetherness, our individual and community wellbeing, and our relationships.

Since 2020, young people have been isolated from their friends and communities, and have faced barriers to stepping into their roles as leaders in their community as a result of the pandemic and other natural disasters. I joined the Tamworth Regional Youth Council in early 2023, as this presented a unique leadership opportunity and chance to create meaningful change for other young people in my community.

In my current role as Youth Mayor, it has been such a great experience to work with Tamworth Regional Council in developing the Tamworth Region Youth Strategy and Action Plan. I'm excited by the direction the Youth Strategy sets out for young people to have access to opportunities to come together as one, supported by the community around them, to begin to work together for a brighter future for our region.

Evey Sutton
Tamworth Region Youth Mayor

INTRODUCTION



Young people want support to live, learn and play in Tamworth, so they can STAY in Tamworth.

Young people are vital to the Tamworth region. Young people being involved, empowered and educated helps to create a vibrant, welcoming and future-focused Tamworth. This Youth Strategy and Action Plan (YSAP) focuses on creating an environment and community that supports young people to live, learn and play in Tamworth, so they can stay in Tamworth.

GUIDE

Young people/youth = 12-24 years old
Tamworth Regional Youth Strategy & Action Plan
2024-2028 = YSAP

The YSAP reflects the ideas, energy and ambitions of our young people. It has been developed through co-design and engagement with the Tamworth Youth Council, and over 500 young people in the region.

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY



Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) has led the development of the YSAP and will play a key role in achieving the priorities within it. Despite this, the YSAP is a whole-of-community document. It takes a supportive and resilient community to raise supported and resilient young people, and we value the many services and groups who continue to collaborate to support young people locally.

{ It takes a supportive and resilient community to
raise supported and resilient young people }

TRC and the Tamworth Youth Council will oversee the delivery of the YSAP, sharing successes, reflecting on areas of focus and adapting priorities where appropriate. How this will be done is shown in the 'action plan' and 'measuring impact' sections of this document. We encourage young people, partners, service providers, schools, parents and other levels of government to share information to improve this measurement.

HOW OUR YOUTH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN WAS CREATED...



Prior research done for TRC recommended a Youth Strategy be developed



- Initial conversations about focus areas
- Local strengths and assets
- Visioning
- Designing how to do the engagement
- Youth Council
- TRC and local service providers



- 524 responses to online and postcard surveys
- Focus group conversations with Youth Council
- PCYC
- Local Aboriginal Lands Council
- Service Providers and TRC



- Focus areas defined
- Priorities and actions refined
- Strategy drafted for public exhibition



YSAP finalised and adopted by Youth Council and Tamworth Regional Council



- Action planning
- Project delivery
- Monitoring and measurement
- Evaluation and learning

* Phase 5 and 6 to be completed after public exhibition

“More jobs, it’s hard to get employed in Tamworth”

- Postcard response

“More sports programs to help kids play more sports”

- Postcard response

“Better public transport”

- Postcard response

“Education for parents and carers (both general and cultural)”

- Postcard response

“More events and activities at night time like karaoke and more arcades/entertainment”

- Postcard response

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US...

“Education for kids to learn about other cultures outside of our area since we are a multicultural nation”

- Postcard response

“More youth events bringing more volunteer opportunities”

- Postcard response

“A way for people from different schools to meet and work together”

- Postcard response

“Better promotion of services youths can be involved in”

