

Youth Plan

2025/28



Acknowledgment of Country

Bayside Council acknowledges the Bidjigal Clan, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and work and acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. Bayside Council pays respects to Elders past and present.



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As of 2025 34,251 young people call Bayside home, representing about 18% of the local population.



Background

Our young people are essential to the future of our city and their ideas, opinions and passions shape our community's direction now and into the future.

The development of this plan has been a youth-led process, from facilitating a youth forum with 38 student representatives from 10 local schools. To expanding on those discussions with our Youth Advisory Group (YAG) exploring their perspectives and priorities. Additionally, we reached out to young people through our direct services, being our centre-based Term Programs, Outreach and School Holidays, to get a clearer picture of what life is like for a young person living in Bayside.

Feedback collected from the young people is reflected in this plan, which provides direction and actions for the delivery of programs, activities and events that meet the needs of our diverse population of young people.

To implement the plan, Council will work alongside young people, the local youth sector, schools, the community, and all levels of government to make living in Bayside even better for young people.





Introduction

The Youth Plan highlights the needs of Bayside's young people aged 12-25. It contains directions and actions that meet the needs and challenges they face.

This plan supports our Council's 2032 Community Strategic Plan and related operational strategies. Council's Community Strategic Plan has provided the primary consultative framework for this plan with a view to identifying and delivering actions in-line with community values and expectations, and the core business of Council.

The Youth Plan has been developed in reference to international strategy, Federal Government and NSW Government strategies and consultations, to align with the broader effort to improve the lives of young people. In addition, it references our local youth networks to identify local issues and including the voices of our young people.

In recognising the significance of this plan, it is essential to acknowledge that the information gathered and the consultation process, while valuable, may not encompass all young people within Bayside. The data is derived from an informal process, capturing feedback from a portion of our direct service delivery, events, networks, and outreach efforts.

While this snapshot offers valuable insights into the needs and aspirations of a segment of the youth community, we understand that it may not fully represent the diversity and complexity of experiences among all young people in the Bayside area. However, it can assist as a guide to provide relevant services to local young people, informing our efforts to meet their needs effectively.

Young People in Bayside

Source: ABS Census of Communities of Interest (via profile.id)



Around **18%** of the people living in Bayside are aged 12-25 years

33,687 total number of young people in Bayside



Young people in education (high school, TAFE, etc.)

16,769 in 2021

Youth people employed
10,755 in 2021

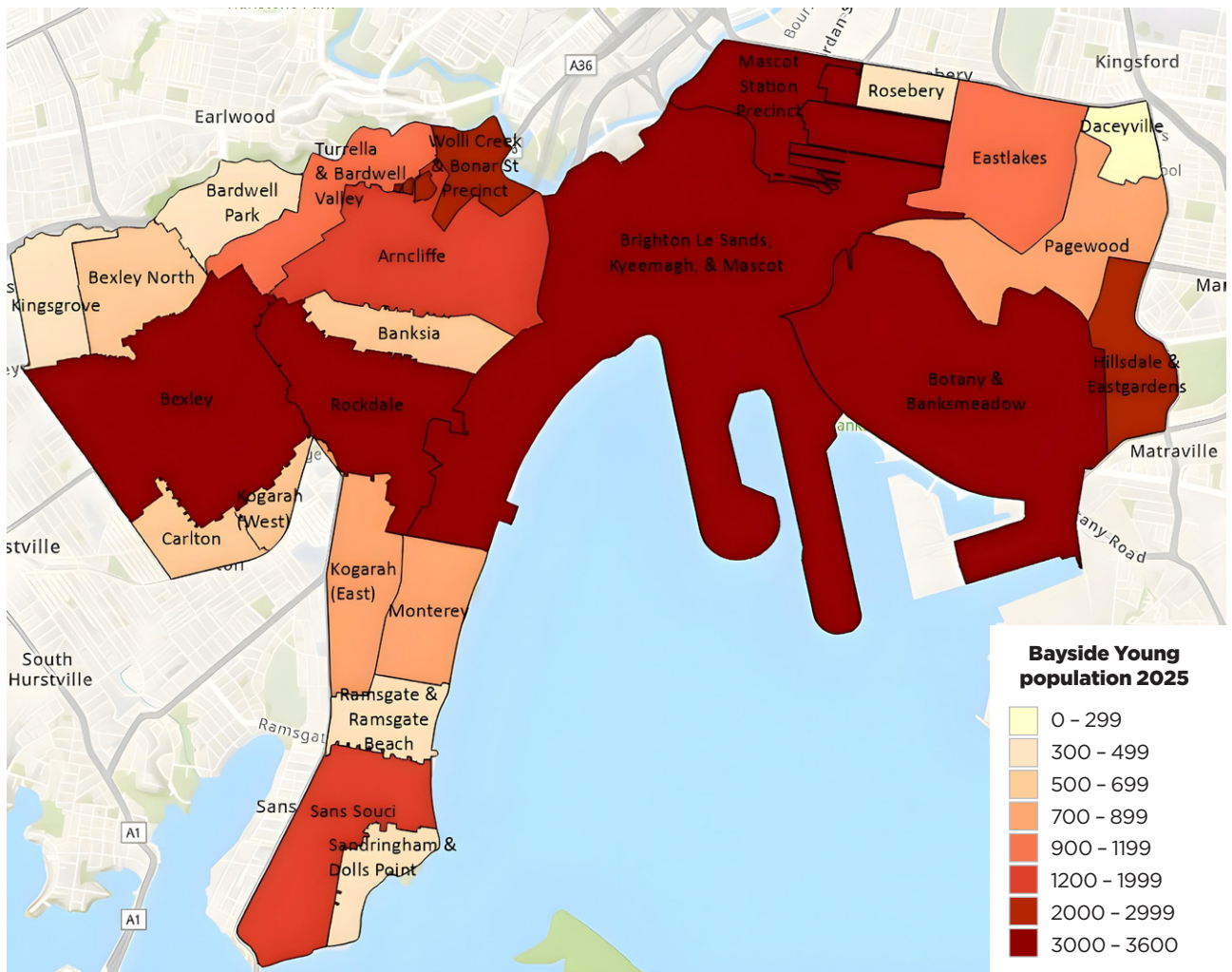


Youth unemployment rate

10.5% in 2021

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people
522 in 2021





Source: ABS Census Population Forecast (via profile.id)

As of 2025:

Where young people reside in Bayside

Currently the overall population of young people, aged 12-25, across Bayside is 34,251.

