

**CITY OF VICTOR HARBOR  
& ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL**

# **REGIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY**

## **2007- 2010**



# FORWARD & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **Forward and Acknowledgements**

The Regional Youth Strategy and Action Plan has been compiled by the Youth Development Officer on behalf of the Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor.

A variety of consultative processes were implemented that involved a diverse range of young people from across the region and local youth services and agencies having input. The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) played a key role in informing this strategy and the strategic priorities in an ongoing basis.

The strategies contained in this report have been drawn from the information and responses gathered from the key stakeholders involved in these consultative processes.

It is envisioned that the Regional Youth Strategy will provide guidance to Councils on addressing the issues relating to young people in our communities, and will encourage departments within Councils to consider the needs of younger people when planning and delivering services.

Special thankyou to the Youth Advisory Committee (past and present), Mark Oliphant, Sophie Piron, and the local youth worker sector through the Southern Fleurieu Youth Network. And thanks also to the people within the Councils who have been generous with their time and feedback. Special acknowledgement to Tim White for the use of his photographs.

# INTRODUCTION

## 1. Introduction

The Regional Youth Strategy 2007 – 2010 sets out a vision for young people in the Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor.

It aims to provide a framework for actioning Councils' policies and strategies. Young people are our future and it is in the interests of the region that Councils create youth friendly communities – an environment where young people choose to live, work and play.

This document outlines the profile of young people, their issues and concerns, and endeavours to align with relevant National, State and Regional policies and plans. This document informs a policy framework based on the overriding Vision of:

*Fostering safe youth friendly communities where young people are respected and experience a strong sense of belonging;* - and provides the Objectives and Strategies of the Youth Action Plan.

## 2. The Development of the Regional Youth Strategy

The development of the Regional Youth Strategy and Action Plan has involved various consultative processes with a diverse range of young people such as; small group discussions and surveys, Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meetings and planning days. In addition information was gathered from input from delegates at the YES Youth Engagement Seminar and discussions with agency groups such as the Southern Fleurieu Youth Network and Fleurieu Employment Skills Formation Network. Informal consultations took place with a number of agencies, groups and service providers, including; Southern Fleurieu Drug Action Network, Wet Paint Youth Theatre Group, Fleurieu Families, Open Door Community Centre, GoolwaSkill and Schools. The issues and concerns of young people in the region were identified through the data collected, local knowledge, and anecdotal information.

The YAC and the Southern Fleurieu Youth Network were consulted in regard to the development of appropriate strategies and actions for the Regional Youth Strategy. Councils' staff were consulted on aspects of policy and the development of the Regional Youth Strategy and Action Plan. This document also builds upon the Alexandrina Council Corporate Plan (2004-2009 [reviewed Jan 2007]), the City of Victor Harbor Strategic Plan (2006-2009) and other Council strategies. Other studies that have provided input into the development of the Youth Strategy and Action Plan include;

- Youth Transport Survey (2001) – 152 responses
- Southern Fleurieu Family Strategy Survey (2003) - 365 responses from City of Victor Harbor and Alexandrina Council residents
- Employment Skills Formation Network reports and planning documents (2004 to 2006)
- Fleurieu Research Project - Mission Australia (2005) – over 1,000 responses
- Youth Week Surveys (2005) – 188 responses
- Shelter SA Report on Youth Housing (2006) - 166 responses to youth accommodation questionnaire
- South Coast Region Community Profile (2005)



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

## 3. Community Profile

The Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor have 2 of the fastest growing populations in South Australia. ABS figures indicate that average annual growth rate from 2000 to 2005 has been around 3%. This compares to an average annual growth rate for 2000-2005 of 0.5% for South Australia as a whole<sup>1</sup>.

### Victor Harbor LGA

The City of Victor Harbor covers an area of 385 square kilometers.

At the time of the 2006 Census Victor Harbor had a population of 12,012 people. At any given time it is estimated that 2,000 or more additional visitors are residing in the community as tourists or residing in their holiday homes. During peak season from December to February the population grows to almost 30,000.

40% of Victor Harbor's residential ratepayers reside outside the Council area.

Victor Harbor reflects the national trend of a move to the coast for lifestyle, rather than economic reasons. For the 20 year period from 1986 – 2006, the population grew by nearly 100% from 6,500 to 12,500. If this 3% rate of growth continues over the next 20 years, the population will reach 22,000 by 2026.

### Alexandrina LGA

The Alexandrina Council area covers around 1,800 square kilometers.

At the time of the 2006 Census, Alexandrina LGA had a total of 20,715 residents with the major urban centres being Goolwa, with 9,282 residents, and Strathalbyn Township with 4,296 residents. (Source Alexandrina Strategic Plan 'Future Directions' 2004-2009 [reviewed Jan 2007]) At the time of the 2006 Census, the Alexandrina District was comprised of two Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) Alexandrina Coastal SLA having 11,509 residents and the Alexandrina Strathalbyn SLA having 9,202 residents.

ABS projections based on growth continuing at 2.8%, the same rate as for 2000-2005 period will result in 24,000 people residing in the Alexandrina Council region in 2022.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Alexandrina Council Review of Community and Lifestyle Services July 2006 – Sophie Piron

<sup>2</sup> Alexandrina Council Review of Community and Lifestyle Services July 2006 – Sophie Piron

# PROFILE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

## 4. Profile of Young People

At the time of the 2006 Census there were 5,023 young people between the ages of 10 to 24 years living in the City of Victor Harbor and Alexandrina Council areas, comprising of 2,001 aged between 10-14 years, 1,855 between 15 to 19 years and 1,167 between 20 to 24 years.

