

orce reale

INTRODUCTION

The City of Marion Youth Development Program is delivered through an annual grants and partnership model currently valued at \$193,500. The grants are designed to support organisations to deliver diverse, innovative and inclusive opportunities for young people aged 12-25 years.

City of Marion partnered with the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA), the peak body representing the interests of young people aged 12-25 years and organisations and networks throughout the non-government youth sector, to conduct a city-wide youth engagement and consultation project with young people.

The findings from the consultation will provide Council with current and relevant data that will help to direct services and programs in line with identified interests. needs and gaps. These findings will also provide the knowledge to develop and build key partnerships with other organisations in the community.

The project, Voice It! Create It! Do It! engaged with young people within the City of Marion and were asked to share their priorities, passions, experiences and concerns. A variety of consultation methods across various locations were used to encourage participation. A total of 445 responses were received.

This report outlines the consultation process, findings from the workshops, youth forum and online survey. It also includes information gathered at the Partnership Breakfast attended by local service providers and key stakeholders.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The City of Marion is one of South Australia's larger metropolitan Councils with a population of 92,308 people of which 16,893 are young people aged 12-25 years (15.4%) from diverse social and cultural backgrounds.

The City of Marion is located approximately 10km south-west of the Adelaide CBD and covers 55 square kms stretching from the Glenelg tramline in the North to Hallett Cove in the South.



POLICY CONTEXT

The City of Marion Strategic Plan 2017-2027 was endorsed by Council in June 2017 and, alongside the Business Plan 2019-2023 provides guidance to Council when making both short and long-term decisions for the community.

Council's Community Vision: Towards 2040 underpins the Strategic Plan and includes a commitment to fostering emerging leaders and actively engaging young people. This document provides the foundation for the findings and discussion in this report.

METHODOLOGY

A range of consultation methods and locations were utilised throughout the project to gather the thoughts, opinions and concerns of young people and stakeholders across the City of Marion.

STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee of young people between the ages of 12–25 years was formed, this group helped to guide the project. The committee included young people from diverse backgrounds and ages who had previously expressed an interest in leadership roles and a passion for their local community. The steering group met weekly in the six weeks leading up to the Youth Forum to unpack experiences, concerns and priorities for young people within the City of Marion and to inform the consultation process and online survey.

Being on the steering committee was a wonderful opportunity to share my thoughts and learn how to structure a conversation with the community in a fun and engaging way. I would definitely be interested in participating again! It was a fantastic experience that I would recommend to others.

- Steering Committee Member













Young people are the experts in their own lives. Activities, services, policies, and communities who are more responsive to young people's needs can be more effective and relevant. Resources can be better targeted when young people are involved in decisions that affect them.



SCHOOL CONSULTATION **WORKSHOPS**

A total of 80 young people participated in consultation workshops facilitated by YACSA and the City of Marion at the following schools;

- Seaview High School
- > Hallett Cove R-12 School
- Hallett Cove South Primary School

Students were asked to identify what they liked about the City of Marion, what they would change and how they would like to be involved in youth-related events and activities. Students worked in small groups and contributed to a larger discussion of the findings with many of these students also completing the online survey.

POP-UP ENGAGEMENT AND **POLLING BOOTH**

City of Marion hosted three pop-up engagements in June 2019 including one at Oaklands Recreation Plaza and two at Westfield Marion Shopping Centre.

The pop-up engagements included a free 'come and try DJ workshop' and a polling booth which attracted over 100 responses to the question, 'What would make your community better?'

There are a variety of ways young people can be engaged ranging from formal, structured processes to less formal approaches. Going to where young people study, work, play and socialise was an important underpinning in the consultation process.



PARTNERSHIP BREAKFAST

A Partnership Breakfast hosted by the City of Marion and YACSA was held on Tuesday 2 July 2019. Guest speaker Helen Connolly, Commissioner for Children and Young People, presented key findings from her Youthful Cities Report and discussed how the findings could inform City of Marion's work with young people.

The breakfast was attended by 31 stakeholders including two City of Marion Elected Members and members of the Voice It! Create It! Do It! Steering Committee. During the breakfast, attendees completed a brief survey and had the opportunity to network and discuss issues and priorities for young people.