Of the overall population, the following numbers represent the portion of the population for each ward:

- ▶ Ward 1 - 22.8% (7,810 young people)
- ▶ Ward 2 - 29.3% (10,047 young people)
- ▶ Ward 3 - 15.0% (5,121 young people)
- ▶ Ward 4 - 20.0% (6,858 young people)
- ▶ Ward 5 - 12.9% (4,415 young people)

Looking closely at the data, young people mostly live in Wards 1 and 2.

Projected statistics

It is projected by 2036, young people will mostly live in Ward 2 (+7% increase).

It is also projected by 2036, Bayside's young people (aged 12-25) would have increased to 35,175 (+7.05%).

Primary Schools in Bayside

- ▶ Ward 1 has 8 schools
- ▶ Ward 2 has 5 schools
- ▶ Ward 3 has 4 schools
- ▶ Ward 4 has 8 schools
- ▶ Ward 5 has 7 schools

There are **32** primary schools in Bayside



Arncliffe Public School

168 Princes Highway, Arncliffe

St Francis Xavier's Primary School

Cnr Forest Road and Wardell Street, Arncliffe

Athelstane Public School

2 Athelstane Avenue, Arncliffe

Bardwell Park Infants School

4 Crewe Lane, Bardwell Park

Bexley North Public School

116 Kingsland Road, Bexley North