- In total they made up 15.3% of the population. Compared to the state of South Australia where young people made up 19.9% of the total population. Young people between the ages of 10-24 made up 13% of the City of Victor Harbor's population and 16.9% of the Alexandrina Council's population.
- There were a total of 334 Indigenous Australians residing in the region in 2006 (compared to 254 at the time of the 2001 census), making up 1.0% of the population. Of those 101 were aged between 10-24 years or 30.2% of the total Indigenous population which, comprised of 32 aged between 10-14 years, 40 aged between 15 to 19 years and 21 aged between 20 to 24 years. Young Indigenous people between the ages of 10 to 24 years made up 2.0% of the total young people of the region. Of the 101 Indigenous youth living in the region, 39% lived in the City of Victor Harbor and 61% lived in the Alexandrina Council area.
- At the time of the 2006 Census of 10 to 24 year olds in the region, 53% were male and 47% were female. Of the 20-24 age group 52% were male and 48% were female. This compares to data for the State of 51.3% males and 48.7% females aged 10-24 years.
- As a percentage of the total population, the number of young people aged between 15 to 24 years has decreased from 9.9% in 1991 to 9.2% in 2001. This has remained steady between the 2001 and 2006 census periods.
- Apart from people over the age of 85 years, the 20-24 year age cohort consistently contains the least people as a percentage of the total population.

#### **4.1. Education and Training**

The combined schools of the City of Victor Harbor have in excess of 1,800 students who are drawn from across the region. High school aged young people (ie those aged 12-17 years) consisted of 760 for the City of Victor Harbor and 1,713 for the Alexandrina Council in 2006, contributing to 7.6% of the population compared to 8% for the State average.

- In 2006, of the total population of the City of Victor Harbor and Alexandrina Council, 1,844 young people were attending secondary schools (up from 1,665 in 2001). 1,285 (66%) of these students attended government schools (down from 77% in 2001) – (higher than for South Australia as a whole at 60% - down from 65% in 2001), 62 (or 3.4%) attended Catholic schools and 563 (or 30.5%) attended other non-government schools (up from 355 in 2006)
- The participation rate of high school aged students was 75% in 2006 (up from 69% in 2001) compared to 72% over the State (down from 74% in 2001)

#### **4.2. Youth Employment**

At the time of the 2006 census;

- Of those in the labour force, 13.5% of 15-19 year old males and 11.7% of females were unemployed, compared to 15% of males and 13% of females for the state of South Australia as a whole.
- Data gathered indicates that of young people aged 15-19 years who were employed and living in the City of Victor Harbor, 62 or 21.8% had full time employment and 183 or 64.2% were employed on a part time basis. The balance were either away from work at the time of the census or did not state whether they worked full time or part time.

- Of those aged 15-19 years employed and living in the Alexandrina Council region, 158 or 29.8% were employed on a full time basis (compared to the state 27.8%) and 330 or 62.3% were employed part time (compared to 63.6% for the state). The balance were either away from work at the time of the census or did not state whether they worked full time or part time.
- Females were the most prominent part time workers within this age cohort in the region.
- Of those aged 20-24 years 8.4% of young men and 7.4% of young women in the labour force were unemployed compared to 9.3% of males and 7.3% of females for the state of South Australia as a whole.
- The retail trade and accommodation and food services are the main industries of employment in the region for those aged 15-24, with 32 % of 15-19 year olds who are employed are working in the retail sector and 25% working in accommodation and food services (compared to state data of 35% and 23% respectively) and 16% of 20-24 year olds who are employed are working in the retail sector and 16% in accommodation and food services (compared to 19% and 11% for the state respectively).





### 4.3 Youth Accommodation

At the time of the 2006 Census, the majority of 15-24 year olds in the region were either dependent students (38.6%) or non dependent children living in a family situation (27.8%) This compares with the State data of 35.8% and 27.6% respectively. (Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing South Australia).

In 2006, Shelter SA surveyed 166 young people from the region, aged 15-25. Of these,

- 136 (82%) were living with their parents, 7 (4.2%) were renting with friends, 7 (4.2%) identified they were renting with their partner, 6 (3.6%) identified they were 'staying at a friends house' 2 of whom stated they were 'homeless', 1 young person identified they were 'staying with relatives', 1 person was 'renting a room in someone's house'.
- 136 (82%) young people 'liked their current living arrangements'.
- 26 people did not like their current living arrangements, 16 of these gave the reason as 'not getting along with their family' and 5 young people disliked their living arrangements because they 'felt unsafe'; 'had no privacy'; or 'no stability'.
- Of 166 young people surveyed, 109 young people (65.7%) were planning to change their living arrangements with 29 planning to do so within the next twelve months. 39 plan to change their living arrangements in the next 1-2 years and 57 do not plan to change their living arrangements for at least two years. (Source: Shelter SA, 2006)



# YOUTH ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

## 5. Youth Issues & Opportunities

Across Australia 19% of the population living in inner regional areas are young people aged 15-24 however in the Fleurieu region, youth only represent 9.2% (against SA State average 13.3%).

Young people report that there are limited employment, training, education, recreation and social opportunities in our local communities and that they have little choice but to seek greater opportunities in Adelaide. This strong movement of young people to Adelaide and the metropolitan regions has a negative effect on our regional community as their population representation declines whilst the older population seeking a 'sea change' or retirement lifestyle increases. *(Source: Employment and Skills Formation 2006 – 2009 Strategic Plan – The Fleurieu Employment and Skills Formation Network, Fleurieu Region)*

Young people identified that they also find that the cost of accommodation and lack of supported accommodation services, inadequate transport services, lack of higher education options, fewer full time jobs or career pathways, and insufficient support systems, such as youth health services and social and recreational options, deter them from staying or in attracting young people to reside in the region.