- Postcard response

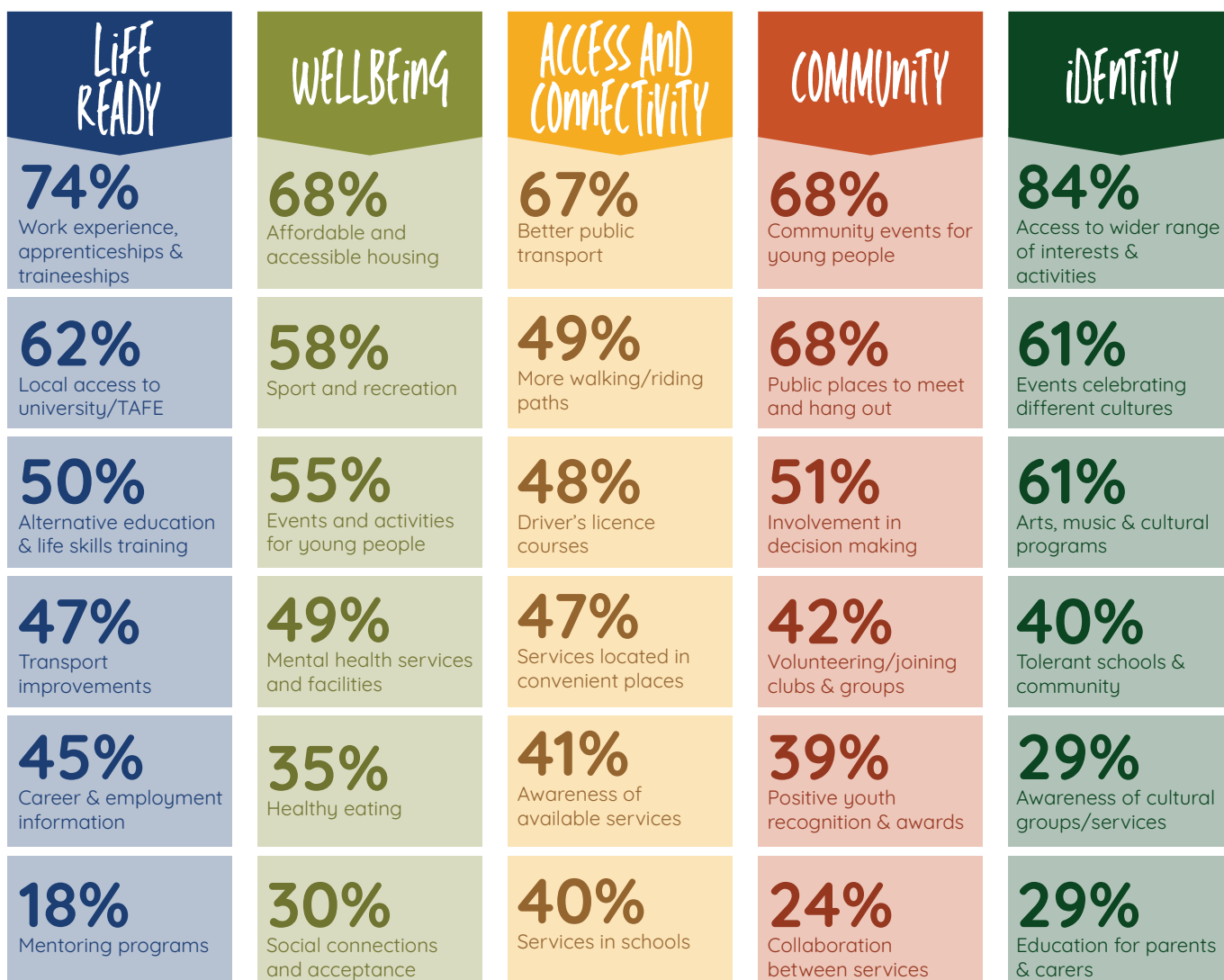
“More places to hang out and be yourself”

- Postcard response

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WANT FOR TAMWORTH

We asked young people what they want prioritised in the Tamworth region, across the five focus areas. They chose their top 3 priorities for each focus area, using postcards or an online survey.

We heard back from 513 young people and 11 adults as part of the survey consultation.



WHO WE ARE:

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021



In the 2021 census, there were

10,149

people aged 12-24 in the Tamworth region, representing **16%** of the total population. An increase of **763** since 2016.

By 2041, this number is predicted to increase to 13,532, representing 16.75% of the population.



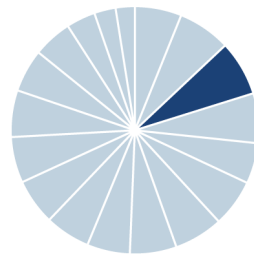
Employment

(ages 15-24)

43% employed (5485)
4.3% unemployed (438)

Age of people in Tamworth

AGE	2021	2041
0-4	3,829	5,473
5-11	6,137	7,889
12-24	10,149	13,532
25-34	7,984	10,393
35-49	10,040	15,016
50-59	7,570	8,627
60-69	7,359	7,731
70-84	7,416	9,688
85+	1,579	2,420
Total	60,063	80,769



In the 2021 Census, the largest age group in the Tamworth region was 10-14 year-olds (7.2% of the population)



● 24.4% Tamworth Regional Council
● 21.4% Regional NSW



Tamworth is losing more young people (12-24) than it is gaining, particularly 18-24 year olds.