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

51 Caroline Street, Kingsgrove

Kingsgrove Public School

327 Kingsgrove Road, Kingsgrove

St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

50-52 Abercorn Street, Bexley

Bexley Public School

330-354 Forest Road, Bexley

St Mary and St Mina's Orthodox College

339-377 Forest Road, Bexley

Carlton Public School

60 Cameron Street, Bexley

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

36 Chapel Street, Kogarah

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

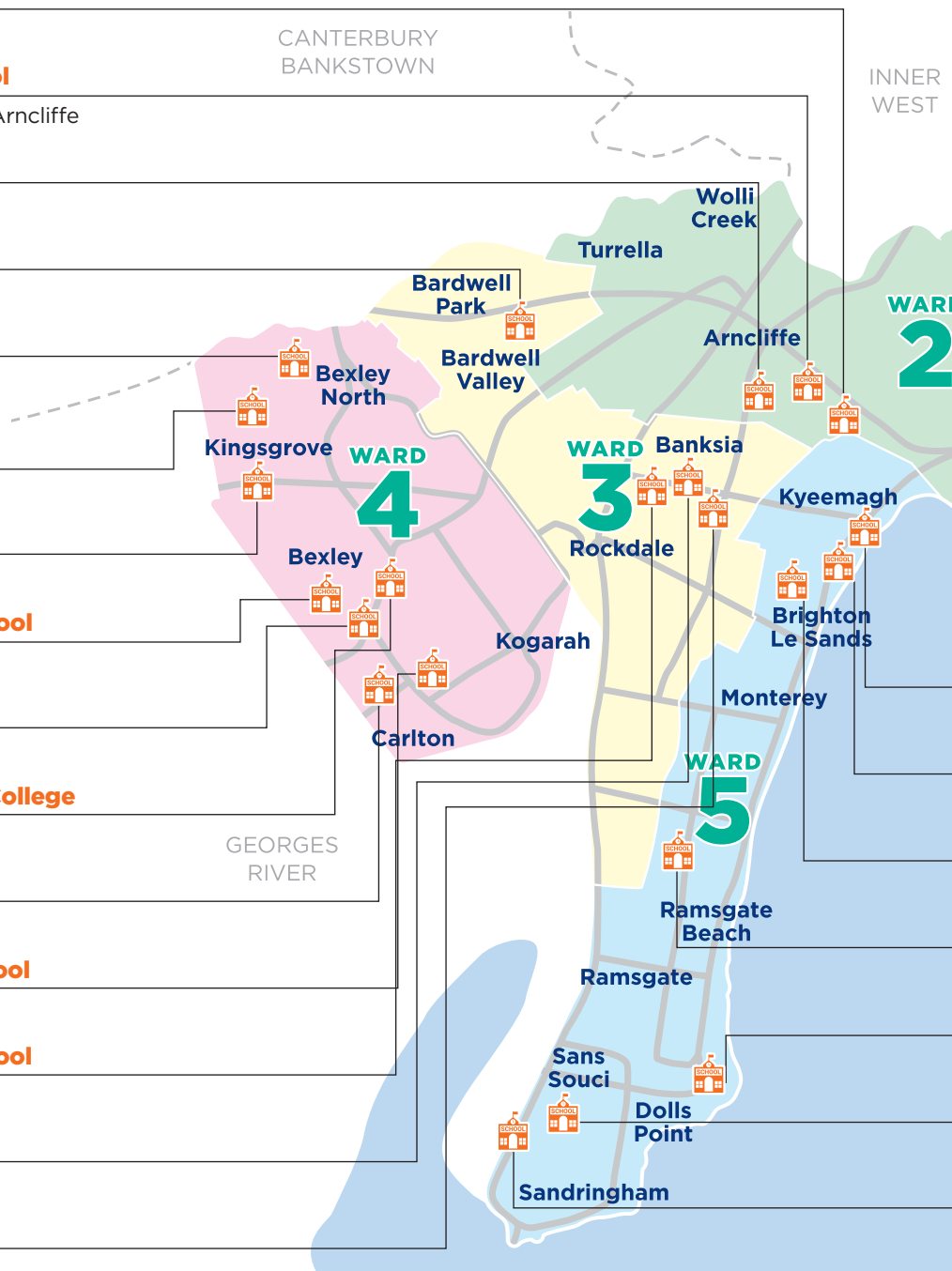
6 Parker Street, Rockdale

Rockdale Public School

6 Lord Street, Rockdale

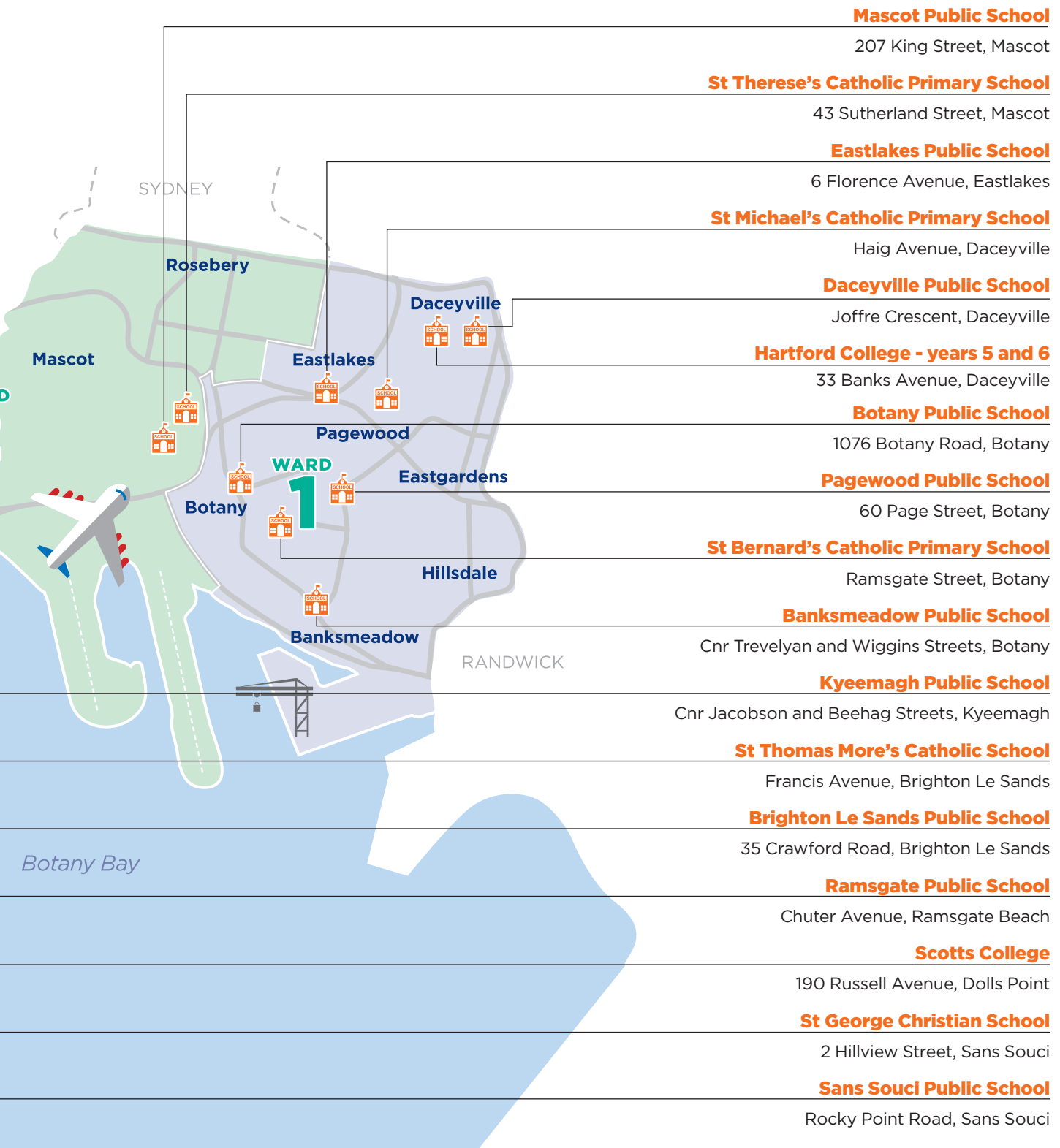
St Dominic Savlo School

280 West Botany Street, Rockdale



Primary schools are equally distributed across Bayside.

This reflects the growing population of young children and families residing in Bayside.



High Schools in Bayside

- ▶ Ward 1 has no high schools
- ▶ Ward 2 has 3 high schools
- ▶ Ward 3 has 2 high schools
- ▶ Ward 4 has 10 high schools
- ▶ Ward 5 has no high schools