Young people who do live in the region cite the natural environment and the sense of community as positive influences on young people living here *(Source: Youth Week Survey and Fleurieu Family Survey)*

ABS Inward and Outward migration data shows the movement of people between two census periods. For instance, in the City of Victor Harbor young people between the ages of 15-29 were the only age group to show a net-out migration figure for the period between the 1996 Census and the 2001 Census. For the Alexandrina Council, young people aged 15-29 showed the greatest amount of net out-migration with the 75+ age groups being the only other age group to show net out-migration but at a minimal rate. In total, for the region there were 221 more young people between the ages of 15-29 leaving the region than moving into the region between 1996 and 2001. *(Source: ABS 2001 Census Population and Housing - Inward and Outward Migration 1996-2001).*

...“Many of the younger people are leaving the region, and are being replaced with a mature aged cohort choosing the ‘Sea-Change’ lifestyle”. *(Source: Employment and Skills Formation 2006 – 2009 Strategic Plan – The Fleurieu Employment and Skills Formation Network, Fleurieu Region)*

Youth retention is an issue for Councils at the broader strategic level. Growth management strategies are being developed to attract and retain young families to ensure a vibrant and inclusive community, culture and workforce. To ensure this happens a holistic approach is needed in a number of key areas that have been identified by this strategy including;

**Education and training**

**Youth employment**

**Youth accommodation**

**Access to youth services**

**Youth participation**

**Transport**

**Recreation, arts and culture**

## 5.1 Education and training

The percentage of young people attending public secondary schools in the region is 66%, this is 6% higher than South Australia as a whole (60%). It should be noted that since the 2001 Census both the region and the state as a whole have experienced a reduction in the proportion of young people attending government schools.

High school retention rates increased by 6% between the 2001 and 2006 census periods compared to a 2% reduction for the state as a whole. High school retention rates are now higher for the region (75%) than they are for the state (72%) compared to the 2001 figures of 69% at the regional level and 74% over the State. These figures may be a reflection of a number of factors including an increase in education choices available in the region in recent years, an increased willingness to travel to schools outside the area and the introduction of school based initiatives that target school retention. However, Mission Australia's Fleurieu Research Project, the Southern Fleurieu Family Strategy, and Employment Skills Formation Plan, all identified that limited educational options for young people had a direct influence on the movement of young people out of the region and that whole families move out of the region to pursue alternative education options for their young people as they reach senior high school years.

The YAC indicated that the narrow range of subject choices available at the local TAFE College coupled with inadequate public transport encourages young people to move away from the region and closer to a TAFE that offers a variety of course modules and study options. Young people who attend University have also stated that they find the cost and infrequency of transport to be an issue and will often opt for moving closer to the campus in order to keep costs and travel time down.

## 5.2 Youth Employment

The median weekly individual income for all people over 15 years of age in 2006 was \$346 for residents of the City of Victor Harbor and \$376 for those living in the Alexandrina Council. This compared to \$433 for South Australia as a whole. This is a significant difference and reflects the low socio economic status of the region and of young people in particular. Young people are primarily employed in industries that tend to be more casual and seasonal in nature such as retail, hospitality, agriculture, forestry and fishing, with young women being the majority of those under employed. At the 2006 Census the unemployment rate for people between the ages of 15 to 24 years living in the City of Victor Harbor and Alexandrina Council was 10.3%. This is comparable to the state youth unemployment rate which stood at 10.63%. Young people aged between 15 and 24 years make up 9.2% of the region's total population and those in the labour force make up 28.1% of the total unemployed in the region.

Consultations undertaken by Mission Australia for the Report on Youth Needs in the Fleurieu (July 2005) indicated that the lack of employment opportunities was a major factor that influenced young people to move out of the region. This is also evident in the Shelter SA survey (2006) where 43% of the young people participating indicated that they didn't believe they could fulfil their ambition in the area they lived in and 27% believed they would have to move away from the region to fulfil their ambition.

Feedback received from young people participating in focus studies indicated that part-time and casual employment opportunities are available whilst they are still at school particularly in food and hospitality but once young people are in the market for permanent employment there are fewer suitable options as much of the work is of a seasonal or casual nature due to the region being a significant holiday destination.

### 5.3 Youth Accommodation

The Employment Skills Formation Plan 2005-06 reported that young people have difficulty accessing the private rental market in the region. The high end 'holiday' rental and 'out of reach purchase costs' of the local housing market makes it difficult or too expensive for young people to find appropriate accommodation and rules out options to become first homebuyers. Young people believe that landlords and real estate agents discriminate against them, making it difficult to break into the private rental market (*Source: Mission Australia's Report on Youth Needs in the Fleurieu – July 2005*).

Other key elements identified by young people and the local youth sector were the lack of crisis, short term, supported or affordable accommodation, which in turn impact on youth retention in the region as young people seek suitable accommodation elsewhere. In an extensive research project into youth accommodation issues across the region in 2006 undertaken by Shelter SA on behalf of Southern Fleurieu Youth Network and the Councils, a holistic view and integrated and coordinated strategies were identified as being crucial in addressing youth housing needs. Affordable and accessible accommodation were identified as important facets of the larger solution that would also need to include education, training, employment, personal support mechanisms and transport solutions.

The Southern Fleurieu Youth Network considers that the lack of appropriate youth accommodation and associated services to support young people is of major concern for young people and the youth sector in the region. This issue appears regularly on the agenda of Southern Fleurieu Youth Network who are working towards developing solutions.

#### 5.4 Access to Youth Services

As stated in the Employment Skills Formation Plan, providing improved youth services is a key request of young people 'at risk' when questioned with regard to remaining in the region. It has been found that those in need most often move to metropolitan Adelaide where services can be accessed more readily.