A range of organisations and program areas were represented at the breakfast including:

- Flexible Learning Options (FLO)
- Indigenous Youth Services
- > Youth Arts
- > City of Marion
- Government Youth Services
- Sport and Leisure
- > Transition to work programs
- Schools

The survey invited attendees to identify current issues impacting their client group(s), whether there were any gaps in service provision within the City of Marion and what (if any) barriers prevent effective partnerships between workers, services and programs. The themes outlined were as follows:

Current issues impacting client group

- Mental health
- > Transport including barriers to obtaining a driver's licence
- Lack of youth spaces and consistent and accessible services
- Young people participating in the decisions that affect them.

Identified gaps in service provision

- Safe and accessible spaces for young people
- > Transport including barriers to obtaining a driver's licence
- Accessible and holistic services, particularly after school hours
- > Easily accessible information about service pathways, programs, events and opportunities for young people.

Identified barriers to working in partnership

- Competitive funding models
- Competing workloads and priorities
- > Underfunding, lack of time and resources.

YOUTH FORUM

A Youth Forum was held on Tuesday 2 July 2019 immediately following the Partnership Breakfast. The event was attended by 71 young people between the ages of 12-18 years from the following schools and Flexible Learning **Options Program:**

- > Hallett Cove R-12 School
- Hallett Cove South Primary School
- Ascot Park Primary School
- Warradale Primary School
- Seaview High School
- Flexible Learning Options (FLO) students from Relationships Australia.

The forum was a fun, educational and energetic event that provided a unique opportunity for young people to connect with peers from across the City of Marion.

Young people worked collectively with various youth organisations to unpack and discuss topics including climate change and the environment, personal safety, innovation and the future and what would make the City of Marion a better place for young people.

Young people participated in six workshop activities throughout the forum.

Natural Resources and the

Environment - Hosted by City of Marion's Natural Resource Management Officer, the workshop generated innovative solutions to environmental concerns.

Safety with the Sammy D

Foundation - Participants discussed how to make safe and informed decisions in their community.

Wellbeing and Empowerment

Space - Kaurna Elder, Aunty Suzanne Russell explored cultural connection and empowerment through Kaurna narrative.

Creating Ethical Change - Young people worked with facilitators to discuss the impact of single-use plastics on our community. The hands on session included making reusable beeswax wraps and screen printing organic cotton t-shirts designed by local young artists.

Innovation and Council - The Vibrant Communities Team worked with each group to unpack the six themes in the City of Marion's Community Vision towards 2040 and how these are interpreted by young people.

Youth Affairs Council South

Australia - YACSA conducted a consultation workshop to identify what young people like about the City of Marion, what they would change, and how they would like to be involved in youth-related events and activities.

YOUTH PANEL

The Youth Forum concluded with a panel of inspirational young leaders from diverse fields who answered questions devised by young people throughout the day.

The panel included:

Doha Kahn – Schools Strike for Climate SA Coordinator

Nicola Moore – Engagement Officer, Commissioner for Children and Young People

Matthew Shilling – City of Marion Elected Member

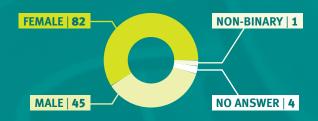
Skye – Creator of Light TV



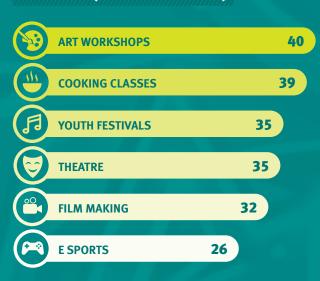
MAKING MARION YOUTH SURVEY

The Steering Committee worked alongside the City of Marion to identify survey questions on the topics of community participation, accessibility, safety, leadership, volunteer roles, youth programs and events. The survey was published on the Making Marion community consultation website and was distributed to schools, advertised on roadside banners, via the City of Marion Youth Development Facebook page and in spaces young people frequent. The survey attracted 132 responses.

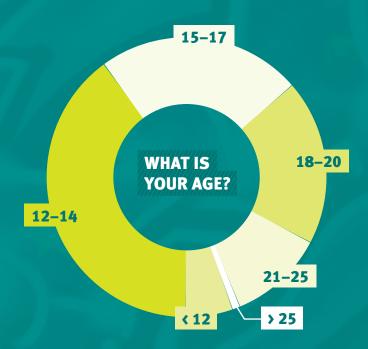
HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY?