Due to employment, education and entertainment.

12.3% of persons aged 15-24 are disengaged (higher than the regional average of 10.5%).



Top Industries (ages 15-24)

20% of young people aged 15-24 work in retail (877)

19.6% of young people aged 15-24 work in accommodation and food services (863)

420 young people ages 15-24 provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability

Volunteering

880 people aged 15-24 volunteer for an organisation or group

Education

65% of Tamworth teenagers aged 15-19 are attending an educational institution.

1,533

young people aged 15-24 identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

That's **1/5** or **20.7%** of the population (15-24).

Tamworth's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is close to **double** the regional population (12.7% compared to 6.6%).

Median age Tamworth region:

- Aboriginal Community: 21
- Non-Aboriginal Community: 42

Proportion of population under 18 yrs Tamworth region:

- Aboriginal Community: 45%
- Non-Aboriginal Community: 22%

Top 3 biggest most important issues for young people

1. The Environment 51%
2. Equity and discrimination 35.9%
3. Mental Health 33.9%

Source: Mission Australia National Youth Survey (2021)

Top 3 biggest personal challenges for young people

1. School Challenges 41.5%
2. Mental Health Challenges 27.7%
3. Relationship Challenges 19.7%

Source: Mission Australia National Youth Survey (2021)

The "Youthie" Tamworth Youth Centre Youth Council Tamworth Sports Dome Sporting Assets Australian Equine & Livestock Centre (AELEC)

Skate Parks Mountain Bike Trails Pools, Lakes & Dams Tamworth PCYC Libraries (6)

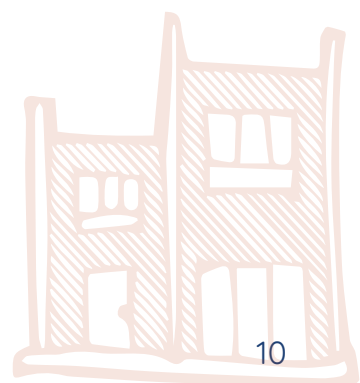
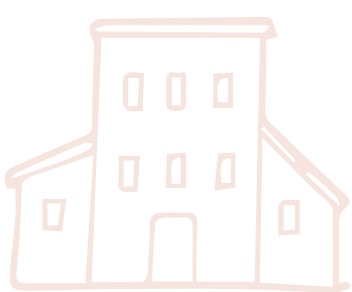
Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre (music) Regional Playground Parks Marsupial Park Cinema

Tamworth Family Support Service (TFSS) Home Safe Driver Courses PCYC Programs Tamworth Country Music Festival

Fiesta La Peel Multicultural Street Festival Healthy, social, recreational arts & cultural activities Local Sporting Clubs Headspace Local Aboriginal Lands Council

Tamworth Community College Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music Local High Schools

OUR STRENGTHS AND ASSETS



ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan summarises the priorities and actions under each of the five focus areas. To help collect information to measure the impact of the YSAP, measures are provided for each action, with guidance on the sources of information needed to collect the relevant information for each action.

For this first version of the YSAP, the measures and sources of information are focused on measures and sources of information that are readily available. There are likely to be others sources of information available, to expand these over time.

Just to note:

*The actions aren't listed
in priority order.*



PLAN ON A PAGE

The YSAP has five focus areas, that each have priorities and actions. The focus areas came from extensive consultation across regional NSW, with the focus areas then adapted for the Tamworth region.

The actions and priorities have been written to directly reflect the voices we heard in the consultation, from Tamworth's young people and the services that work to support them.



