CITY OF ROCKINGHAM

Community Plan Strategy

Strategy for Early Years, Children and Young People
2024-2030

July 2024

Alternative Formats

This publication is available in alternative formats on request from the City of Rockingham on 9528 0333 or at customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au.

Community Engagement

Admin use only: Please select all special interest groups that may be interested in this strategy. Groups selected will be notified using Rock Port.

☒ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
☒ Arts and Events
☐ Coastal and Marine Environment
☒ Community Development
☒ Community Safety
☒ Disability Access and Inclusion
☐ Economic Development
☐ Emergency Management
☐ Environmental Interests
☐ Grants
☐ Heritage
☐ Karnup District Structure Plan
☒ Libraries and Education
☐ Local Planning Strategy

☒ New Community Plan Strategies
☐ New Infrastructure Projects
☐ Planning and Development
☐ Roads and Footpaths
☐ Safety Bay / Shoalwater Foreshore Revitalisation Masterplan
☐ Seniors Facilities and Activities
☒ Sporting Clubs and Facilities
☒ Strategic Community Planning
☐ Tenders and Quotations
☐ Tourism
☒ Volunteering
☐ Waste and Recycling
☒ Youth

Disability Access and Inclusion

Admin use only: Please consider identify the elements from the City's current Disability and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) and identify those that are relevant to, or will be impacted by this strategy as per the table below. If you would like to discuss the impacts and relevance of the DAIP to your strategy, please contact the Manager Community Capacity Building.

The Seven Outcome Areas of the DAIP	Will the Key Element be impacted by this strategy? "Y" or "N"	If "Y", please explain how the actions under this element will be impacted by this strategy
1. Access to City services and events	Y	All services and events will be made accessible through appropriate venue and communication channel choices.
2. Access to City buildings and facilities (including outdoor spaces)	Y	All facilities will be assessed for their accessibility features.
3. Access to information	Y	A range of communication tools and channels will be utilised.
4. Access to quality service from City staff	Y	All City staff undergo professional development and awareness raising opportunities to be best placed to provide quality service.
5. Access to equal complaints procedures	N	
6. Access to participation in public consultation	Y	All consultation opportunities will be widely communicated and promoted.
7. Access to City employment opportunities	N	

Acknowledgement of Country

Rockingham, ngala kaaditj moondang-ak kaaradjiny nidja boodja, Binjareb wer Whadjuk Nyoongar moort, wer baalabang kalyogool dandjoo boodja, kep wer moort.

The City of Rockingham acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Binjareb and Whadjuk Nyoongar peoples and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.

The City acknowledges that it sits on the boundary of the Whadjuk and Binjareb Nyoongar peoples territories. Given the many plentiful resources in the area particularly around the lakes system, the land and water has sustained many people over many thousands of years.

Consultant Acknowledgment

The City would like to acknowledge Ms Tania Hudson and Ms Sonia Nolan of Sonia Nolan Communications for their work on the research and community engagement components of the Strategy Development Process.

Contents

The Strategy

Executive Summary

The previous Children and Young People Strategy (2018 – 2023) was the first iteration to focus on both children (0 – 11 years) and young people (12 – 24 years), with earlier versions focusing solely on programs and services for young people. This approach acknowledged that the early stages of a person's life directly impact how young people make decisions about their lives, their beliefs and their behaviours. It reflected that early intervention needs to be viewed as a priority in achieving positive outcomes for young people later in life.

The new Strategy (2024 – 2030) builds upon this approach, now highlighting 'early years' as a distinct focus, and acknowledging that this demographic differs from 'children'. As a result, the title has been changed to Strategy for Early Years, Children and Young People 2024-2030.

The Strategy is also now split into two parts, with Part One (A) focusing on Early Years (ages 0 – 5) and Children (ages 6 – 11), and Part Two (B) focusing on Young People (ages 12 – 24). This acknowledges the differing approaches required for each cohort. While early years and children sectors typically engage parents, caregivers, and stakeholders, youth sectors primarily interact directly with young people for a variety of programs and services. Each demographic also presents unique target groups, engagement methods and community trends. Despite these differences, integrating both sections into one strategy was still deemed vital, as early intervention and positive childhood experiences are seen as key contributors to achieving outcomes for young people later in life.

The City's role is to build community capacity, increase knowledge and awareness and seek to address identified service gaps. This process will be undertaken through identifying and developing partnerships and networks with government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, service providers, and community groups to achieve desired outcomes.

The development of this Strategy was informed by community consultation and research, with a number of key themes and topics emerging. These included:

- Supporting early development and learning
- Building resilience through capacity building
- Fostering a sense of belonging
- Building the skills of parents and caregivers
- Advocating for the needs of 0-24 year olds
- Nurturing development of young people's skills and interests
- Supporting positive mental health and ensuring that young people are able to actively participate in their community.

In order to address these key themes, and taking into account a range of research findings as well as the City's role as a Local Government Authority, the new Strategy for Early Years, Children and Young People 2024-2030 comprises the following key elements:

Part One (A) - Early Years and Children – Key Elements:

1A. **Early Development, Learning and Belonging:** Providing opportunities for children and their families to obtain knowledge, develop skills, acknowledge children's interdependence with others, build trusting relationships and make sense of the world.

2A. **Strong Families:** Building the capacity and resilience of parents and families by providing relevant and appropriate opportunities which focus on developing safe and secure parenting skills, and social connections.

3A. **Thriving Communities and Sector Support:** Continuation of working collaboratively with government agencies, not for profit organisations, service providers and community groups to foster a cohesive, accessible and sustainable early years and children sector.

Part Two (B) – Young People – Key Elements:

1B. **Inclusion and Diversity:** Ensuring events, spaces and activities are safe, welcoming, and celebrate diversity.

