

YOUTH STRATEGY 2027-2030 ACTION PLAN

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA



VALUED, LOVED AND SAFE

We belong and feel safe

Impact Statement	Strategic Action (2027-2030)
We have access to resources and places where we feel safe, welcome and connected	Continue the progress towards a Youth hub/network of hubs as public, physical spaces for youth to belong.
	Continue to embed youth-friendly, safe and inclusive design principles across City of Ballarat spaces, facilities, events and online environments by applying existing child-safe and inclusion standards, ensuring places are welcoming, accessible, affordable and culturally safe for all young people.
	Promote and strengthen awareness of the City of Ballarat's commitment to being a Child Safe Organisation across the community and Council.
	Continue to strengthen Child Safe and Youth Friendly practices across City of Ballarat activities, spaces and services.
	Promote, deliver and advocate for professional learning opportunities to strengthen practitioner knowledge across the youth sector.
	Plan and advocate for equitable access to the social, health and youth services young people need, close to where they live.
	Celebrate and recognise young people's contributions and achievements via annual Youth Awards.

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA



IDENTITY AND CULTURE

We are respected for being ourselves

Impact Statement	Strategic Action (2027–2030)
Who we are and who we become are respected within our community	Celebrate and reflect Ballarat's young people in City of Ballarat spaces, imagery, events and decision-making by creating environments where everyone is encouraged to be themselves, protected attributes are respected and valued, and discrimination is not tolerated.
	Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in partnership, ensuring their voices, priorities and diverse community connections are respected and reflected in decisions.
	Promote respectful relationships and gender equality to help create safe and welcoming spaces for all young people.
	Deliver cultural competency, disability inclusion and LGBTIQ+ inclusion training to youth volunteers, staff, and the community on a periodic basis, where possible facilitated by people with lived experience.
	Involve young people in key inclusive community awareness days/weeks of significance activities e.g. Harmony Day, International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD), International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) and Reconciliation Action Week.
	Review and update a Youth Profile on a regular basis to better understand the demographics and needs of young people across the municipality.

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA



HEALTHY

We have the help and support to make healthy choices

Impact Statement	Strategic Action (2027–2030)
We have the tools and support to build healthy habits for life	Promote tools that provide access to information and services to young people on an accessible platform (i.e Community Directory, City of Ballarat website)
	Partner with schools, youth agencies, libraries, health services and community organisations to improve referral processes.
	Enable health literacy and everyday wellbeing by helping young people find reliable health information, recognise misinformation and know when professional help is needed.
	Promote opportunities that strengthen social connection and reduce isolation for young people, particularly those experiencing barriers to participation.
	Provide opportunities for young people to participate in active recreation, outdoor play and community wellbeing programs through partnerships with sporting clubs, peak sporting bodies and community organisations.
	Continue to deliver the Live4Life program (youth mental health and wellbeing initiative) in partnership with schools and community organisations.
	Encourage socially healthy lifestyles by providing youth events, programs and information that are free of smoking, drugs and alcohol (i.e Amplify events)

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**MATERIAL BASICS****We have the essentials that we need to thrive**

Impact Statement	Strategic Action (2027–2030)
Money, transport and access to essentials do not stop us from joining in	Partner across the municipality to create stronger pathways to employment and economic participation for young people, helping them achieve greater financial security and long-term wellbeing.
	Advocate to local services and trusted partners to make food relief, housing support, income and financial support, digital access and transport easier for young people to find and use.
	Offer a range of free (or low-cost) accessible programs, activities and events.
	Advocate to key agencies and State and Federal Governments for ongoing improvements to essential community needs, including transport, digital access, food security, and housing.

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**PARTICIPATING****Our voice changes things**

Impact Statement	Strategic Action (2027–2030)
When we speak up, Ballarat listens and action follows	Embed co-design by creating ongoing opportunities for young people to contribute to City of Ballarat projects and recognise the value of their expertise.
	Show young people how their feedback has influenced decisions and keep them informed about progress and outcomes.
	Make it easy and welcoming for all young people to participate by offering flexible ways to get involved and reaching them through a broad range of community channels.
	Promote and expand volunteering, leadership development, civic participation and community engagement opportunities for young people through programs, partnerships, accessible information, workshops and ongoing opportunities.
	Provide leadership opportunities for young people to advocate and have their voices heard.
	Play an active role in contributing to sector networking, professional development, advocacy and leadership via Youth Services Networks.
	Partner with internal departments and other community-based groups and agencies to promote and/or deliver activities and/or events that encourage intergenerational connection within our community.
	Empower young people to identify, champion and lead action on the issues that matter most to them and their community.
	Encourage and support a range of youth-led events and activities.

STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA



Learning

LEARNING

We are well-equipped to decide our own futures

Impact Statement	Strategic Action (2027–2030)
We can see real pathways into skills, work, independence, community connection and a future that works for us	Collaborate with employers, TAFE, schools, community organisations and creative industries to link short credentials, work exposure and local opportunities.
	Expand or partner to provide practical life skills opportunities that help young people build confidence for independent adult life.
	Create more accessible pathways for young people to gain work experience, volunteering, mentoring and entry-level opportunities through City of Ballarat and its partners.
	Develop paid pathway opportunities for young people within events, programs, workshops etc.

The actions and initiatives identified in this Action Plan will be delivered through existing Council services, approved operational budgets and existing staff resources. No additional funding allocations are required at the time of adoption. Any future initiatives requiring additional resources will be considered through Council's annual planning and budget processes.