1. Provide leadership opportunities for young people in school, the community and via organised groups and committees, including the Tamworth Youth Council
2. Support and grow the PCYC Fit for Work program
3. Advocate for alternate curriculum and learning within schools
4. Develop range of alternate education and life skills courses outside of schools
5. Progress Blueprint 100 priorities to support TAFE and establish universities in Tamworth
6. Continue local involvement with The Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP) program
7. Provide more work experience, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities locally
8. Explore a local business hub and mentoring program with local industry, government and business leaders
9. Develop youth-specific communications to promote career, training and employment opportunities
10. Prioritise public and active transport links to and from education and work centres



1. Rollout Wellbeing Expos across all local high schools
2. Support and educate young people through coordinated and diverse wellbeing programs, including programs in schools
3. Educate parents and families on mental health and wellbeing
4. Plan for and provide more diverse and affordable housing options for young people
5. Provide and promote safe spaces for young people to access, relax and enjoy
6. Promote healthy eating with young people and families
7. Advocate for and provide mental health services outside of normal business hours
8. Improve affordability and accessibility of formal and informal sports and recreation



1. Support co-location of services in places that are convenient for young people
2. Provide and promote facilities (i.e libraries, community centres) that are free, with wifi and spaces for young people to use
3. Support and undertake outreach services to towns and villages
4. Develop and promote online service information platform
5. Improve collaboration and coordination across Youth Services sector
6. Advocate for longer term funding models for support services and staff retention schemes
7. Provide affordable programs for young people to gain driving experience and licences
8. Investigate and develop initiatives for promoting cycling, including new cycling routes and bike recycling program
9. Improve public transport services, including identifying priority routes and using consistent payment options (i.e opal card)
10. Investigate options for youth-specific transport services



1. Create opportunities for young people to be involved in decision making, including the Tamworth Youth Council
2. Run Annual Youth Forum for young people to share ideas with government and industry leaders
3. Develop youth-specific social media strategies and channels
4. Provide communications and media opportunities to share positive stories about young people (Youth in Focus)
5. Plan and run youth-led events
6. Encourage young people's attendance in community events at various locations, including event-specific transport
7. Support and grow crime reduction programs, including Youth on Track, Keep on Track and NSW Police programs
8. Engage young people, youth-operated businesses, artists and groups in community events
9. Run public art and mentoring projects for young people in various locations
10. Identify and design public spaces for young people to hang out



1. Provide events and programs that foster cultural connection, acceptance and celebrate diversity
2. Educate young people, parents and families on diversity of cultures, abilities and experiences
3. Provide more arts and cultural programs and activities locally, including temporary art spaces for young people
4. Run services to support young people and families with I.D, including birth certificates, licences, qualifications

PARTNERS:

- Parents and carers • UNE • Tafe NSW • Tamworth Community College • TRC • NSW Government • Business Chamber
- Local businesses • Local high schools • Youth services sector • Federal government • Bus companies • Local media
- Event operators • NSW Police • Arts and cultural groups • Sports and recreation groups and more...

Focus Area 1:



LIFE READY

Young people are prepared for the regional jobs of the future

Priorities:

- Work experience, apprenticeships and traineeships
- Local access to University/TAFE
- Alternative education and life skills training
- Transport improvements
- Career and employment information
- Mentoring programs

“ Incorporate work experience within higher years of school.

Male, 18-25

The “life skills” taught at schools are not used as often as they say.

Female, 18-25

There should be more advice available for teenagers about career paths that don't need their year 12 certificate.

Not everyone is suited to high school. The advice I was given was that I would never be successful if I dropped out, however that is far from the truth.

Female, 18-25

Systems in schools to make it easier to get access to apprenticeships without family/friend connections.

Male, 12-17

More courses that teenagers can attend to learn new skills.

Postcard response

More business interaction in school.

Postcard response



	Actions	Measures	Sources
1	Provide leadership opportunities for young people in school, the community and via organised groups and committees, including the Tamworth Youth Council	# Youth Council participation # Youth Council consultation opportunities	TRC Youth Council minutes TRC consultation reports
2	Support and grow the PCYC Fit for Work program	# Program participants	PCYC participation records
3	Advocate for alternate curriculum and learning within schools	# Participants in alternate learning via schools	High school class records
4	Develop range of alternate education and life skills courses outside of schools	# Youth participation in alternate education and life skills courses	TCC enrolment records
5	Progress Blueprint 100 priorities to support TAFE and establish universities in Tamworth	# TAFE/University courses and places available in Tamworth	TAFE/UNE enrolment records
6	Continue local involvement with The Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP) program	# Youth RIEP program participants	RIEP program reporting
7	Provide more work experience, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities locally	# Youth work experience, apprenticeship & traineeship participants	School work experience records Records from selected employers (inc TRC)
8	Explore a local business hub and mentoring program with local industry, government and business leaders	# Youth participants in local mentoring programs	Business mentoring program attendance records
9	Develop youth-specific communications to promote career, training and employment opportunities	Youth engagement rate – communications analytics # Youth applicants for training and employment opportunities	Communications channel analytics Training and employment records – key employers
10	Prioritise public and active transport links to and from education and work centres, in line with existing plans	Youth transport types at key locations	Public transport counts Active transport counts Annual Youth Survey