2B. **Social Connection and Resilience:** Ensuring young people have access to social activities and programs, are educated about supportive and healthy relationships, and are supported to develop their resilience.

3B. **Engagement and Participation:** Supporting young people to engage in education, employment and training, engaging them in decision making, and providing opportunities to ensure their voices are heard.

4B. **Community Education and Awareness:** Continuing to raise awareness of support services, sharing information, addressing priority areas, supporting the sector, and celebrating the positive contributions of young people.

The Implementation Plan sections of this Strategy (one for each part) outline a range of ongoing and new actions that align with these key elements. These actions will be implemented over the duration of the Strategy.

Strategic Objective

The strategic objective of the Strategy for Early Years, Children and Young People 2024-2030 is:

> *'The City will continue to support an environment where Rockingham's children and young people, from birth through to adulthood, are highly valued and engaged members of the community'.*

The Strategy for Early Years, Children and Young People 2024-2030 aligns with the following aspirations of the City's Strategic Community Plan 2023 – 2033:

Aspiration 1: Social - A family-friendly, safe and connected community

1. Connected community: Provide opportunities for community engagement and participation
2. Community Health and Wellbeing: Reinforce a strong sense of safety
3. Community Health and Wellbeing: Strengthen community health and wellbeing
4. Community Health and Wellbeing: Provide healthy lifestyle opportunities
5. Accessible services: Adapt services to meet changing community needs
6. Inclusive community: Build connectivity with our diverse community

Aspiration 2: Natural Environment - A place of natural beauty where the environment is respected

1. Sustainable natural green spaces: Improve community open spaces

Aspiration 3: Built Environment - A built environment carefully planned for today and tomorrow

1. Built infrastructure meets current and future community needs: Plan, build and maintain current and future assets
2. Plan for sustainable growth: Create safe community places to live, recreate and work
3. Accessible and connected: Plan and advocate for transport solutions

Aspiration 5: Leadership - Transparent and accountable leadership and governance

1. Quality leadership: Active advocacy for the community
2. Quality leadership: Provide community communication and facilitate engagement opportunities

Measuring Success

Implementation Plan actions will be measured utilising a range of evaluation techniques such as:

- City of Rockingham Population Health Profile ID
- Community Development Measurement Model
- Annual Resident Perception Survey
- Uptake of programs, services and events
- Budget expenditure
- Feedback
- Organisational partnerships.

Progress updates will be provided to Council through monthly Bulletins.

To ensure suitability of proposed actions, a minor review of the strategy will be undertaken and reported to Council following the completion of year three of the strategy, being 2026/2027 financial year.

Risk Management

A review of strategy planning and implementation risks has been conducted in line with the City's Risk Management Framework. The project management and customer service program/event risks are either at a low or medium level and will be managed by City staff as part of the planning and implementation of the Strategy for Early Years, Children and Young People. This is in line with the City's Risk Management requirements.

Two Operational Risks have been identified as medium and have been outlined below.

Risk	#1214	*City staff or program participants sustain serious injuries due to inadequate risk management during youth programs. In particular, when working with young people displaying antisocial behaviour.*
Overall risk level	Medium	**Impact area**	Personal health and safety
Action Required	Ensure that all Youth Development programs are adequately resourced with trained staff. Appropriate ratios of staff to young people are adhered to. All staff receive training to mitigate these risks.

Risk	#1215	*Cessation of funding from Department of Communities funding for at risk youth outreach.*
Overall risk level	Medium	**Impact area**	Financial
Action Required	Continue to ensure that youth outreach services are provided in accordance with Department of Communities contracts. All reporting requirements are to be met. Advocacy for additional funding will also occur, building on the current success.

Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation Methods

Throughout October and November 2023, the City undertook extensive community consultation and engagement with a range of external stakeholders including service providers, community groups, young people, state government agencies and community members. This included:

- Seven Focus Groups:
    - Kwinana Rockingham Action for Today's Youth with 12 attendees
    - Rockingham Early Years Group with 15 attendees
    - Two Junior Council sessions, with 20 attendees
    - Two Your Say events with 40 attendees
    - Rockingham Youth Reference Group with 12 attendees
- 14 one-on-one interviews with representatives from 10 organisations
- Teddy Bears' Picnic attracting 30 responses
- Online survey for young people attracting 94 responses
- Online survey for service providers and schools attracting 6 responses
- Online survey for community members attracting 86 responses
- Penny for your Thoughts initiative attracting 5,481 votes
- Two internal sessions with 32 attendees

The City also utilised relevant feedback from the recent community consultation process for the City's Strategic Community Plan 2023 – 2033.

Stakeholder Consultation List

Acronym	Stakeholder	Internal/External
CSSS	Community Safety and Support Services	Internal
CIP	Community Infrastructure Planning	Internal
CCB	Community Capacity Building	Internal
AS	Asset Services	Internal
LIS	Library and Information Services	Internal
SMC	Strategy, Marketing and Communications	Internal
CELT	Compliance and Emergency Liaison	Internal
GMS	General Management Services	Internal
OFS	Operations and Fleet Services	Internal
PDS	Planning and Development Services	Internal
CaLF	Community and Leisure Facilities	Internal
CS	Corporate Services	Internal

Acronym	Stakeholder	Internal/External
SP	Strategic Planning	Internal
IT	Information Technology	Internal
ED	Economic Development	Internal
CD	Community Development	Internal
HRD	Human Resource Development	Internal
RVC	Rockingham Volunteer Centre	Internal
DoT	Department of Transport	External
DLGSC	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	External
DC	Department of Communities	External
MHWA	Mentally Healthy WA	External
VWA	Volunteering WA	External