Mission Australia's Report on Youth Needs of the Fleurieu Peninsula – July 2005, identified that the large geographic region makes it impossible to sustain stand alone youth services of every type in each Council area and recommended that outreach services be provided between townships and local service providers.

YAC has also identified young people's mental health as needing more of a focus by services particularly in the areas of depression, anxiety, eating disorders, self-harm and suicide prevention. The YAC suggested that more programs be available to young people with the aim of increasing a positive self image, increasing resilience and building young people's capacity to support their peers.



Shelter SA's Youth Housing Strategy identified the need for an emphasis on preventative and early intervention approaches to support young people at risk of becoming homeless or experiencing difficulties in living at home and related issues and states that "...services must be regular –NOT one day per week". (pg 101). Members of the Southern Fleurieu Youth Network cited in the Youth Affairs Council of SA State Budget Submissions in 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, that current youth services are unable to match the needs and numbers of young people – especially with increased numbers as a result of the holiday crowds and Schoolies Week.

Network members suggested that Councils continue their support for the Southern Fleurieu Youth Network so as to strengthen and increase the capacity and role of all parties, in pro actively advocating to the State and Federal Governments for additional services in the region, whilst continuing to work towards local solutions.





## 5.5 Youth Participation

Young people have indicated the need for increased opportunities for them to have a say on the issues that affect them and their lives and to be provided with appropriate feedback on outcomes of consultations. Many young people believe that their views are not generally heard in the community. The YAC is one group that provides regular opportunities for consultation on issues with their peers. They are an advisory group on youth issues - a conduit between young people in the region and Councils.

The YAC have also stated that young people want to be consulted more extensively and their views and input taken more seriously. They want to contribute more positively and actively in their communities and be perceived as *"part of the solution, not the problem"*.

Recommendations proposed by the YAC to increase youth participation include:

1. Councils facilitate youth led Youth Forums and debates on issues that are important to young people and their lives,
2. Councils recognise and celebrate young people's involvement in their communities, their achievements and successes through an Annual Youth Awards Program.
3. Councils support young people to attend conferences, seminars and training that help to build their capacity as young leaders,
4. Councils employ a Regional Youth Participation Officer.

The YAC indicated that if young people are to be encouraged in citizenship, leadership and community involvement, it is vital that their views are respected and taken seriously by the wider community.

## 5.6 Transport

A survey of youth transport needs was carried out in 2001. It identified that young people in the region engage in a number of risk-taking behaviours as a result of limited available transport options. These include being a passenger in a car where the driver was under the influence of drugs and /or alcohol (42%) or driving themselves whilst under the influence (14%). Over 70% of respondents thought that if public transport were more readily available young people would use it as an alternative to drinking and driving. Approximately 25% of those surveyed had driven without a licence or had driven an unregistered vehicle, and 16% had hitch hiked.

In addition, young people identified a broad range of venues/activities which they had difficulty accessing as a result of a lack of transport including; entertainment (62%), recreation (45%), sport (43%), employment (33%), TAFE/training (19%), health services (19%), Centrelink (18%), job networks (15%) and JPET (15%). Issues such as lack of service timetabling, and cost of service, were seen as barriers to using local bus services. *(Source: S. Piron Youth Transport Survey Report July 2001).*

The Employment Skills Formation Network acknowledged in its 2005 report that inadequate public transport options remain a priority issue for our young people who have to rely on individual transport and therefore are more likely to have road accidents than their metropolitan counterparts.

The Southern Fleurieu Youth Network noted that public transport within townships is patchy and that some young people have been unable to take up work opportunities or meet mutual obligation requirements within the township of Victor Harbor due to lack of transportation.

"...Access to safe, affordable, timely and interconnected public transport is a key socio – economic determinant of health and well being for young people." *(Source: YACSA's Priorities for the Youth Sector 2006/07, Youth Affairs Council of SA).*

Lack of frequency, routes and affordability are seen as the major concerns of young people of the YAC who cited that more frequent weekend services that ran to and from the coastal towns of Goolwa and Victor Harbor and reinstating the more frequent weekend services between Strathalbyn and Mt Barker would be welcomed by young people.



### 5.7 Recreation, Arts & Culture

During National Youth Week in 2005, 188 Young people were surveyed about their community. When asked *"What could be improved about your community?"* 32% stated that young people needed more entertainment, places to go, and more to do. 'Lack of things to do' was identified as a major concern by 10% of respondents after drugs (24%) and alcohol (21%). 12.7% stated a swimming pool was needed followed by bigger, better or more skate parks. The Southern Fleurieu Family Strategy Survey report (2004) also identified the need for more facilities to attract younger people to the South Coast as the region is seen as catering mainly to retirees stating that "...a need for year round activities for teenagers as an alternative to frequenting hotels (a safe place for young people to 'hang out')"

Young people believe that it is important to have opportunities to express their identity, culture and creativity through various means. A significant number of young people have expressed that they would like to participate in arts based activities, programs and events and that these should be youth led.



Councils coordinate a number of regional arts based programs including the Annual Youth Art Exhibition, National Youth Week events, skate park art projects and the Youth Theatre Project. The YAC has also instigated a number of strategies to enable young people to express themselves including the STRUTH FM radio program on Community Broadcaster Great Southern FM, Impress Youth Magazine (a quarterly publication) and the Fusion 06 and 07 live music events. Young people of the YAC and other youth groups have indicated that they would like to increase the frequency and availability of these sorts of activities. A number of young musicians, actors and film-makers have expressed the need for a space to rehearse and perform and make and show films. Consultations have also revealed that a significant number of young people enjoy unstructured activities including skating, BMX riding, surfing and hanging out with friends. Other activities that were identified included visual arts programs. Community members including young people have consistently identified the need for a swimming pool on the South Coast. The YAC presented a petition to both Councils in 2005 with 247 signatures from young people aged 12-25 years in support of a regional community swimming pool on the South Coast. The YAC continues to advocate for a regional swimming pool on the South Coast.