WHICH ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS **WOULD YOU BE MOST LIKELY TO ATTEND?** (TOP RESPONSES)



SURVEY RESPONSES



WERE YOU BORN IN AUSTRALIA?

YES | 78% NO | 22%

WHICH ISSUES ARE THE MOST **IMPORTANT TO YOU?** (TOP RESPONSES)

	RECYCLING/LITTER	61
	SCHOOLING/EDUCATION	58
	SAFETY	54
(2)	MENTAL HEALTH	52
	JOBS	52
	ANIMAL RIGHTS	51

PARTICIPANTS

YACSA led engagement (Hallett Cove R-12 School)

YACSA led engagement (Seaview High School)

Survey and engagement (Hallett Cove Primary)

100 Polling booth responses and engagement (Westfield Marion)

A TOTAL OF

Survey and verbal responses (Oaklands Skatepark)



Steering committee

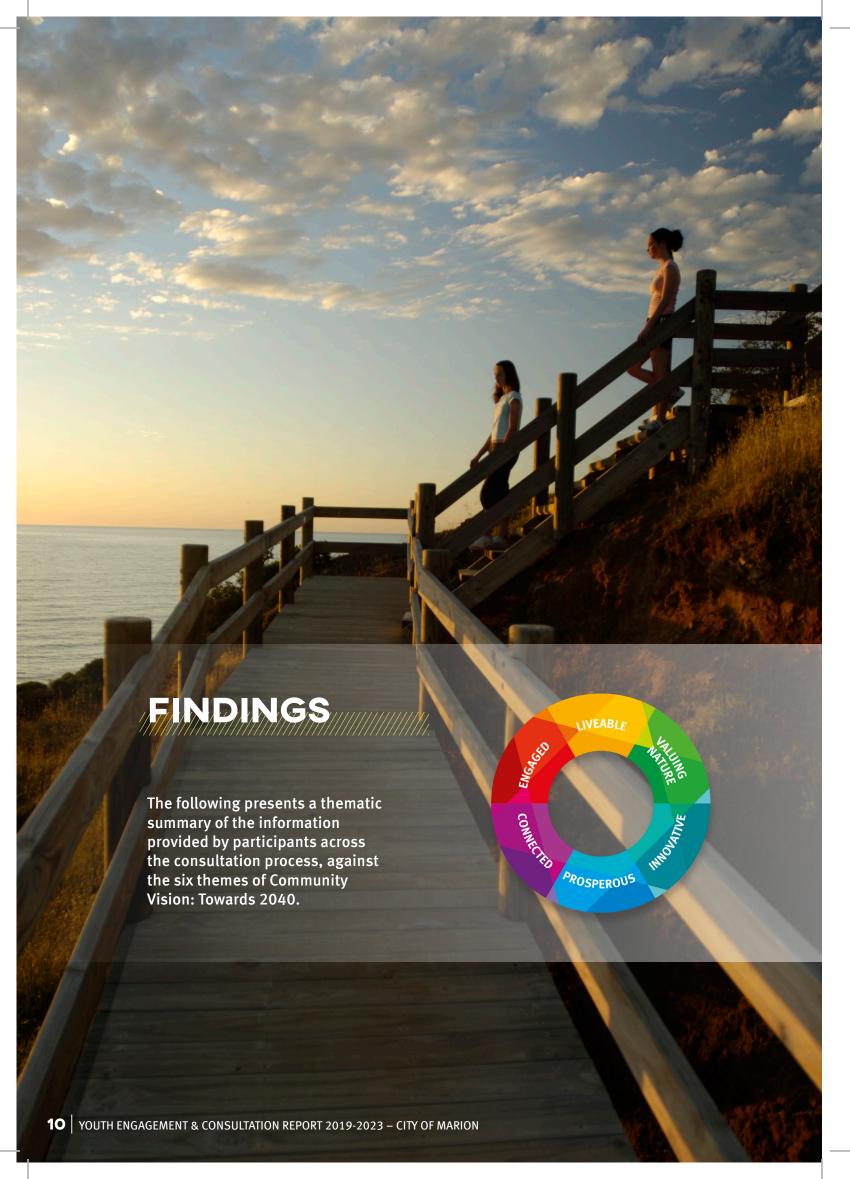
RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT

Making Marion online survey

Survey and verbal responses (Barista accreditation workshop)

Partnership breakfast

Youth Forum (schools event)



LIVEABLE

By 2040 our city will be well planned, safe and welcoming, with high quality and environmentally sensitive housing, and where cultural diversity, arts, heritage and healthy lifestyles are celebrated.