Key Stakeholders invited to participate

Key Stakeholders invited to participate	Contributed ? (Yes/No)	Engagement method used
City of Rockingham Internal Teams	Yes	Workshops One on One consultation
Community members	Yes	Community Consultation workshop Survey Penny for your Thoughts Jars
Young people	Yes	Focus Group Survey
Junior Council	Yes	Focus Group
Rockingham Youth Reference Group	Yes	Focus Group
Local Schools	Yes	Focus Group Stakeholder Survey
Rockingham Early Years Group	Yes	Focus Group Stakeholder Survey
Kwinana Rockingham Action For Today's Youth	Yes	Focus Group Stakeholder Survey
Anglicare WA	Yes	One on One Interview
Department of Communities	Yes	One on One Interview
Headspace	Yes	One on One Interview
Kwinana Early Years Support	Yes	One on One Interview
Ngala	Yes	One on One Interview
Police and Community Youth Centres (PCYC)	Yes	One on One Interview
Playgroup WA	Yes	One on One Interview

Key Stakeholders invited to participate	Contributed? (Yes/No)	Engagement method used
Wanslea	Yes	One on One Interview
Youth Affairs Council	Yes	One on One Interview
Valuing Children Initiative	Yes	One on One Interview
Community Health – Child Adolescent Services	No	One on One Interview
Department of Education	No	One on One Interview
Multicultural Futures	No	One on One Interview
Youth Disability Advocacy Network (YDAN)	No	One on One Interview
YouthCare	No	One on One Interview
Youth Centre at Kwinana	No	Focus Group
Youth Centre at Mandurah	No	Focus Group

Part One (A) – Early Years and Children (Aged 0 – 11 years)

1A. Background

1.1A. International Context

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) emphasises the critical importance of safeguarding and enhancing children's health. Notably, 43% of children worldwide fail to reach their full developmental potential, facing challenges such as violence, abuse, and neglect. According to WHO, investing in children yields significant societal benefits, with a return on investment of up to $20 for each dollar spent, for certain interventions. Improved health and well-being during childhood not only benefits individuals across their lifespan, but also future generations.

Parts of this are relevant at the local level, and the City has opportunity to highlight the importance of early development through a range of workshops and other programs for children and families.

Physical Health and Wellbeing

WHO notes that childhood obesity rates have significantly increased, with the prevalence of overweight or obese children and adolescents increasing from 4% to 18% between 1975 and 2016, affecting 340 million individuals, including 39 million under the age of five. WHO identifies children's exposure to harmful commercial marketing, particularly for fast food and sugary beverages, as a significant health concern. WHO found that some countries subject children to up to 30,000 TV advertisements annually.

WHO also acknowledges that regular physical activity is vital for disease prevention, mental well-being, and overall quality of life. However, global estimates reveal that 81% of adolescents do not engage in sufficient physical activity, a trend exacerbated by technological advancements and sedentary behaviours. To address this, WHO has developed a Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030, outlining policy actions to support and increase physical activity across all settings. WHO's Make Every School a Health-promoting School initiative also engages health and education stakeholders worldwide to enhance health and educational outcomes.

Similar concepts are noted in later parts of this strategy, in relation to the Rockingham area. With this in mind, the City has capacity to influence positive outcomes by continuing to provide a range of recreation spaces and programs, and leisure facilities, as well as working directly with local sporting clubs and community groups to facilitate active inclusion, sports participation and healthy lifestyles.

UNICEF

In 2018, WHO, UNICEF, and the World Bank Group, along with other partners, launched Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development, aiming to ensure children's survival and optimal development. This framework emphasises the critical period from pregnancy to age three, which shapes lifelong health, well-being, and productivity. It also considers community participation and recognising diverse needs as essential. UNICEF defines nurturing care as encompassing nutrition, health, early learning, security, and responsive caregiving.

Through continued partnerships with the Rockingham Early Years Group and provision of free parenting workshops, the City can continue to build community awareness and parenting skills, and this is expanded upon later in this strategy.

Investing in Early Years

Investing in early childhood development yields significant long-term benefits. By age three, a child's brain is 90% developed, with peak responsiveness to language, numeracy, and social skills before age four. Studies show interventions, especially for at-risk children, lead to improved economic, social, and health outcomes. The Heckman Equation supports this, emphasising the value of early childhood education for disadvantaged children. Professor Heckman's research underscores the importance of nurturing, learning experiences, and health in breaking cycles of disadvantage, offering a high societal return on investment.

1.2A. National Context

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

Over the past 12 years, the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) has conducted five studies, with the latest report produced in 2021. This census assesses early childhood development across five domains: physical health and well-being, social competencies, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills (school-based), and communication skills and general knowledge.

Throughout this period, approximately 1.5 million children were monitored, revealing various changes across these domains. Encouragingly, improvements have been observed in language and cognitive skills, and emotional maturity domains. However, there have been some concerning trends, with an increase in the percentage of children classified as developmentally vulnerable in physical health and well-being.

The 2021 data indicates a slight decrease in the overall percentage of children deemed developmentally on track compared to 2018. Additionally, efforts to address disparities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are ongoing, with initiatives like Closing the Gap aiming to improve outcomes. Despite progress, recent years have seen slight reversals in certain domains, highlighting the need for continued attention to early childhood development initiatives.

Data relevant to the City of Rockingham is discussed further along within the State level context.

The National Early Years Strategy Summit and Early Years Strategy

The National Early Years Summit held in February 2023, at Australian Parliament House, focused on ways to optimise the start of Australian children's lives. It gathered stakeholders, including parents, community organisations, academics and government officials. Led by the Hon. Amanda Rishworth MP and the Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP, the Summit contributed to shaping the Australian Early Years Strategy, focusing on the first five years of a child's life and family support. Key themes included support for children, parents, and communities, inclusivity for First Nations peoples and those with disabilities, and ensuring accountability in Commonwealth public policy. The Strategy, aiming for coordinated Commonwealth programs and resources, received submissions from various organisations, with the stakeholder consultation report released in late 2023.

Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care

The South Australian Government established the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care in October 2022 to gather insights from diverse stakeholders. Chaired by former Prime Minister Julia Gillard, it focused on proposing forward-looking solutions. The Commission investigated:

- Support for families in the first 1,000 days of a child's life
- Delivery of quality preschool programs for three and four-year-olds
- Access to out-of-school hours care for all families.

The final report, released in August 2023, outlined 43 recommendations. Key themes included enhancing access to quality services, tailoring support to individual needs, and improving coordination among service providers. Recommendations aimed to increase preschool access, improve service quality, and position South Australia as a leader in early childhood development.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was initiated by then Prime Minister Julia Gillard in 2012, concluding with the release of its final report in 2018. The Commission's 409 recommendations, along with additional suggestions, covered diverse areas such as institutional reforms, child safety measures, redress mechanisms, and support services. It urged governments and institutions to implement child-safe practices and provide adequate support for survivors. State and Local Government Authorities work together to address this area, and it is noted that at this stage there is no legislative requirement for local governments to action recommendations.

Playgroup Australia

Playgroup Australia collaborates with partners nationwide to deliver various programs, including those funded by the Commonwealth Government. These initiatives aim to support families and children, as outlined below:

- Children and Parenting Support (CaPS): Volunteer-led community playgroups offer peer support, social interaction, and play-based activities for healthy child development.

- PlayConnect: Facilitated playgroups cater to families with children aged 0-6 with autism or communication needs.

- Play and Learn Supported (PALS) inclusive playgroups: These inclusive sessions bring together children with and without disabilities to foster connections and awareness.

- PlayTogether: A project enhancing the inclusivity of community playgroups for all families, especially those with additional needs.

In 2021-22, Playgroup Australia facilitated over 103,000 community playgroup sessions, including groups tailored to diverse demographics like non-English speakers, children with disability, and LGBTQI+ parents. They also supported playgroups for children with autism in 40 locations and promoted inclusive playgrounds in 25 locations.

Minderoo Foundation – Thrive by Five

The Minderoo Foundation supports the Thrive by Five initiative, aiming to improve Australia's early learning childcare system's quality and accessibility. The Foundation emphasises:

- Engagement with families from birth
- Integration of multi-disciplinary providers targeting various factors
- A three-year approach for literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional development
- Local-driven initiatives to meet community needs
- A holistic leadership approach with collaborative planning among sectors.

Achievements in the past decade include:

- Initiating a 10-year partnership with the WA Government for the Early Years Initiative
- Launching the Bright Tomorrows app for parents and carers
- Establishing CoLab – Collaborate for Kids with the Telethon Kids Institute
- Presenting eight recommendations for early childhood reform to the Prime Minister
- Forming partnerships with 100 community, government, research, and philanthropic organisations.

Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ANZCCG)

The ANZCCG comprises national, state, and territory children and young people commissioners, guardians, and advocates, working to promote the safety, wellbeing, and rights of children and young people. Recently, there has been a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, with the adoption of 11 priorities in April 2023, developed by First Nations commissioners, guardians, and advocates. These priorities include advocating for a National Commissioner for Indigenous children's rights, supporting the implementation of the Uluru Statement, influencing the national Closing the Gap agenda, and strengthening the national Indigenous community-controlled sector.

1.3A. State Context

Commissioner for Children and Young People

The WA Commissioner for Children and Young People oversees the welfare of all individuals under 17 and advocates for their rights. The Commission's 2023 Profile of Children and Young People in WA offers a comprehensive overview of those aged 0-17, including wellbeing indicators, policies, and recommendations. For example:

- Children and young people constitute 23% of WA's population, about 634,000 individuals, with a notable 17% increase in those aged 6-17.

- Around 25% of children reside in regional and remote areas. Gender distribution is 51.5% male and 48.5% female. Over the past decade, the 0-17 age group has grown by over 11%, primarily in the 6-11 age range.

- Birth rates rose to 34,300 in 2021, with mothers and fathers having median ages of 31.6 and 33.6 years, respectively. Aboriginal births increased significantly over two decades, reaching 8.5% of all births in 2021, with a median maternal age of 25.8.

- The metropolitan area houses 75.4% of 0-17-year-olds, while 15.8% are in regional and 8.8% in remote areas. Disability statistics from 2018 indicate 43,600 children (7.5% of the population) had reported disabilities.

- In 2021, 84.9% of children were Australian-born. Single-parent families constituted 16.6% of households, with the majority led by females (79.9%).

The Commissioner approximates 105,000 children and young individuals in WA are in poverty, and that in 2021–22, 6,802 children aged 0-17 sought homelessness services, with family and domestic violence being the primary cause.

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) – WA Data

According to the 2021 AEDC, 20.3% of WA children entering primary school were assessed as vulnerable in one or more developmental domains - a slight increase from 19.4% in 2018, although still less than the national average of 22.0%. In the Kimberley region, there's a high proportion of children vulnerable in multiple domains. In metropolitan areas like Gosnells, Kalamunda, and Kwinana, there have been increases in vulnerability since 2018. The vulnerability rate in Rockingham (21.2%) is higher than WA's average but lower than the national average. Overall, Rockingham has seen a 1.8% increase in vulnerability since 2018.

Children in care: Youth Justice System

At 30 June 2022, there were 5,093 children and young people in out-of-home care in WA, more than half of whom (58.0%) were Aboriginal. From 30 June 2021 to 30 June 2022, the number of Aboriginal children and young people in care decreased by 3.3% and the number of non- Aboriginal children and young people in care decreased by 6.6% in the same period.