There are **16** high schools in Bayside



St Ursula's College

69 Caroline Street, Kingsgrove

Kingsgrove North High School

2 St Albans Road, Kingsgrove

Kingsgrove High School

333 Kingsgrove Road, Kingsgrove

St Mary & St Mina's Orthodox College

339-377 Forest Road, Bexley

Bethany College

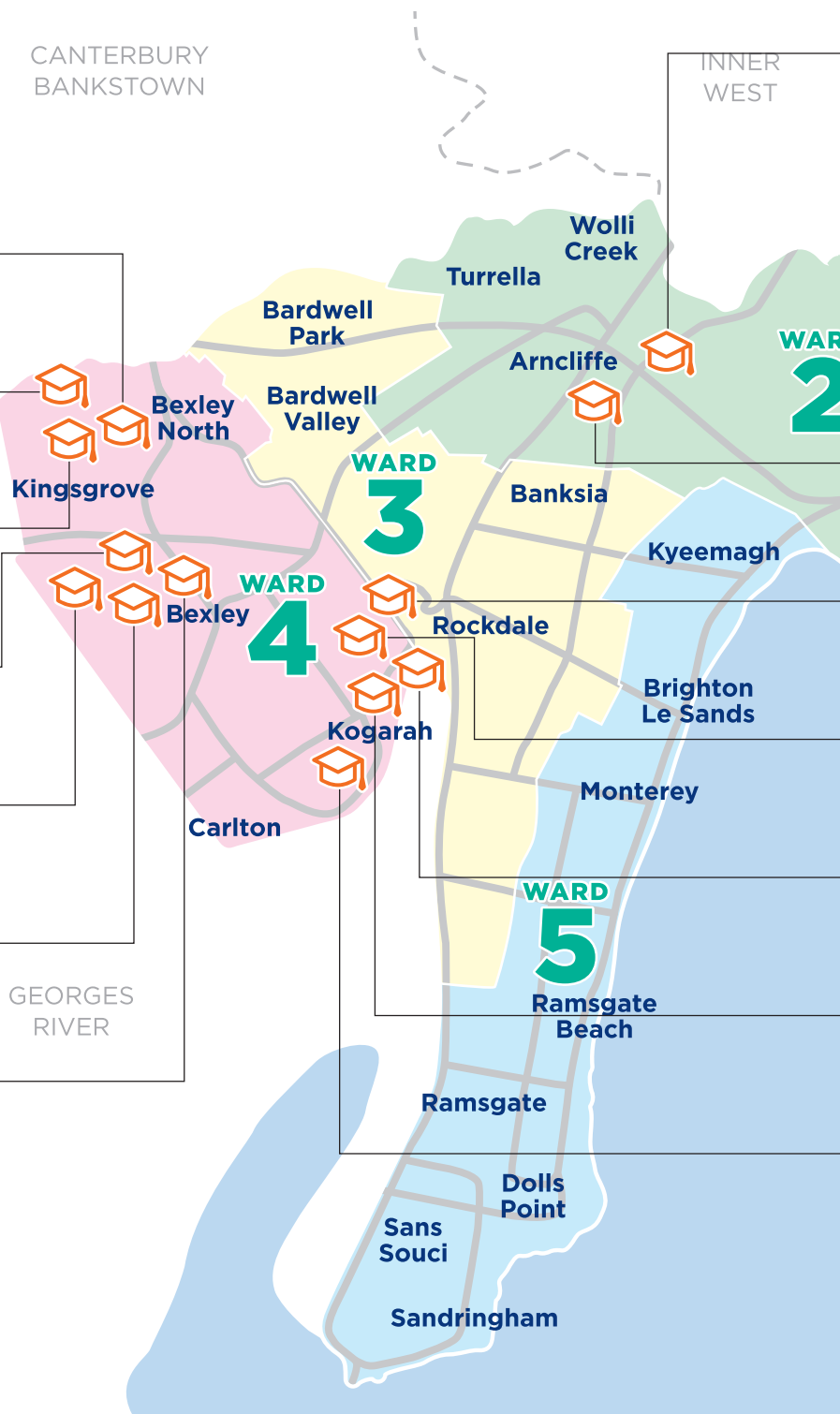
Croydon Road, Bexley

Sydney Technical High School

686 Forest Road, Bexley

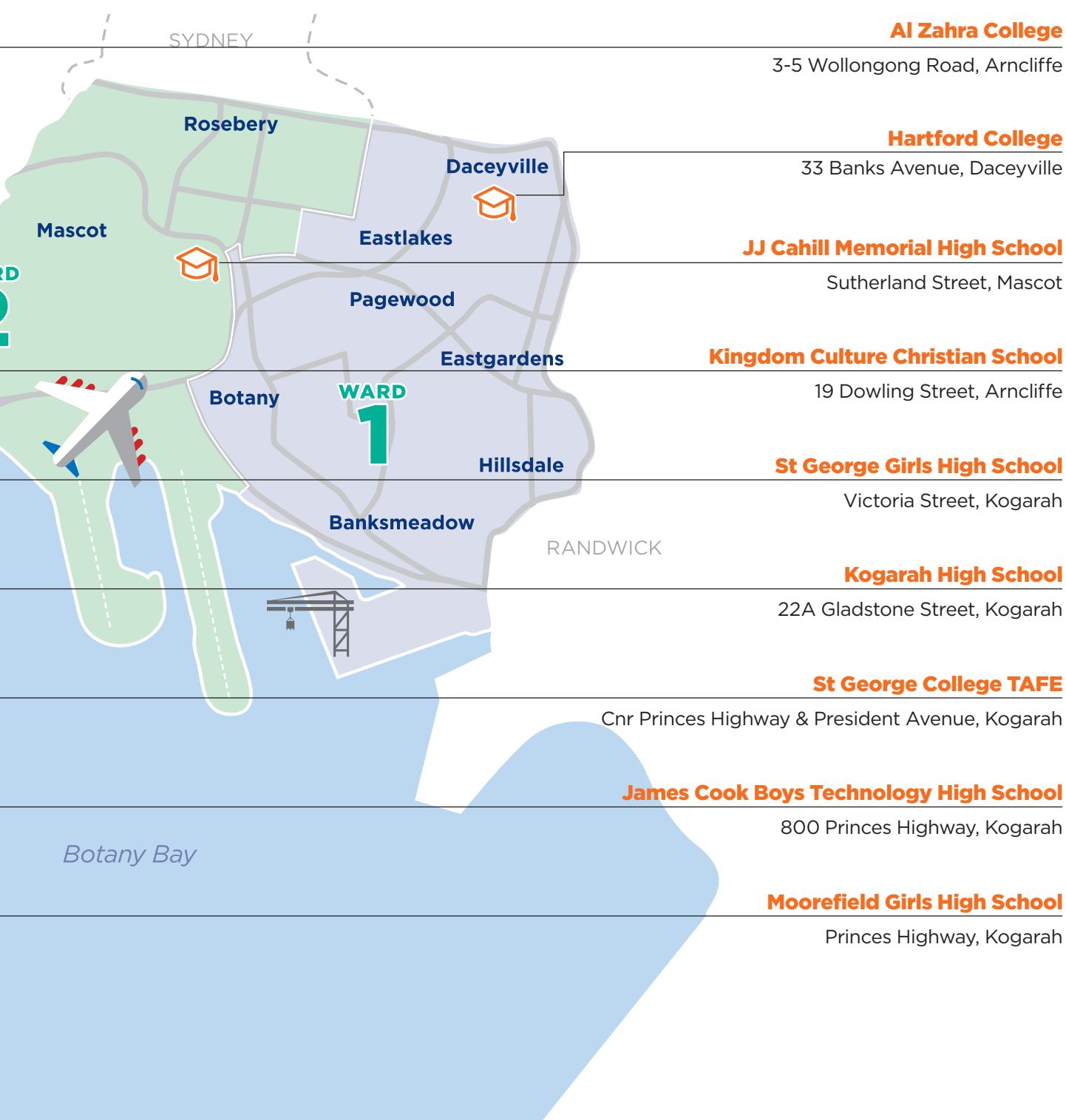
Marist College

52 Wolseley Street, Bexley



According to Profile ID's forecasting, Wards 2, 3 and 4 will emerge as the top three areas with large youth populations.

The distribution of most high schools on the map corresponds to the concentration of young people in those areas.



We currently provide a broad range of services specifically for young people including



Youth Services

- 
- 
- ▶ Arncliffe Youth Centre – Term Programs, and other events.
 - ▶ Outreach / Youth Pop-Up – Various locations across Bayside LGA.
 - ▶ School Holiday Program.
 - ▶ Youth Advisory Group (YAG).
 - ▶ Youth Week.
 - ▶ Skill-based Workshops – Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA), Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG), First Aid, White Card, etc.
 - ▶ General community services and facilities (i.e. libraries, sports fields, swimming pools, parks, outdoor spaces, recreational facilities and skateparks).