Young people expressed a strong sense of connection to community and local spaces, including playgrounds, parks, sporting and recreational facilities, shopping precincts, cafés and restaurants. These are considered important spaces to congregate, socialise, relax and have fun.

Safe community complexes for vulnerable community members, especially the homeless, as well as environmentally conscious smart houses and businesses were also important to young people.

Free education, community programs and events, live music, arts and theatre spaces, community gardens, markets, book clubs, places to play sport, upgraded shopping precincts and public facilities, increased bike accessibility, including more bike lanes, are all areas young people feel passionate about.

Young people suggested better lighting and better environmental design would also assist them to feel welcome and safer when using public spaces.

Provide spaces and opportunities for young people to learn, grow and be themselves.

- Making Marion Youth Survey respondent

- Young people want to be engaged in planning processes for recreation, sporting, community facilities, and public spaces.
- Young people want to access public spaces that are safe, welcoming and affordable.
- Young people would like more youth specific events, programs and activities across the Council area.



VALUING NATURE

By 2040 our city will be deeply connected with nature to enhance peoples' lives, while minimising the impact on the climate and protecting the natural environment.

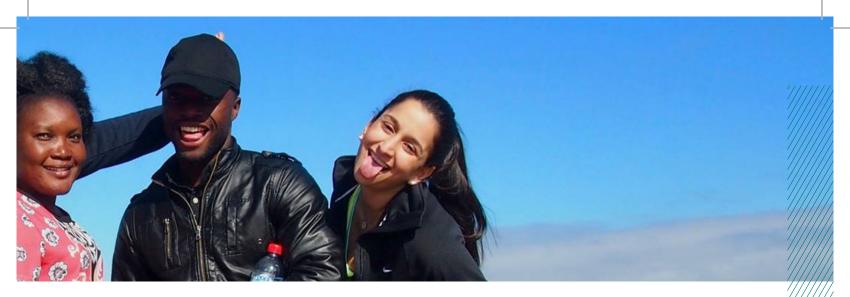
Young people are conscious of climate change and want more education to be able to increase awareness in their community about the preservation of the environment and to better care for the planet. Litter was identified as an issue, and young people would like a ban on single use plastics, more bins, cleaner streets, greater levels of recycling incentives and more environmentally sustainable choices.

Young people would also like to see more green spaces, tree planting opportunities, gardens for bees, environmental community events, more clean-up days and greater care for animals.

I would like to be involved in seminars and community events to educate about sustainability and regeneration of the environment.

Youth Forum participant

- Young people would like to be more informed about climate change and the ways in which individuals, businesses, services and government can reduce their carbon footprint.
- Young people want cleaner streets and more bins.
- Young people would like greater incentives for recycling and sustainability.



ENGAGED

By 2040 our city will be a community where people are engaged, empowered to make decisions, and work together to build strong neighbourhoods.

Young people are community minded and believe that working together as a community is important. They would like greater numbers of cheap and free opportunities to engage with their community, to make more friends and get to know and care for their neighbours.

Young people also want to be consulted on youth-related events, programs, activities and infrastructure decisions made by Council. Young people suggested that this participation or engagement could be in the form of surveys, direct consultation, community meetings, or connections between Council and student representative councils (SRC's) and Flexible Learning Options (FLO) programs.

The best way to communicate with young people is via social media, direct email, posters and banners in places young people frequent, community meetings, school newsletters, Representative Councils and other youth specific agencies.

Stakeholders from the partnership breakfast encouraged Council to continue working with key youth organisations in the area to strengthen community connections and social cohesion.

- Young people want to participate in decisions that affect them, including planning and development of youth-related events, programs, and activities.
- Young people would like to be informed in the community and at school through a variety of mechanisms including in person and online.
- Young people want access to free youth-specific arts and cultural events, programs, and activities.

PROSPEROUS

By 2040 our city will be a diverse and clean economy that attracts investment and jobs, and creates exports in sustainable business precincts while providing access to education and skills development.