On an average day in 2020–21, there were 453 children and young people aged 10-17 years under youth justice supervision in WA, with the majority (79.5%) being supervised in the community. This represented a reduction in the number of children

and young people under supervision by the youth justice system from 2019–20 to 2020–21.

While the number of Aboriginal children and young people in detention has decreased over the past decade, the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in detention has increased. In the period 2011-2012, around 69.9% of children and young people in detention were Aboriginal, compared to 75.5% in 2020–21.

Government Departments and Agencies

In response to COVID-19, WA government departments have focused on mental health challenges. The Government of Western Australia's Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) established the state-wide Paediatric and Adolescent Remote Care (SPARC) Service to support COVID-19 positive children with chronic conditions and their families. Over the past decade, CAHS experienced a 59% increase in demand, particularly in paediatric services (109%), occupational therapy (103%), and clinical psychology (85%). Key departmental issues include aging community facilities, an inquiry into the Perth Children's Hospital, and supporting children with mental health issues.

The Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children, and Adolescents was established in 2021 to improve mental health services. Its report is being implemented to enhance outcomes. CAHS is constructing purpose-built facilities in Midland and Murdoch and collaborating with the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation to build WA's first children's hospice, set to open in 2024.

In addition, the Government of Western Australia Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) offers support, advice, and treatment for youth and families facing a range of mental health issues and associated disorders.

Department of Education

In 2021, the Department's School of Special Educational Needs: Sensory, supported 2,532 public and non-government school students and provided early intervention for 146 children aged 0 to 4 with hearing loss, vision impairment, or both. Five metropolitan language development centres delivered intensive language intervention programs to 1,327 students with diagnosed language disorders and supported teachers of young students with speech and language difficulties state-wide.

As of June 30, 2022, the Department aided 14,783 students through individual disability allocations to public schools. Additionally, teaching and learning adjustments were offered to 20.5% of public school Pre-primary to Year 12 students with disability. In 2021, an average of 376.7 full-time equivalent school psychologists supported school staff in various areas, including student behaviour, learning, mental health, and emergency management.

Anecdotal evidence and news articles indicate an increase in student violence and bullying in classrooms. This has led to challenges with school staff attraction and retention as well as student school attendance rates. The City is well placed to partner with the Department of Education in providing support to students.

Early Years Partnership (EYP)

The WA Government (Departments of Communities, Health and Education) is partnering with the Minderoo Foundation to improve child wellbeing and school readiness. The partnership is initially being developed in four communities - Armadale West (metro), Central Great Southern - comprising the Shires of Katanning, Kojonup, Gnowangerup and Broomehill-Tambellup (regional), Derby (remote) and Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community (remote Aboriginal community). The Partnership is based on the belief that a child's development from conception to age four is a critical period when foundations for lifetime learning, health and behaviour are formed.

1.4A. City of Rockingham Context

With a growing population of young families, children aged 0-11 represent a significant demographic, encompassing approximately 23,229 people of the City's population. The 10-14 age group saw the most growth since 2016, with an increase of 1,688 residents. Projections indicate a further increase in children aged 0-11 over the next two decades, despite challenges posed by the current housing crisis and economic pressures.

The City plays a crucial role in supporting children and families, through various initiatives spanning parks, facilities provision, libraries services, events, community capacity building, sector networking, workshops and more. As shown in the Community Consultation and Findings (section 1.6, page 21), many key issues and trends outlined in the preceding research sections are relevant to the City of Rockingham, and therefore underpin actions in this strategy.

1.5A. The City's Role

Programs and events

The City does not provide specialised services or facilities such as hospitals, medical centres, counselling, emergency relief or other specialised family-related support services. The City's role in supporting early years and children is focused on community capacity building, providing appropriate programs, and working collaboratively with the sector to raise awareness of prominent issues. Through this approach, the City also develops key networks to assist with future programming, and can provide a conduit to community referral and information services. The City is also active in shaping the physical environment to help facilitate a range of early years and community outcomes, including community facilities and public open spaces.

To support early childhood development, the City implements numerous programs and resources, including the Rockingham Early Years Group, Be School Ready campaigns, and free family-friendly events like Children's Week. Moreover, the City provides free professional development workshops, diverse library programming, and literacy campaigns like Paint Rockingham REaD – all of which incorporate key focuses on early years, children and families.

Accessibility remains a priority, with the City offering inclusive options for major events and facilities, such as Sensory Santa and Toy Library accessible toys. Additionally, initiatives like Auslan-interpreted Story Time events and Virtual Reality headsets cater to diverse needs within the community, ensuring equitable access to services and activities for children and families.

Rockingham Junior Council

The Junior Council is the starting point for young people in Rockingham to be involved in a leadership program. One year six student from each primary school in the region, as well as students attending alternative education programs, are invited to come together to learn about advocacy and decision making at a local level.

Junior Councillors meet and learn from City Councillors, meet the Mayor, learn about First Nations culture and represent their peers at community events. Junior Councillors operate in a similar way to Council, and are asked to table motions, debate issues and vote on recommendations that are then presented to Councillors.

1.6A. Community Consultation and Findings

Key findings from the consultation undertaken throughout October and November 2023, as relevant to early years and children, are shown below:

Programs and events

- Young families tend to not participate due to program timing, costs, and perceived limited facilities/options.

- Programs and facilities for children of all ages in Rockingham are relevant and engaging, and generally well-received.

- There is desire for more community events, play-based activities, and baby/toddler-specific programs for the 0-5 age group.

- For the 6-11 age range, emphasis is on family events, outdoor programs and school holiday activities.

- Stakeholders seek weekend activities and options for four-year-olds on non-kindy days.