Key partners:

UNE, TAFE NSW, Tamworth Community College, TRC, NSW Government, Business Chamber, local businesses

Focus Area 2:



WELLBEING

Young people are mentally, physically and socially healthy

Priorities:

- Affordable and accessible housing
- Sport & recreation
- Events and activities
- Mental health services, facilities and access
- Healthy eating
- Social connections, tolerance and acceptance

“ More affordable housing is a biggy. It’s depressing knowing I’m probably going to live with my parents til I’m 25 (I’m 20) because I can’t afford to move out anytime soon.

Female, 18-25

More community engagement and youth led events.

Female, 12-17

More sporting facilities; basketball courts, more soccer fields closer to homes, etc.

Male, 12-17

Try to encourage people to eat healthier

Postcard response



	Actions	Measures	Sources
1	Rollout Wellbeing Expos across all local high schools	# Youth participants at wellbeing expos	Expo participation records
2	Support and educate young people through coordinated and diverse wellbeing programs, including programs in schools	# Youth participants in wellbeing programs	Participation records – schools and selected services
3	Educate parents and families on mental health and wellbeing	# Educational materials and activities developed and shared	Participation records – selected services Web analytics
4	Plan for and provide more diverse and affordable housing options for young people	Youth Satisfaction with housing options and affordability	Annual Youth Survey
5	Provide and promote safe spaces for young people to access, relax and enjoy	Youth perceptions of safety	Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group consultation records Annual Youth Survey
6	Promote healthy eating with young people and families	Youth obesity rates # Healthy eating program participants	Australian Bureau of Statistics Participation records – schools and selected services
7	Advocate for and provide mental health services outside of normal business hours	# Youth participants at afterhours services	Participation records –selected services
8	Improve affordability and accessibility of formal and informal sports and recreation	# Youth sports and recreation participants	Participation records – Sporting clubs/venues AusPlay data – Australian Sports Commission

Key partners:

Local high schools, Youth Services sector, TRC, NSW Government, Federal government, parents and carers.



Focus Area 3:



Young people are able to access services and opportunities locally

“ Make it easier for people who don't just live in Tamworth but other towns in the region.
Female 12-17

Transport for young people to travel to the Youthie from schools.
Female, 12-17

Make courses more centrally located.
Female, 18-25

Safer areas for cyclists to share the road with vehicles.
Postcard response

Walking paths that are enjoyable to use, eg, with gardens near footpaths, lack of graffiti.
Postcard response ”

Priorities:

- Better public transport
- More walking/riding paths
- Driver's licence courses
- Services located in convenient places
- Awareness of available services
- Services in schools

	Actions	Measures	Sources
1	Support co-location of services in places that are convenient for young people	# Service co-location days	Service records – selected services (inc Youthie)
2	Provide and promote facilities (i.e libraries, community centres) that are free, with wifi and spaces for young people to use	# of facilities available # of participants at facilities	Service records – selected services (inc Youthie)
3	Support and undertake outreach services to towns and villages	# of youth outreach services # of youth outreach participants	Service records – selected services
4	Develop and promote online service information platform	Webpage youth engagement rates	Web analytics
5	Improve collaboration and coordination across Youth Services sector	# of interagency meetings/participants	Youth Interagency meeting records
6	Advocate for longer term funding models for support services and staff retention schemes	Length of funding contracts at key services	NSW Government records Contract reports – selected services
7	Provide affordable programs for young people to gain driving experience and licences	# Youth drivers licence course participants	Service records – selected services
8	Investigate and develop initiatives for promoting cycling, including new cycling routes and bike recycling program	# of bikes recycled # of cycling initiatives	Active transport counts Service records – selected services (inc TRC) Bike recycling records
9	Improve public transport services, including identifying priority routes and using consistent payment options (i.e opal card)	# Youth public transport usage	Public transport counts Annual Youth Survey
10	Investigate options for youth-specific transport services	# New options investigated/in use	Service records

Key partners:

NSW Government, Youth Services Sector, TRC, Bus companies.