Young people want more opportunities, hands-on experience and pathways for employment. They would like more education and support regarding entrepreneurships with workshops to develop sustainable business practices, to foster ideas and learn the skills to start or manage a business.

Provide opportunities for employment, leadership, wellbeing and different experiences for the future.

- Making Marion Youth Survey respondent

KEY FINDINGS

- Young people want information and support to create entrepreneurial and sustainable business opportunities and practices.
- Young people would like access to local work experience and employment opportunities.

► INNOVATIVE

By 2040 our city will be a leader in embracing and developing new ideas and technology to create a vibrant community with opportunities for all.

Young people are innovators and would like more opportunities to present their ideas, trial new ways of doing things and explore solutions to help people. Young people want more public "maker spaces" for the sharing of ideas and business start-ups, small business programs and collaborations to support their ideas and solutions.

Help us build our futures, to feel comfortable within ourselves and feeling safe and accepted within our communities.

Youth Forum participant

- Young people would like Council to develop a "maker space" for young people to share tools, technology and ideas.
- Young people want to share their ideas and explore solutions to better their community.

CONNECTED

By 2040 our city will be linked by a quality road, footpath and public transport network that brings people together socially, and harnesses technology to enable them to access services and facilities.

Young people want fast internet speeds and free Wi-Fi to stay connected to the digital environment. Digital community notice display boards promoting community programs, events, activities and more opportunities to volunteer would also be valued.

Young people expressed a need for safe, welcoming and free spaces to meet, socialise with friends and family to connect with their community. Young people also urge for better planning around more regular, safe and affordable public transport, bike accessibility and safer roads.

Council's role is to bridge the gap between the generations and create a more cohesive community that values and invests into its young people.

- Making Marion Youth Survey respondent

- Young people want greater access to public Wi-Fi and digital community notice boards to keep them informed about events, programs, activities and opportunities like volunteering.
- Young people would like safe, welcoming and free spaces to meet and socialise, play sport, express themselves artistically and to connect with their community.
- > Young people want safer, affordable and reliable public transport with more bike tracks/ lanes.



WHERE TO FROM HERE

1.0

Strengthen and encourage youth engagement and participation within the City of Marion.

- 1.1 Share the youth report findings with other business units, departments and external organisations encouraging a youth lens when planning any new initiatives, projects and/or events.
- 1.2 Explore options for youth engagement and participation training for key City of Marion staff and other identified partners.
- 1.3 Target the Youth Partnership funding to align and address the key findings of this report and other relevant research at local, state and national level.
- Ensure young people have the opportunity to participate in diverse community activities and youth specific events.

2.0

Continue to build strong connections with external organisations strengthening safety and community cohesion.

- Seek opportunities to connect and collaborate with key youth organisations in the community.
- 2.2 Council staff continue to participate and contribute at local and regional youth networks and sector specific meetings.
- 2.3 Young people are consulted and contribute to improving current sites, locations and buildings to increase safety and inclusivity in the community.

3.0

Young people have opportunities to participate in decisions that affect them and the wider community.

- 3.1 Explore how and when to meaningfully engage young people regarding major projects, policies and developments.
- 3.2 Promote and explore opportunities within the community for young people to participate in youth voice groups and/or networks.
- 3.3 Young people contribute and inform future planning and decision making relevant to youth related events, programs and activities.
- Ensure communication methods and engagement strategies are relevant, timely and inclusive for young people.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The following is a selection of relevant documents, policies and information that guides, informs or impacts working with young people in the City of Marion.

DOCUMENTS

Commissioner for Children and Young People Youthful Cities Report Connolly, H. Youthful Cities Report (2019), Adelaide SA

Mission Australia Youth Survey Findings from the Youth Survey (2018). Sydney, NSW: Mission Australia.

Youth Affairs Council of South Australia and the Department of Human Services Better Together: practical guide to effective engagement with young people Findings from the Youth Engagement Guide (2018), Adelaide, SA: DCP, DCSI, YACSA

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of the Child, (1989), United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, p. 3

WEBSITES

City of Marion www.marion.sa.gov.au

Local Government Association www.lga.sa.gov.au

Youth Affairs Council of South Australia - YACSA www.yacsa.com.au

South Australian Government www.sa.gov.au

This report was prepared by the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia in conjunction with City of Marion.