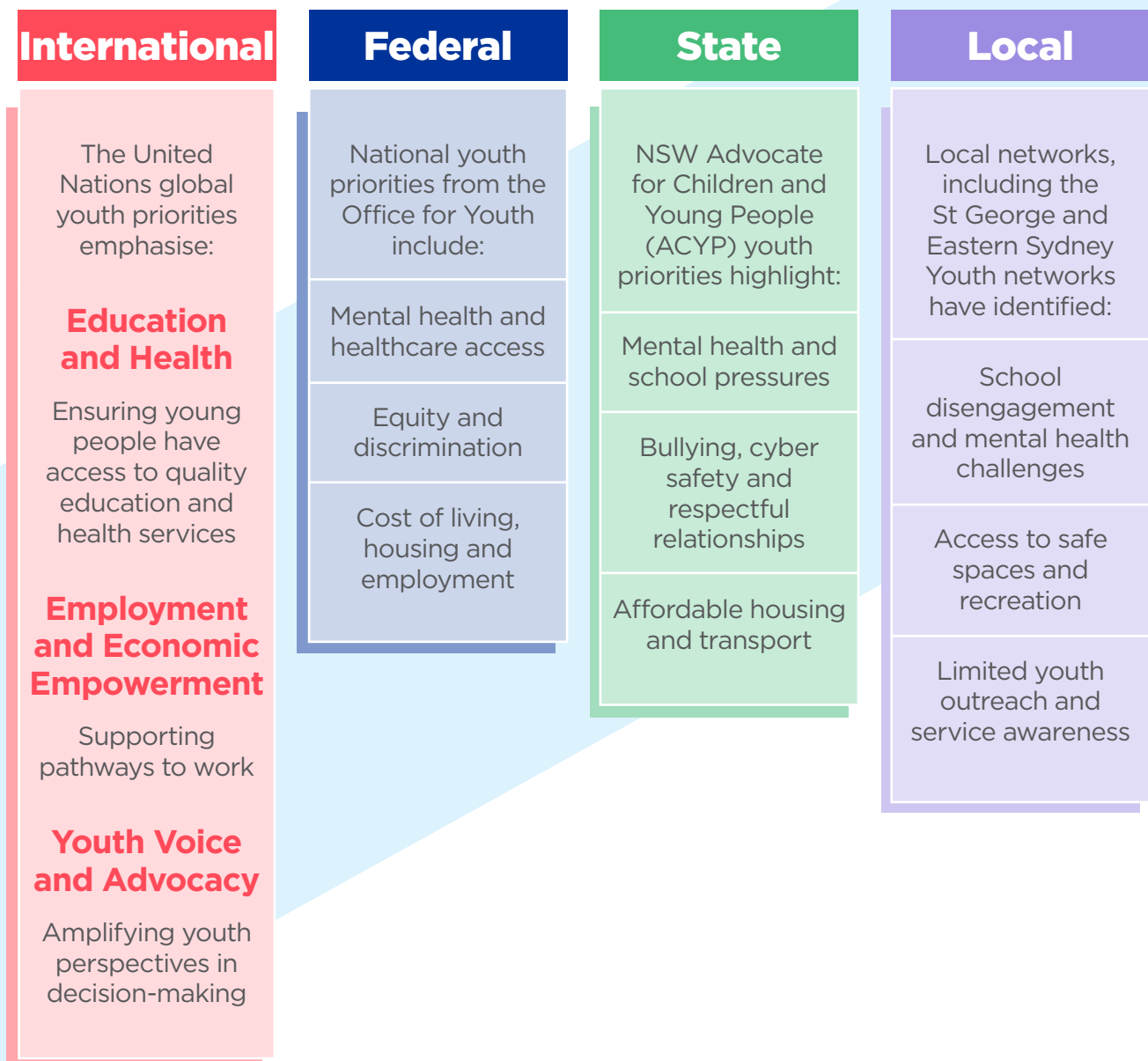
Other youth services located in Bayside:

- ▶ 2Connect – Brighton Le Sands.
- ▶ South East Community Connect (SECC) – Mascot.
- ▶ Shopfront – Carlton.
- ▶ PCYC – Rockdale and Daceyville.
- ▶ The Salvation Army – Rockdale.
- ▶ South East Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) Safe Haven (16+) – Kogarah.