## 5.8 Lack of Youth Specific Space

Young people believe that boredom and lack of things to do can influence risk taking behaviours by young people such as drug and alcohol abuse, drink driving and violence. Graffiti, vandalism and depression may also be a result of boredom and engaging activities. Mission Australia's Report on youth needs for the Fleurieu Peninsula – July 2005 found that boredom and the need for a 'safe place to hang out' as well as more recreational opportunities and youth activities were needed such as underage music events, youth groups, theatre and arts activities.

As stated in Employment Skills Formation Plan 05-06 *"...Apart from recent skate parks being established, there are no other places for youth to 'hang out' in their own space."*

The YAC has consistently indicated that a youth centre, youth café or youth space needs to be established in the region, to give young people a 'place of belonging'; where programs and activities can occur on a regular basis, where local services can visit and provide information and outreach services and offer opportunities for young people to increase skills and get involved in youth and community activities. As stated previously, a number of young musicians, actors and film makers indicated the need for rehearsal and performance space and space to make and show films. The space could also provide training and educational facilities as well as act as enterprise incubator that could broaden employment opportunities for young people.

Creating a youth specific space is a strategic approach that would address a variety of issues and needs for young people in the region in an holistic manner.

## 5.9 Summary

The challenges that young people face in obtaining meaningful employment, accessing appropriate educational pathways and fulfilling recreational options, coupled with limited transport, lack of youth services and affordable and available accommodation, is impacting not only on young people but on the whole of community. Young people particularly in the 19-24 age group, are leaving the region to seek opportunities elsewhere. In order to address youth retention and associated issues and to make our communities more attractive, vibrant and 'youth friendly', Councils need to take a lead role in developing strategies that are holistic, innovative and inclusive. Encouraging young people to live, stay and play in the region is at the core of this Strategic Plan.



# POLICY CONTEXT

## 6. Policy Context

### International

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2005 are international obligations that guide the Australian Government in responding to young people.

### National

The National priorities for young people agreed to by the Youth Ministers across Australia are;

5. To promote the positive achievements and image of young people
6. To promote the active participation of all young people in economic and social life and,
7. To listen and respond to young people.

### State

The principles that provide the foundations for State Government level responses to issues facing young people are found in the "Policy Framework for Young People: Part 1 of the South Australian Youth Action Plan" and include the following objectives,

- Youth Empowerment,
- Building on strengths,
- A socially inclusive society,
- Valuing diversity,
- Building partnerships.



18 key goals in the South Australian Youth Action Plan which respond to issues identified as critical by young people, the community and government agencies are;

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Youth Participation            | 10. Sex and respect                    |
| 2. Promote young people's stories | 11. Travelling well                    |
| 3. Public space for active lives  | 12. Understand and encourage diversity |
| 4. Active in our community        | 13. A safe place to call home          |
| 5. Nurture youth arts and culture | 14. Keep learning                      |
| 6. Safe and Protected             | 15. Making transitions                 |
| 7. Healthy minds                  | 16. Work                               |
| 8. Healthy bodies                 | 17. Safe at Work                       |
| 9. Healthy relationships          | 18. Footprints into the future         |

These key goals are strongly linked to the Vision, the Guiding Principals, Objectives and Approaches or Strategies of the Regional Youth Strategy.

### **Australian Local Government Association**

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) as the peak national Local Government body, has developed a Social Policy that identifies youth services as one of the key portfolio areas however, at this stage the ALGA has not developed a specific youth policy or youth services framework for Local Government.

### **South Australian Local Government Association Youth Policy**

The South Australian Local Government Association Youth Policy acknowledges the role young people play in all aspects of community life and recognises young peoples' right to participate fully in local affairs. The SA LGA affirms its respect for all young people and acknowledges their right to be involved in matters which impact on their quality of life and aspirations for the future.

### **Regional**

The Regional Youth Strategy is informed by and aligns with a number of Councils' strategies and plans (refer appendices for full list). The important role that Local Government plays in social and community development is set out in the Local Government Act 1999 (SA). Councils are required to adopt a strategic approach which includes social planning as part of Councils overall strategic plans. This will ensure that local social issues, integration and co-ordination of services are addressed whilst utilising the most effective and efficient use of valuable community resources.

Councils' Community Services Policies states that;

*'Councils' recognise that local community services are an integral part of Council's responsibility and the objective of local community services is to improve the quality of life, independence and well being of the community by supporting the planning, development and coordination of community services.'*

### **Alexandrina Council**

Goal 3.6 of Alexandrina Council's Corporate and Strategic Plan 2004-2009 (Reviewed 2007) aims to have;

... *'More younger people engaged in community affairs'* and identifies a number of strategies to achieve this including;

- Identify the needs of young people and support their participation in community affairs, decision making and planning.
- Increase positive community perceptions of young people, particularly young Indigenous people.
- Continue to support programs that link younger people with the knowledge and expertise of our senior community.
- Provide opportunities for young people to develop life skills, increase knowledge and build their capacity within the community.