Focus Area 4:



COMMUNITY

Young people are connected to and valued by their community

“ More inclusion of youth in holding of events in the community to gain experience, or in helping to run events.
Female 12-17

More sustainable power and paintings on buildings and other areas.
Postcard response

More advertising to young people regarding what's on in town.
Postcard response

More trees planted along with more vegetation/parks.
Postcard response ”

Priorities:

- Community events for young people
- Public places to meet and hang out
- Involvement in decision making
- Volunteering/joining clubs & groups
- Positive youth recognition and awards
- Collaboration between services

	Actions	Measures	Sources
1	Create opportunities for young people to be involved in decision making, including the Tamworth Youth Council	# Youth Council participants # Consultation opportunities # Youth consultation participation	TRC Youth Council minutes Consultation reports
2	Run Annual Youth Forum for young people to share ideas with government and industry leaders	# Youth forum participants	Youth Forum attendance list/report
3	Develop youth-specific social media strategies and channels	Strategy developed Youth engagement rates	Web analytics
4	Provide communications and media opportunities to share positive stories about young people (Youth in Focus)	# of stories produced	Project records/media products
5	Plan and run youth-led events	# Event youth participants	Event attendance records
6	Encourage young people's attendance in community events at various locations, including event-specific transport	Youth perception of community events	Annual Youth Survey
7	Support and grow crime reduction programs, including Youth on Track and Keep on Track and NSW Police programs	# Youth program participants Youth crime statistics	Service records – selected services BOCSAR data
8	Engage young people, youth-operated businesses, artists and groups in community events	# Youth contributors	Event operator records
9	Run public art and mentoring projects for young people in various locations	# Youth projects and participants	Service records – selected services
10	Identify and design public spaces for young people to hang out	Youth perception of public spaces	Annual Youth Survey

Key partners:

Youth Services Sector, TRC, NSW Government, Local media, Event Operators, Destination Tamworth.

Focus Area 5:



Young people feel they belong, understand who they are, and their place in world

Priorities:

- Access to wider range of interests & activities
- Events celebrating different cultures
- Arts, music and cultural programs
- Tolerant schools and community
- Awareness of cultural groups/services
- Education for parents & carers

“ More events for youth which promote different cultures and good mental health, such as Stand Tall conference which was an amazing experience.
Female, 12-17

A section during the country music festival dedicated to Aboriginal culture.
Male, 12-17

More music and art.
Postcard response

Some places where teenagers can show their talent.
Postcard response ”

	Actions	Measures	Sources
1	Provide events and programs that foster cultural connection, acceptance and celebrate diversity	# events celebrating diversity & culture	Event records - TRC and Destination Tamworth
2	Educate young people, parents and families on diversity of cultures, abilities and experiences	# Educational materials and activities developed and shared	Participation records - selected services Web analytics
3	Provide more arts and cultural programs and activities locally, including temporary art spaces for young people	# youth participants in arts and cultural programs	Participation records - selected services
4	Run services to support young people and families with I.D, including birth certificates, licences, qualifications	# youth supported with ID and certification	Participation records - selected services

Key partners:

TRC, Youth Services Sector, Arts and cultural groups, NSW Government, Federal Government, Parents and carers, Destination Tamworth.



FOCUS AREAS



LIFE READY

Young people are prepared for the regional jobs of the future



Tamworth's young people are seeking a wider range of educational, employment and training opportunities locally. They would like to see more resources for schools, including alternative and trauma-informed learning pathways to support students dealing with difficult experiences. They suggested more engagement and integration of social services and schools. Many young people would love the option of studying at a local university in Tamworth and said this would keep them in the area for longer.

Young people said that education doesn't just mean books and study, but life skills, hands-on learning and mentoring too. They would like more opportunities to interact with employers, do work experience and more traineeships, cadetships, and apprenticeships locally, across a range of industries. They highlighted the importance of role models and mentors in schools, in the community and in workplaces.

Improved transport for students, affordable housing and free spaces for study and learning were seen as factors that can contribute to young people being able to access opportunities to learn in the Tamworth region.