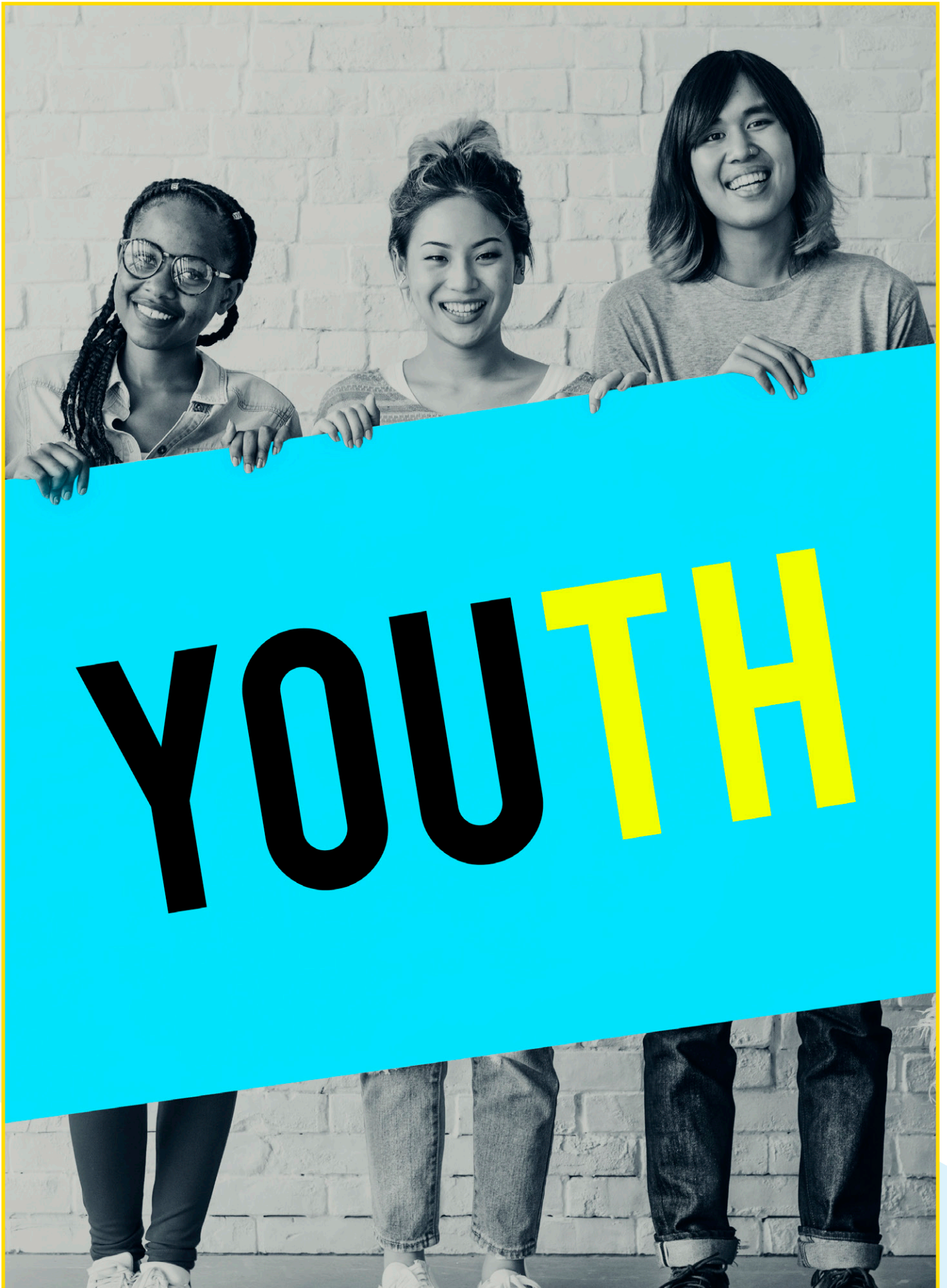


Strategic Drivers

The future direction of Youth Services is influenced by strategic priorities at international, Federal, State, and local levels.



By aligning with these strategic drivers, the Youth Plan ensures young people in our community are supported through evidence-based priorities that address evolving needs at all levels.



How We Engaged

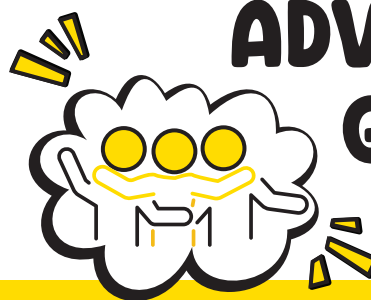


YOUTH FORUM

On Friday 28 April 2023, 38 student representatives aged 12-18 from 10 high schools across Bayside participated in a Youth Forum at Botany Town Hall.

The forum was used as a platform to consult with young people on local issues and focus areas. Discussions were centred around 4 concepts; ideas, future, opportunities they would like to see, and effective communication strategies Council can use to reach young people.

Participating schools included St. Bernard's, Banksmeadow Public, Botany Public, Daceyville Public, St Therese's Primary, Moorefield Girls High, Pagewood Public, St Michael's Catholic Primary, JJ Cahill Memorial High and Ramsgate Public.

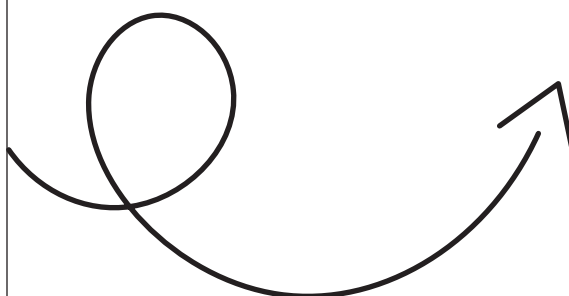


YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

On Thursday 13 July 2023, youth Advisory Group was established and made up of 15 young people from across Bayside.

Through an expression of interest process, young people shared their views on key issues facing them and what initiatives they want to see delivered by Council.

We also hosted a workshop in collaboration with Regional NSW, to engage our YAG members in a conversation, specifically focused on issues they believe are the most important for young people today, and how can the government provide support to young people.



YOUTH PROGRAMS & OUTREACH



On average the youth services team engage with 90 young people across each program week.

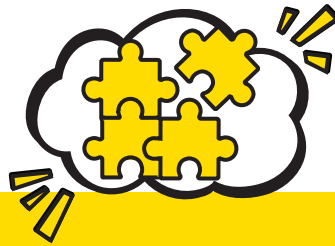
Term programs at Arncliffe Youth Centre engage young people through sports-based activities, creative arts, skill building and more.

Outreach is a mobile youth service initiative where the Youth Services Team go out in the community and engage with young people across Bayside. Locations include parks, Libraries and Council Community Centres. This could also include local or neighbouring schools to host stalls during wellbeing days.

School holiday programs include the delivery of a variety of activities, excursions, sports, arts, recreation, and skill workshops.

During programs and initiatives, our Youth Officers collect feedback from young people to help inform the development of our service delivery.

YOUTH INTERAGENCIES



Attendance and engagement at over 10 interagencies, discussing youth issues, gaps, needs and recommendations.

This includes (but not limited to):

- ➔ Eastern Sydney Youth Services Network (ESYSN)
- ➔ St George Youth Network (SGYN)
- ➔ Eastern Suburbs Referral Pathways
- ➔ St George Collaborative
- ➔ St George Youth Expo, Central and Eastern Sydney Housing Forum
- ➔ Local Government Youth Development Network (LGYDN)
- ➔ Local Government Child Safe Network and Forum
- ➔ Youth Action Meeting (YAM)
- ➔ Ad hoc meetings with other youth-related organisations

What Young People Said

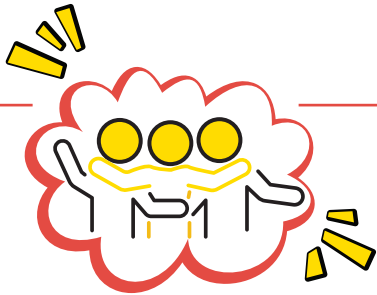
Question We Asked _____



YOUTH FORUM QUESTION



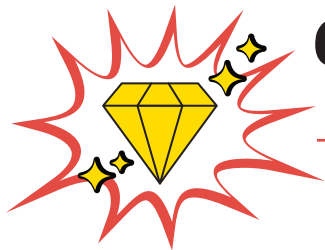
- ➔ What does Bayside offer young people?
- ➔ What would you like to see in the Bayside area?
- ➔ What do you use in the Bayside area?
- ➔ Where can we improve in the Bayside area?
- ➔ Council wants everyone to feel safe when they are out in the community – what makes you feel safe when you are out and about?
- ➔ If Council was to provide a new community space, what would you like to see in the space? And where would you like to see it?
- ➔ Bayside Council offers regular Youth programs such as drop-in, outreach and holiday programs, what could we offer for you to participate?
- ➔ Council hosts a yearly Spring Fair Event which includes a Youth Zone, what activities would you like to see in this area?
- ➔ If you were to participate in Youth Week 2024, what would you like to see Bayside provide?
- ➔ Council's Young People team provides opportunities for training such as First Aid/CPR – what training opportunities would you like to see for young people?
- ➔ Council wants to hear from young people – what is the best method to communicate with young people?
- ➔ What technology platforms can be used to interact with young people?
- ➔ If council was looking to receive feedback or suggestions on a topic. What tool would encourage you to complete this feedback?



YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

In your opinion what are the main issues impacting on Bayside's young people?

e.g. drugs and alcohol, mental health, bullying, vaping etc.



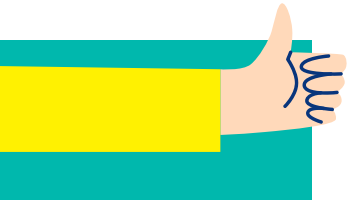
YOUTH PROGRAM FEEDBACK CENTRE-BASED

- ➔ Rate (X) your experience of the program (1 unsatisfied – 10 satisfied)
- ➔ What did you like the most about the program?
- ➔ What did you like least about the program?
- ➔ What would you like to see be included next time?

YOUTH PROGRAMS FEEDBACK OUTREACH

- ➔ What do you enjoy doing outside of School or work or personally?
- ➔ What do you believe are the main issues facing young people today?
- ➔ What would you like to see more of in the local community for young people?
- ➔ Other comments, feedback, or suggestions for Bayside Council's Youth Services.

Key Findings



What young people like about Bayside ...



Parks and open spaces



Libraries



Aquatic Centres



Youth Programs
Sports, Holidays and Training



What young people want to see more of ...



Events



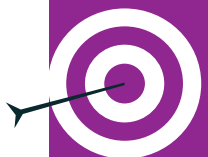
More open spaces



Social spaces with access to WI-FI
and connect with others



Fee free training opportunities
(skill development)



What challenges young people face ...

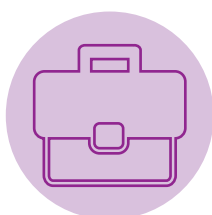


MENTAL HEALTH

coping with pressure

"There is a tendency to self-diagnose, and sometimes young people can romanticise mental health issues".

"There are so many places to go to for help, but the waitlists are still really long".



EMPLOYMENT

transition from school to employment

"Finding a job is hard, I don't have the experience they want".

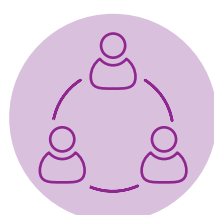
"I struggle writing a resume".



SCHOOL PRESSURE

exam and assessment stress, performance pressure and disconnected from standard curriculum

"Constant pressure to do well at school, to go to uni and get a good job".

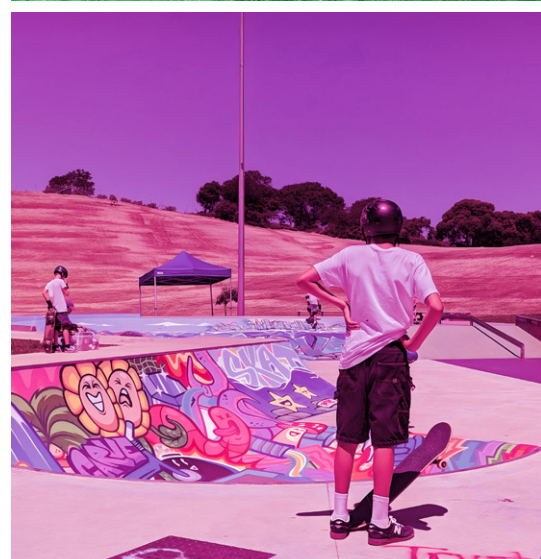


RELATIONSHIPS

connecting with peers and having safe and accessible spaces to do that

"Social media for connection can be a substitution for what they really want - real tangible friendships and meaning".

"There needs to be a middle-ground for socialisation after Covid. It can feel overwhelming to be expected to go back to school and social events all at once".







“
**MAIN
ISSUE
IS ...**

**MEETING
FRIENDS.**

**FINDING
A PLACE
THEY FEEL
LIKE THEY
FIT IN.**

”

Youth Plan Framework

The development of this Action Plan has been youth-led and includes feedback from young people across Bayside. There are four strategic focus areas to guide our future planning, decision making and actions.

FOCUS AREA



1

Connected City Sense of Belonging

Fostering a sense of belonging among young people within the community. This involves creating inclusive spaces, promoting social interaction, and facilitating opportunities for youth to engage with each other and with the broader community.

FOCUS AREA



2

Health and Wellbeing

Supporting the physical, mental, and emotional health of young people. This includes promoting healthy lifestyles and mental health support and creating environments that prioritise wellbeing and child safety.

FOCUS AREA



3

Skills and Employment

Facilitating opportunities for skill development, training, and job readiness to empower young people. By equipping young people with practical skills and connections, the aim is to increase employability and support their transition to independence.

FOCUS AREA



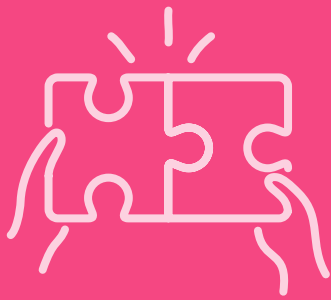
4

Places and Spaces

Enhancing recreational opportunities and community engagement to promote active participation and social interaction among young people. This includes organising diverse activities and events, such as sports programs, art workshops and other events.



Action Plan 2025 – 2028



FOCUS AREA 1

Connected City – Sense of Belonging

Fostering a sense of belonging and community among young people by promoting inclusive participation, representation, and collaboration in local initiatives.