### **City of Victor Harbor**

The City of Victor Harbor Strategic Directions (2006-2009) 'Strategic Direction 6 – Community' provides a whole of community approach with the objective being; *"To foster a supportive, safe and accessible City. We are committed to developing a community with a great lifestyle where people have a strong sense of belonging through a variety of cultural, leisure & recreation activities and health & welfare services."*

## Youth Policy statement

The guiding principals are reflected in the following strategies of the Regional Youth Policy statement adopted by both Councils in 2006:

- 1. Actively encouraging young people to make valued contributions in decision making, planning and civic life.*
- 2. Enhancing communication with young people by providing opportunities for two-way communication processes including listening, responding, informing and providing feedback on matters that impact on them, their lives and their communities.*
- 3. Promoting a positive image of the role that young people play in their communities and acknowledge and celebrate their achievements.*
- 4. Representing the needs and concerns of young people to community agencies and other spheres of Government and support and empower young people to do the same.*
- 5. Advocating for the provision of appropriate infrastructure to enable young people to access accommodation, affordable transport, social, recreational, educational and employment opportunities and support services.*
- 6. Strengthening networks and collaborations with the community and youth sector to effectively use resources and to ensure that the Region attracts a fair share of funds and services.*

## **7. Regional Youth Strategy**

The different areas of young people's lives are intricately connected and impact on each other requiring integrated responses. The 5 strategic objectives outlined in this document were developed in response to the issues identified by young people and the data collected for the Regional Youth Strategy.

In assessing youth needs in the region the Vision Statement was created as a strong foundation for the Regional Youth Strategy.

### **7.1 The Vision**

*Fostering safe youth friendly communities where young people are respected and experience a strong sense of belonging.*

### **7.2 The Guiding Principals**

Building on this Vision, the guiding principals that underpin and inform the Youth Strategy and action plan are:

- Participation
- Empowerment
- Respect
- Equity
- Partnership
- Access

### 7.3 The Objectives

Youth retention is the key theme that underpins this plan.

As explained earlier in this document young people between the ages of 15-29 years are showing a net-out migration for both Council regions. There are indications that the proportion of young people aged from 10 to 24 in the region is expected to decrease from 15.2% in 2002 to 10.9% in 2022 and apart from people over the age of 75 years, the 20-24 year age cohort consistently represents the lowest proportion of people in the community.

Youth retention is a pressing issue for Councils at the broader strategic level and has implications for urban growth management strategies aiming to attract and retain young families and create a vibrant, inclusive community, culture and workforce. To ensure this happens a holistic and integrated approach is needed with emphasis on a number of identified key areas. These key areas form the basis of the Objectives.

The Vision, Guiding Principles and Objectives provide Councils with an integrated Framework for action.

## *OBJECTIVES*

## *EXPECTED IMPACTS*

<i>1. Valuing &amp; Strengthening Belonging</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Active community participation</i></li><li>• <i>Inclusion in decision making</i></li><li>• <i>Positive profile of young people</i></li><li>• <i>Youth friendly communities</i></li><li>• <i>Safety</i></li></ul>
<i>2. Learning and developing employment,</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Education, training and</i></li></ul>
<i>3. Well being</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Access to services,</i></li><li>• <i>Social, emotional, mental and physical health</i></li><li>• <i>Safety</i></li></ul>
<i>4. Recreation Arts and culture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>'Things to do'</i></li><li>• <i>Youth Space</i></li><li>• <i>Self expression</i></li><li>• <i>Creativity</i></li><li>• <i>Social interactions</i></li><li>• <i>Fun</i></li><li>• <i>Celebration</i></li></ul>
<i>5. Youth Retention</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>More young people studying,</i></li><li>• <i>Working and living in our community.</i></li></ul>

#### 7.4 The Approach

The approaches broadly inform “**how**” to achieve the Objectives and respond to the identified issues and concerns.

The City of Victor Harbor and the Alexandrina Council cannot meet all the needs of young people in the region on their own. Responsibility also lies with Federal and State Government agencies through funding support of programs and through specific government agencies. In addition, a number of supports and services to young people in the region are provided by the non-government sector and locally-based community groups such as sporting clubs, arts, religious and social groups, many of which are staffed and run by volunteers.

#### 7.5 Key Actions or Steps

A number of key actions have been outlined to be completed. This list is not exhaustive but rather provides a number of focussed actions that demonstrates the overall intent of the plan. The Key Actions represent “**what**” Councils can do; they are short term and action based for the period 2007 - 2009.

Annual reviews of the Regional Youth Strategic Plan will result in new Key Actions being added and/or existing ones being amended where needed.

Each Key Action or group of actions is linked to the State Governments Youth Action Plan Goals.



## Acknowledging Other Relevant Plans & Strategies

The Regional Youth Strategy has taken into account a diverse range of Government and Regional strategies and policy frameworks including:

1. South Australian Strategic Plan, 2004 – Growing Prosperity, Improving Wellbeing, Attaining Sustainability, Fostering Creativity, Building Communities and Expanding Opportunities
2. South Australian Youth Action Plan, Part 1– South Australia's Policy Framework for Young People 2005-2010
3. South Australian Youth Action Plan, Part 2 – South Australia's Action Framework for Young People 2005-2007.
4. Fleurieu Region Community Services Strategic Plan 2003-2006
5. Alexandrina Council Corporate Plan (2004-2009 [reviewed Jan 2007])
6. Alexandrina Council Strategic Plan – Future Directions (2004-2009 [reviewed Jan 2007])
7. City of Victor Harbor's Strategic Plan (2006-2009 [reviewed Jan 2007])
8. The Southern Fleurieu Family Strategy Survey (2003)
9. The Southern Fleurieu Family Strategy Draft (April 2006)
10. Employment Skills Formation Plan 2005-2006
11. Youth Transport Survey Report (2001) – Sophie Piron
12. Employment Skills Formation Network reports and planning documents (2004-06)
13. Fleurieu Research Project - Mission Australia (2005)
14. YAC Youth Week Survey (2005)
15. Shelter SA Report on Youth Housing (2006)
16. Youth Affairs Council of SA (YACSA) State Budget Submissions (2004-2005 and 2005-200)
17. South Coast Region Community Profile (2005)
18. Alexandrina Council Draft Review of Community Services and Lifestyle Services (July 2006) – Sophie Piron
19. Hills Mallee Southern Regional Youth Plan 2004-2007
20. Keeping them Safe – Layton Review The South Australian Government's Action Strategy to Keep children and young people free from harm
21. Connecting to the Future – strategic agenda for the Department of Families and Communities 2005-2008
22. Fleurieu Youth Research Project - July 2005 Mission Australia.
23. Southern Fleurieu Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy

# REGIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

Objective	Approach/strategies	Key Actions
<p>1. Valuing, strengthening Belonging</p>	<p>1.1. Provide opportunities for young people to have their say throughout the communities</p> <p>1.2. Keep young people informed</p> <p>1.3. Involve young people in policy development.</p> <p>1.4. Include young people in decision making.</p> <p>1.5. Ensure all aspects of Council including facilities are youth friendly</p> <p>1.6. Ensure Council promotes positive image of its young people and recognise the positive contributions made by young people.</p> <p>1.7. Support the provision of a Youth Space where young people have a strong sense of belonging and feel safe</p>	<p>1.1.1. Ongoing support and development of Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).</p> <p>1.1.2. Design and implement a range of youth friendly consultative mechanisms that encourage a diverse range of young people to have input into their communities.</p> <p>1.1.3. Implement regular regional Youth forums as a platform for young people to voice their concerns and work on solutions</p> <p>1.2.1. Provide relevant information to young people through a range of avenues including libraries.</p> <p>1.2.2. Update and maintain the YAC website and actively promote and support the continuation of other youth media i.e. Impress Youth Magazine and STRUTH FM</p> <p>1.2.3. Continue to develop meaningful ways for young people to have a voice in their communities that reflects their culture and provides information</p> <p>1.3.1. Develop a youth participation strategy and training packages for Council Staff, Elected members and other key players to enable effective consultation and communication with young people.</p> <p>1.3.2. Develop induction and training packages that improve YAC's capacity and knowledge of Local Government processes.</p> <p>1.4.1. Adopt 2 way reporting mechanisms that will ensure youth input to Councils.</p> <p>1.4.2. Undertake consultations and surveys of young people to ascertain changing needs, concerns and aspirations and to inform the youth plan and other Council strategies &amp; plans.</p> <p>1.5.1. Conduct a 'youth friendly' audit of facilities such as libraries, civic centers, halls and other venues.</p> <p>1.5.2. Councils child safe and youth friendly policy to be completed and endorsed by Councils with procedures in place.</p> <p>1.6.1. Strengthen Council's commitments to the recognition of achievement of local young people through increasing the profile of Australia Day Young Citizenship Awards</p> <p>1.6.2. Invite Australia Day Young Citizens to be youth ambassadors at Council events and activities particularly youth events such as National Youth Week, Youth Art Exhibition.</p> <p>1.6.3. Develop Youth Awards Program and Youth Foundation</p> <p>1.7.1. Lobby relevant Government agencies and funding bodies.</p> <p>1.7.2. Work collaboratively with Council, young people and other agencies to advocate for this to happen.</p> <p>1.7.3. Research appropriate models and partnerships.</p>

## 2. Learning and Developing

2.1. Encourage and lobby for a broad range of educational and training needs and facilities for young people

- 2.1.1. Support local schools, TAFE and other training organisations to provide appropriate, locally based education and training to meet local needs.
- 2.1.2. Provide opportunities and support for young people to access one off training, seminars and personal development workshops where possible.
- 2.1.3. Work with schools to develop South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) accreditation for YAC membership and other programs and activities.
- 2.1.4. Support and encourage YAC members to participate in Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- 2.1.5. Continue to support Fleurieu Employment, Skills Formation Network, Learning Communities Partnerships (LCP) and Career and Transition Services (CATS).

2.2. Councils taking a leadership role in providing training and employment opportunities for young people in the community.

- 2.2.1. Council's to provide work experience opportunities to local students and young people to improve employability
- 2.2.2. Develop partnerships with local schools to provide appropriate accreditation for students involved as volunteers or participants in Councils projects, programs and activities.
- 2.2.3. Councils to increase opportunities for Youth Traineeships and apprenticeships

2.3. Improve sustainable employment opportunities for young people in collaboration with business, government agencies and the community.

- 2.3.1. Ensure young people's needs, views and experiences are taken into account when developing Councils Economic Development plans
- 2.3.2. Promote and support the concept of Youth & Business Roundtables to promote mentoring, learning, employment and career opportunities and pathways with local business and industry.
- 2.3.3. Explore the viability of developing an innovative youth business incubator &/or youth enterprise centre



**3. Well being**

3.1. Support the provision of a range of accessible youth services which meet the current and future needs of young people.

3.1.1 Continue to provide support to the Southern Fleurieu Youth Network (SFYN) in its role of fostering local and innovative responses to the needs of young people and to facilitate the sharing of expertise, experience and resources between youth workers.

3.1.2. Undertake an audit of all services that support young people and their families within the region and publish in a format that is easily accessible to young people and their families

3.2. Encourage youth health promotion activities

3.2.1. Incorporate health promotion activities at Council's youth events and activities.

3.2.2. Support youth services expos in local communities.

3.2.3. Continue support for the Southern Fleurieu Drug Action Team (SFDAN) and it's projects including inter-school Drug Debates, and health promotion at Schoolies Festivals.