WELLBEING

Young people are mentally, physically and socially healthy



Young people in Tamworth want to live in a community that supports them to be healthy, happy, and safe. They emphasised that having events and activities helps them feel socially connected and healthy, particularly events that are designed by, and for young people.

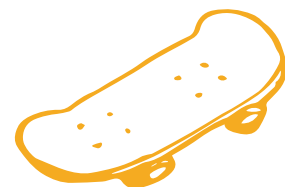
Young people highlighted the importance of a welcoming, understanding community that doesn't stigmatise mental health, and provides support to those who need it, whoever they are and wherever they live. This includes more resourcing for a range of programs, services and facilities. Education and awareness for young people, parents and the community were seen as important to reduce stigma and promote healthy eating.

Affordable housing was raised as a source of stress for young people. The need for increased social and mental health services was made clear, to reduce wait times and provide more safe spaces, including temporary shelter and housing.

Tamworth's sports and recreational facilities, clubs and opportunities were seen as an important factor in promoting good wellbeing locally. Young people appreciate the community aspect of sports clubs/groups and the quality of facilities available to them in the Tamworth region for formal and informal sports.

ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

Young people are able to access services and opportunities locally



It can be challenging for young people to get from one place to another in the Tamworth region. They outlined how important transport is to be independent, connect with others, do work and attend educational, sporting and cultural activities.

Young people called for more regular public transport services, and routes with broader reach. They would particularly like to see public transport connections between schools, TAFE, town centres, sporting precincts and places they like to hang out (i.e. skate park, Youthie, library). Some also suggested having opal cards, or more consistent ways to pay for public transport.

They would like more bike paths and footpaths, noting the success of others that have been constructed in the Tamworth area. Having paths maintained and well-lit was seen as important to improve accessibility and safety.

Young people wanted to see more driving initiatives that support them to learn to drive, and be able to gain their drivers licence. They felt that having a licence and vehicle was vital to them being able to access a range of services and opportunities in Tamworth.

Increased funding, improved coordination and co-location of services were seen as the most important ways to make services more accessible and effective for young people. Many young people supported the idea of having more services integrated into schools.

COMMUNITY

Young people are connected to, and valued by their community



Young people want real opportunities to share their ideas and help shape what happens in the Tamworth region. They want to be involved in the community and encouraged to input into decision making. They felt this can give them more experience while helping them feel heard, valued and respected.

Young people should be recognised and celebrated for their contributions and successes. Promoting the achievements of young people in Tamworth can help empower them, build a positive profile for young people and focus on their strengths.

Young people feel really positive about local events and want to see more exciting events and activities locally. These events should be accessible, open and should provide opportunities for young people to contribute and connect with the community.

There is a desire for more accessible, welcoming public places for young people to hang out and spend time. Public domains with seating, lighting and public art were seen as ideal places for young people to spend time in the community.

IDENTITY

Young people feel they belong, understand who they are, and their place in the world



Young people are diverse, with differing cultural backgrounds, abilities, life experiences, preferences and talents. Tamworth's young people said they want to live in a tolerant community that celebrates diversity. They'd like access to a wider range of activities for their range of interests, and would like to see more education and awareness for parents and community around disability, mental health and different cultures.

Young people in Tamworth would like to see more events that celebrate diversity, different cultures and promote cultural acceptance locally. They see that this would help raise awareness of what is happening locally and educate people about different cultures. They also said that a greater range of activities would help meet the needs of young people, and specified arts, music and creative activities as things they'd like to see more of.



MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THIS STRATEGY

This is the first Tamworth Regional Youth Strategy and progress will be overseen by Tamworth Regional Council and the Youth Council.

The Action Plan outlines the measures and sources of information needed to demonstrate the impact of the strategy. During the period of this version of the strategy, specific data collection tools will be developed to collect information from selected services and other sources. Starting with selected services will help ensure the monitoring and evaluation methods are appropriate for broader use, while building a baseline from which to measure future progress.

Annual reviews

An Annual Youth Survey will be developed to seek local feedback on areas of the Youth Strategy where young people's perceptions and opinions are the main measure.

Along with the Annual Youth Survey, data will be collected from selected services to form an Annual Progress Summary to be tabled with the Youth Council, and presented to Tamworth City Council.

At the end of this strategy period, the Youth Strategy will be reviewed and updated for the next period.



tamworth.nsw.gov.au