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME		
		Y1	Y2	Y3
1.1	Review and update Council's Youth webpage and social media platform with links and contact details for support services, ensuring the information is relevant, up-to-date, and easily accessible.	X	X	X
1.2	Facilitate the collation and distribution of youth focused information and resources through various mediums to engage, educate and inform our young people, families, staff and elected members.	X	X	X
1.3	Collaborate with young people to design and deliver Youth Week activities that are inclusive and respond to their diverse interests, cultures and abilities.	X	X	X
1.4	Facilitate and support Youth Advisory Group meetings to advocate on the needs of Bayside's young people.	X	X	X
1.5	Ensure young people have the opportunity to provide input into Council projects and initiatives that impact on Young People.	X	X	X
1.6	Attend youth interagency and networking meetings to ensure Council is informed and where relevant, collaborate with the youth service sector to achieve improved outcomes for young people.	X	X	X
1.7	Develop and implement targeted engagement with young people to identify and respond to key priorities and strengthen engagement.		X	





#	ACTION	TIME FRAME		
		Y1	Y2	Y3
1.8	Strengthen relationships between school and youth services, increase visibility of youth programs within schools, and improve student understanding of available support and opportunities in the community.	X	X	X
1.9	Explore an opportunity for an inter-generational initiative between younger and older community members to improve social connectivity and skills enhancement.		X	
1.10	Promote participation of young people in the Annual Ron Rathbone Local History Competition.	X	X	X
1.11	Promote and raise the profile of young people through Bayside's Citizenship Awards and Sports Awards.	X	X	X
1.12	Investigate the introduction of a Youth Art Competition and/or Youth Category within existing Council competitions (i.e., Photography Competition), to showcase young people's creative expression and increase their visibility in community events.		X	
1.13	Identify opportunities to recognise young people in local Business Awards, including the potential for a youth-specific category or recognition of youth-led contributions.		X	
1.14	Continue to engage with the local Police and Youth Command to explore and deliver collaborative programs and initiatives that support young people's safety, wellbeing, and community connection.		X	X



FOCUS AREA 2

Health and Wellbeing

Supporting the physical, mental, and emotional health of young people through access to resources, information, community programs, and initiatives that ensure a safe environment.

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME		
		Y1	Y2	Y3
2.1	Work in partnership with service providers to deliver skill-based programs that equip young people with practical life skills to support their independence and confidence. Examples include cooking, budgeting, car maintenance, self-defence, and learner driver training.	X	X	X
2.2	Deliver initiatives in partnership with the library, schools and agencies that support young people's mental health and wellbeing during the HSC period.	X	X	X
2.3	Investigate and where feasible implement extension of library hours during HSC period to enable access to quiet study spaces, free WIFI, refreshments and HSC resources.	X		
2.4	Facilitate the delivery of targeted programs that raise awareness and educate young people about safe, healthy and respectful behaviours and relationships.	X	X	X
2.5	Engage with health and wellbeing agencies and specialist services to support young people experiencing complex social issues by providing access to early intervention programs and referral pathways. This may include mental health, respectful relationships, consent, and social-emotional wellbeing (e.g., Love Bites, mindfulness, managing stress).	X	X	X
2.6	Ensure young people understand the Child Safe Policy and Action Plan, including how to report any safety concerns.	X		
2.7	Investigate opportunities to provide subsidised access to programs or activities (e.g., swimming lessons) for vulnerable young people, such as newly arrived migrants or those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, to promote inclusion, safety and wellbeing.	X		





FOCUS AREA

3

Skills and Employment

Equipping young people with relevant skills and employment opportunities through training, workshops and promoting pathways.

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME		
		Y1	Y2	Y3
3.1	Deliver a subsidised short skills accredited courses in partnership with training providers and business sector. E.g., First Aid and CPR, Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG), etc.	X	X	X
3.2	Identify and promote volunteer, work experience, internships, apprenticeship, and other employment opportunities for young people within Council and in the local business sector.	X	X	X
3.3	Facilitate and/or promote job readiness programs to build confidence in young people seeking to secure employment.	X	X	X
3.4	Provide and promote job readiness and digital skills development programs for young people interested in technology-related fields such as gaming, social media, digital content creation, AI, and STEM, to support their pathways into emerging industries.	X	X	X
3.5	Enhance opportunities for self-expression and creativity by partnering with arts and culture to deliver creative programs that engage young people.	X	X	X
3.6	Advocate for safe and accessible transport options including public transport, bike routes and pathways.	X	X	X
3.7	Collaborate with Library Services to design and deliver programs, facilities and initiatives to support education, learning and study for young people across our Libraries.	X	X	X
3.8	Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to deliver environment and sustainability-focused workshops that build young people's knowledge and skills in this area.		X	X





FOCUS AREA

4

Places and Spaces

Providing diverse recreational and engagement opportunities to foster active participation, social interaction, and personal development among young people.

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME		
		Y1	Y2	Y3
4.1	Provide a range of recreational, social, and skill-based activities for young people at Arncliffe Youth Centre.	X	X	X
4.2	Support young people to participate in the planning, design and delivery of local public space projects such as upgrades or activations of parks, youth spaces or facilities.	X	X	X
4.3	Involve young people in the consultation and review of broader Council strategic and master plans, including open spaces and precinct planning, to ensure youth perspectives are reflected in long-term planning decisions.	X	X	X
4.4	Map and promote free recreational facilities and spaces in Bayside for young people.	X		
4.5	Identify opportunities to increase outdoor fitness stations and recreation facilities for young people.		X	
4.6	Conduct a diverse range of outreach activities and services to young people across the area.	X	X	X
4.7	Participate at Council led events to promote youth services and programs.	X	X	X





#	ACTION	TIME FRAME		
		Y1	Y2	Y3
4.8	Collect and analyse data on young people's participation in organised sport and recreational activities in Bayside to identify gaps, and opportunities for increased access and engagement.		X	
4.9	Advocate and identify opportunities to increase participation for young women in organised sport and recreation activities through engagement with local sporting bodies, clubs and community organisations.		X	
4.10	Investigate with sporting bodies opportunities for young people to develop leadership and technical skills in sport and recreation through training programs (e.g., coaching, refereeing, umpiring, Bronze Medallion, sport taping / strapping) in collaboration with sporting bodies and local clubs.		X	X
4.11	Collaboratively plan and deliver a youth festival (subject to funding) in an accessible location for young people.	X	X	X



Bayside Council
Serving Our Community

Bayside Customer Service Centres

Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, Rockdale
Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens
Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm

Phone **1300 581 299 | 9562 1666**
Email **council@bayside.nsw.gov.au**
Web **www.bayside.nsw.gov.au**