3.2.4. Work in partnership with other relevant agencies to develop a Drug Action Network (DAT) in the Strathalbyn region.

3.2.5. Raise community awareness of youth health and wellbeing issues by supporting community health forums such as Rotary Mental Health Forums

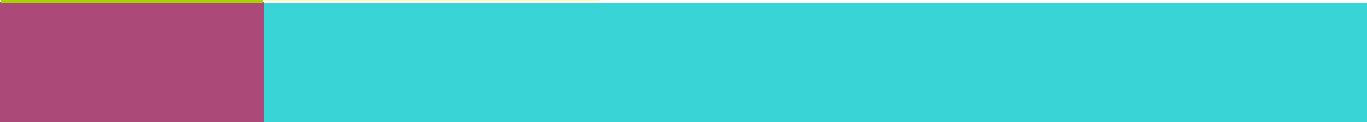
3.3. Encourage State Government to increase youth specific services to the region

3.3.1. Provide advocacy on behalf of SFYN and local young people to Youth Affairs Council of SA (YACSA) Regional Policy Council in particularly in regard to identified government Policies that impact negatively on young people.

3.4. Enhance the capacity of local youth service providers through the development of collaborative partnerships.

3.4.1. Continue to support and build upon established partnerships such as the Young Women's Christian Association of Adelaide (YWCA) Southern Services, Southern Fleurieu Health Service (SFHS) youth programs such as Young Mums Peer Education Project, and South Coast Inspirations (SCI) Youth Health and Well being Project.

3.4.2. Support the creation of new and innovative projects that meet the needs of young people across the region.





#### 4. Recreation, Arts and culture

4.1. Build young peoples creative capacity in our communities

4.1.1. Consider employing Youth Arts Officer to focus on arts based activities and increase accessibility to arts and culture and enhance career pathways in the arts and creative industries.

4.1.2. Increase youth arts based activities, events and programs across the region.

4.2. Celebrate youth art and culture by continued and increased support for youth art exhibition and youth theatre projects and youth community/public art

4.2.1. Councils to purchase suitable youth art for public display.

4.2.2. Young people engaged in community and public arts projects.

4.2.3. Young people represented on Councils arts committees, boards or advisory groups.

4.2.4. Encourage the wider community to attend youth events and activities to increase the positive profile of young people.

4.3. Integrate the artistic and cultural needs of young people throughout Councils activities and events.

4.3.1. Link youth arts to Council's Arts and Cultural Policy.

4.3.2. Ensure that young people contribute to planning of Councils activities and events and have a participatory role.

4.4. Support a wide range of youth recreation needs such as performing arts, unstructured physical activities, structured sport and the use of open space and recreation facilities.

4.4.1. Ensure the YAC and other groups of young people are consulted on the development of larger youth entertainment events such as film festivals, regional music and dance events, and skating and bmx competitions.

4.4.2. Develop strategies to encourage greater participation of young people from diverse backgrounds in sport and physical activities

4.4.3. Undertake a complete audit of all recreational, leisure, arts and cultural opportunities available to young people within the region.

4.4.4. That these activities be published in a format that is easily accessible to young people and parents, to encourage young people to utilise existing activities.

4.5. Integrate these needs where possible throughout Councils activities, planning and development.

4.5.1. The recreation needs of young people as identified in the youth plan be considered in the development of Councils' Open Space and Recreation Strategy

4.5.2. Council represents the needs of young people at regional, State and Federal levels in areas of recreation and leisure, and advocate for youth recreation related issues including health and obesity issues, access and affordability, disabilities and State and Federal funding.





<p><b>5. Youth Retention</b></p>	<p>5.1. Actively lobby on behalf of young people in the community to other spheres of government.</p> <p>5.2. Support recommendations of Shelter SA's Youth Housing Report</p> <p>5.3. Actively support young people to lobby on behalf of their peers to services and other spheres of Government.</p> <p>5.4. Support the development of youth friendly affordable transport</p> <p>5.5. Encourage and promote intergenerational communities.</p> <p>5.6. Build the capacity of Council to implement these objectives.</p>	<p>5.1.1. Continue strong relationships with Office For Youth (OFY), Youth Affairs Council of SA (YACSA), Southern Fleurieu Youth Network (SFYN), Fleurieu Employment Skills Formation Network (FESFN) and Local Government Youth Services Forum (LGYSF).</p> <p>5.2.1. Provide support for the role of Regional Youth Housing Officer. 5.2.2. Provide support at an organisational level for the proposed Youth Housing Round Table. 5.2.3. Councils to actively work towards affordable housing options in the region.</p> <p>5.3.1. Develop and maintain demographic profile of young people in the region and their needs 5.3.2. Develop and implement Council's Youth Participation policy. 5.3.3. Provide appropriate training and support for YAC and other groups to advocate on their own behalf. 5.3.4. Implement Youth Forums, and youth friendly consultation processes</p> <p>5.4.1. Lobby and advocate on behalf of young people for appropriate transport services. 5.4.2. Provide supported or free transport where appropriate to Councils youth activities such as National Youth Week, YAC meetings and training, and for young volunteers 5.4.3. Councils to take into account limited transport options when planning new suburbs and communities in the Region 5.4.4. Support programs that promote road safety to young drivers and address issues, such as driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, speeding and the use of seat belts.</p> <p>5.5.1. Develop strategies that encourage intergenerational integration and help break down negative perceptions of young people in the wider community.</p> <p>5.6.1. Undertake assessment of Regional Youth Development Officers role and consider appropriate strategies such as redefining the role, providing additional support and resources 5.6.2. Source additional funds through funding programs.</p>
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