Developmental milestones and early intervention

- Stakeholders emphasise the critical role of the early years in shaping healthy and productive future community members.

- Cost of living pressures lead to early return to work for new mothers, impacting childcare availability and parental participation in early years workshops.

- Parenting workshops and forums are considered essential for educating new parents about developmental milestones.

- Early discussions about milestones are crucial for reducing child vulnerability and enhancing school readiness.

- Lack of early numeracy and literacy development opportunities before formal schooling is a concern.

- Playgroups are seen as vital for childhood development and social connection, benefiting both children and parents.

- Availability of playgroups across the City is inconsistent, with calls for more affordable, accessible and supported options.

- Linking playgroups with local services can facilitate information sharing.

- Some parents lack awareness of the importance of play in children's development and exploration.
- City resources are appreciated but may need expansion to support the growing demographic of young families.

Supporting families

- Stakeholders prioritise supporting families for optimal development, recognising poverty and mental health challenges as significant threats.
- The City is commended for its efforts in relation to parenting workshops, but stakeholders suggest addressing specific topics like autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), gaming addiction, online safety, and pregnancy education.
- Families seek support to be better prepared for transition into kindergarten, school readiness, and the primary-secondary transition, proposing workshops and networking groups.
- There's a call for support groups for families with developmentally vulnerable or struggling children.
- Service providers highlight the significant impacts of family and domestic violence on children.
- The cost of living and housing crises impact family attendance at programs, with childcare availability cited as an obstacle for participation.
- Respondents believed there was opportunity for the City to advocate in the areas of drug awareness programs, child care access, more regular bus services, the diagnosis journey, parenting education, mental health services and cost of living challenges.

Mental health

- Mental health is a concern for parents and children, with contributing factors such as FIFO work, substance abuse, family separation and housing issues.
- Parents seek coping strategies for family challenges and early identification and management of mental health issues in children.
- Mental health challenges in children are believed to be occurring earlier.
- Concerns about children's online activity focus more on cyber security and exposure to inappropriate content rather than mental health implications.
- Parents express interest in understanding children's emotional health and development, especially regarding milestones and education transitions.
- COVID-related disruptions have led to later and lower kindy enrolments, raising concerns about school readiness and meeting developmental milestones.

Nutrition

- Stakeholders observed the provision of free school breakfasts but noted stigma associated with them, suggesting the need to destigmatise and normalise breakfast clubs.
- Food hampers for vulnerable families are supported, and stakeholders see potential for expansion through initiatives like Open Pantries.

- Suggestions included teaching healthy eating to children early, and advocating for regular and structured education beyond sporadic school efforts.
- Programs like family cooking classes or Junior Kitchen programs are seen as effective ways to engage children in healthy eating habits.

Physical activity and outdoors

- Stakeholders emphasised the importance of outdoor play and nature exploration for children aged 0-11, given concerns about excessive device usage. Suggestions included creating a nature playground similar to NatureScape in King's Park, especially along the foreshore area of Rockingham Beach Road.
- While existing playgrounds were generally considered satisfactory, stakeholders recommended adding shade sails for sun protection and fencing for children with autism.
- Specific play areas were proposed for early years/toddlers, children with disabilities/sensory needs, and those aged 8-11.
- Encouraging children to ride or walk to school was discussed, with considerations for safety and feasibility across the City.
- Respondents believed the most important facilities and opportunities for children and young people were good educational services, good health services, options for outdoor play and a safe community. They would like to see more community family events, celebration of First Nations and other cultures, and more parent and school readiness programs.
- Respondents felt that the City could provide more options for safe spaces for children to play, as well as support for early literacy, disability inclusion, education and life skills.

Cultural expression

- Stakeholders emphasised the importance of nurturing creativity from a young age and acknowledged existing opportunities in the City, such as those provided by libraries and public events.
- There was desire for more concerts and artistic activities tailored for children under 5 years of age, as well as age-appropriate activities for children aged 6-11. Suggestions included organising sculpture and photography competitions, as well as fairs and festivals targeting older children.
- Stakeholders advocated for greater First Nations and multicultural programming, emphasising the importance of teaching people about different cultures from early childhood.

Social connection

- Busy parents expressed challenges in fostering social connections due to time constraints and feelings of isolation.
- Informal settings for parent meetings, like Mums and Bubs walks, were suggested.
- Stakeholders emphasised the importance of inter-generational relationships, proposing programs to bring different age groups together.

- Increasing playgroups was seen as a solution to promote social connections and support school readiness.
- Volunteering opportunities for children were considered beneficial for social connection and community involvement, despite perceived barriers such as insurance and parental commitment.

Facilities and infrastructure

- Stakeholders expressed appreciation for the City's existing facilities and maintenance efforts, but highlighted the need for more infrastructure.
- Concerns were raised regarding a perceived lack of facilities in outlying suburbs like Baldivis, despite significant growth in those areas. Specific concerns included the shortage of parks, playgrounds, venues, playgroups and transportation options in Baldivis.
- Suggestions included repurposing community centres, offering discounted venue hire to encourage family groups, and increasing the number of Parent and Family Centres.
- Stakeholders discussed the potential for creating service hubs across Rockingham, where children and youth centres/programs could coexist with libraries, child health nurses and other service providers. These hubs, ideally located closer to workplaces and schools, were seen as an ideal solution for busy families, and could address transportation challenges.

Services

- Stakeholders emphasised the need for additional services and facilities, particularly in high-demand areas like Baldivis.
- There was a suggestion for the establishment of satellite hubs for services in Baldivis and other outer suburbs.
- Stakeholders proposed the idea of an allied health bus to provide services such as speech therapy and occupational therapy in outer suburbs.
- Collaboration between service providers, government agencies and City departments was highlighted as essential for addressing community needs.
- Stakeholders advocated for the creation of a central directory or one-stop shop of information containing all available services in the City, including contact details and referral pathways.
- Greater collaboration among existing networks and groups, such as the Rockingham Early Years Group and Kwinana Early Years Services network (KEYS), was recommended.
- There were concerns raised about lengthy wait times for diagnoses of childhood developmental and medical issues, suggesting a potential advocacy role for the City in improving access to specialist services.
- Stakeholders expressed confusion about the process of obtaining diagnoses for children's learning or developmental challenges and highlighted the need for more specialist medical and allied health professionals in Rockingham.

Inclusion, access and approachability

- Stakeholders emphasised the importance of creating welcoming and non-threatening services to encourage participation. Suggestions included making playgrounds more accessible for children with disability and providing fenced areas to accommodate autism needs.

- Increasing the availability of venues with accessible toilets, like those at the Baldivis Sports Complex, was recommended.

- The annual Teddy Bears Picnic was highlighted as an inclusive event that should be replicated more frequently.

- Suggestions were made for introducing activities tailored to neurodivergent children, such as programs involving animals, and events with sensory or quiet areas.

2A. The Way Forward

Key Element 1A: Early Development, Learning and Belonging

Providing opportunities for children and their families to obtain knowledge, develop skills, acknowledge children's interdependence with others, build trusting relationships and make sense of the world.

What the research told us

- Unhealthy eating and inactivity are recognised as global issues impacting children, and is reflected at the local level.

- The importance of early childhood development is recognised as a significant factor for early years and children.

- School readiness is critical for children and families, and the first four years of a child's life are vital in shaping lifelong learning and health behaviours.

- The 2021 AEDC report found that 20.3% of children in Western Australia (WA) entering primary school exhibited vulnerability in one or more developmental domains, while in Rockingham, the vulnerability rate is 21.2%, surpassing WA's average.

What the local community and stakeholders told us

- The early years' are crucial in shaping children's long term health and productivity.

- Parenting workshops are vital for educating parents on developmental milestones, and can reduce vulnerability and enhance school readiness.

- It is important to nurture art and creativity from a young age, and to provide tailored creative activities for children.

- First Nations and multicultural programming to promote cultural understanding from early childhood is important.

What the City will do

The City will deliver and facilitate a range of activities, workshops and programs for children and families, which focus on early literacy, nutritional literacy and developmental milestones. For example:

- Children's Week will provide a valuable education opportunity for the community and sector.

- Intergenerational opportunities, Junior Council initiatives and volunteer opportunities will nurture development and participation as children progress through their school years.

- Arts and creative pursuits will provide positive opportunities for growth, expression and development.

- Hands on cooking and nutrition workshops will aid in developing healthy eating habits and foster connection between children and their parents.

- Greater focus on First Nations culture will support awareness raising and cultural understanding from a young age.

Key Element 2A: Strong Families

Building the capacity and resilience of parents and families by providing relevant and appropriate opportunities which focus on developing safe and secure parenting skills, and social connections.

What the research told us

- Nearly half of children worldwide face obstacles that may prevent them from reaching their full potential.

- The early lives of Australian children can be enhanced by facilitating/providing support for children, parents, and communities, inclusivity for First Nations people and people with disability, and ensuring accountability in public policy.

- Support for families and children is particularly important in the first three years of a child's life.

- Quality preschool programs and access to out-of-school care are important, and can be particularly beneficial for children from diverse backgrounds.

- In Western Australia, the Child and Adolescent Health Service is experiencing increased demand for services to support families with young children, reiterating the importance of assisting families in accessing mental and physical health services to build resilience and capacity.

What the local community and stakeholders told us

- There is a desire for more community events, play-based activities and programs tailored for babies and toddlers.

- There is desire for family connections before school, venues with enclosed play areas, events that provide crèche services, and accessible community playgroups.

- Playgroups are vital in childhood development and social connection, and there is a perceived need for more accessible and supported options, especially for vulnerable children.

- There is a need to support families in a range of areas, through initiatives such as parenting workshops addressing specific topics like autism, ADHD, gaming addiction, and online safety.

- It is important for families to be supported during transitions, such as preparing for kindergarten and the primary-secondary school transition.

- Mental health is a concern for both parents and children, and strategies for coping with family challenges and managing mental health issues in children are sought after.

- Local families are keen to better understand and access local support services.

- Outdoor play and nature exploration for children are highly valued, and should be accessible to children of all abilities wherever possible.

- All events and activities should be inclusive, and the City's Teddy Bears Picnic is seen as a strong example.

What the City will do

The City will continue to focus on:

- Promoting and educating the community about available services, and disseminating information wherever possible.

- Providing a range of capacity building and education based initiatives, as well as ongoing support to assist families to access social and recreation opportunities.

- Facilitating opportunities to play, through ongoing support to and/or promotion of local playgroups.

- Investigating ways to develop new and/or enhance existing play spaces within the City.

Key Element 3A: Thriving Communities and Sector Support

Continuation of working collaboratively with government agencies, not for profit organisations, service providers and community groups to foster a cohesive, accessible and sustainable early years and children sector.

What the research told us

- Common themes include mental and physical wellbeing, early literacy and development, social connections, community education, access to services, recreation and play, cultural diversity, skill-building, differences in ability, and access to suitable infrastructure.

- It is critical to ensure sector support and advocacy, along with a cohesive approach to assisting the community to navigate and understand the services, supports and information available to them.

What the local community and stakeholders told us

- It is important to facilitate and support families in relation to issues such as poverty, access to services and information, and mental health.

- There is a perceived inadequacy of local services and facilities, and one notable proposal is the establishment of a community directory containing details about all available services in the City.

- There are often lengthy wait times for diagnoses of childhood developmental and medical issues, indicating a potential advocacy role for the City in improving access to specialist services.

- There is opportunity to foster greater collaboration among existing networks and groups, such as the Rockingham Early Years Group and Kwinana Early Years Services network.

- The City can play a vital role not only in providing facilities, but also in promoting what is available in the community.

- The City could consider repurposing community centres, offering discounted venue hire to encourage family groups, and supporting/advocating for the creation of multipurpose service hubs in Baldivis and other outer suburbs.

<u>What the City will do</u>

The City will commit to a range of initiatives to support children and families, and the sector, through:

- Continued promotion of existing community programs, initiatives and infrastructure, along with supporting families to access these (including funding opportunities)

- Advocacy, with the City placing emphasis on investigating and potentially supporting the creation of multipurpose service hubs

- Continued advocacy for appropriate provision of, and access to, community services - including specialised support services

- Continued networking and collaboration, with the City aiming to further guide and grow the Rockingham Early Years Group, and facilitating opportunities for networking amongst other local groups, agencies and stakeholders

- Strengthening working relationships with local schools to provide information to the community, utilising existing campaigns and resources.

3A. Implementation Plan: Actions

Key Element 1A: Early Development, Learning and Belonging

	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
1.1A	Provide activities focusing on developmental milestones, e.g. mud play.	Ongoing	$15,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CSSS LIS
1.2A	In collaboration with local stakeholders, celebrate Children's Week.	Ongoing	$35,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** REYG CD
1.3A	Provide opportunities to increase nutritional literacy of children and their families, e.g. Junior Kitchen program.	Ongoing	$20,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
1.4A	Provide early literacy programs such as Paint Rockingahm REaD and other library programs as relevant.	Ongoing	$8,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** LS
1.5A	Provide and promote the benefits of outdoor play and physical activity for children, e.g. Rockingham Play Trails.	Ongoing	$5,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CALF
1.6A	Provide learning activities focusing on First Nations culture.	Ongoing	$10,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CD**

	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
1.7A	Facilitate provision of inter-generational relationship building opportunities.	New	$1,000		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CALF REYG
1.8A	Provide the Junior Council program.	Ongoing	$10,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** GMS
1.9A	Facilitate provision of art and cultural activities for children, with age specific considerations.	Ongoing	$8,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
1.10A	Partner with external organisations to provide volunteering opportunities for children and their families, e.g. Clean Up Australia.	New	Officer Time		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** VWA EH

Key Element 2A: Strong Families

	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
2.1A	Promote emergency relief services and organisations to the community.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CSSS** CCB
2.2A	Promote City's free family friendly events.	Ongoing	Officer Timer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CCB
2.3A	Consider incorporation of nature play elements and equipment into the development of new, and renewal of, existing playgrounds.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**AS** CCB

Ref	Action	Status	Cost							Responsibility
2.4A	Promote the KidSport program to eligible families.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
2.5A	Promote the benefit of active transport, e.g. Your Move.	Ongoing	$1,500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
2.6A	Participate in the review process of the City's Public Open Space Community Strategy and advocate for specific play areas and equipment.	New	Officer Time	✓					✓	**AS** CCB
2.7A	Provide a range of workshops to parents and caregivers.	Ongoing	$30,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CSSS
2.8A	Support establishment of playgroups across the City of Rockingham.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**Playgroup WA** CCB CSSS CALF
2.9A	Promote the importance of schooling and school readiness.	Ongoing	$15,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** REYG
2.10A	Facilitate and promote social connection opportunities for parents.	New	$5,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CSSS LS

Key Element 3A: Thriving Communities and Sector Support

	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
3.1A	Provide guidance and build capacity of the Rockingham Early Years Group.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
3.2A	Promote a City of Rockingham Community Directory.	New	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
3.3A	Promote available community infrastructure and venues to local communities, groups and service providers.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CALF
3.4A	Facilitate and support opportunities to create service hubs, as relevant.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CALF
3.5A	Monitor and advocate for appropriate access and provision of community and specialist services.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CSSS** CCB
3.6A	Utilise City's Event Planning Guidelines to enhance accessibility of all activities, programs and events.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CoR**
3.7A	Promote the City's Community Grants Program to local community groups and service providers.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CCB CSSS

3.8A	Build stronger links and partnerships with local schools to help them provide relevant information to the community.	New	Officer Time		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
3.9A	Provide networking opportunities to local service providers and groups.	Ongoing	$5,000		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CD**
3.10A	Facilitate access to information amongst the early years and children sectors, focusing on Child Safeguarding and applicable legislation requirements.	Ongoing	Officer Time		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CSSS** CCB

Part Two (B) – Young People (Aged 12 – 24 years)

1B. Background

1.1B. International Context

World Health Organisation (WHO)

WHO acknowledges the crucial role of young people in addressing global challenges, emphasising their active participation in shaping their futures. Key areas of concern include education, leadership, development, family support, resilience, and health (with specific focus on physical and mental well-being).

According to WHO, high rates of road accidents, drowning incidents, obesity, and physical inactivity pose significant health risks to young people worldwide. Violence, alcohol, drug use, and mental health disorders are leading causes of death, with suicide ranking fourth among 15-19 year olds in 2019. WHO also acknowledges the impact of climate change, conflict, COVID-19, and economic crises on adolescents, resulting in disrupted education, mental health issues, and worsened inequality.

Addressing these challenges is crucial for young people to thrive and achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The WHO's 2017 report, *Global Accelerated Actions for the Health of Adolescents* (AA-HA!) highlights the overlooked age bracket of adolescents, calling for tailored interventions to support their well-being and development.

1.2B. National Context

Mission Australia

Mission Australia's extensive 2022 National Youth Survey involved almost 19,000 individuals aged 15-19, delving into education, employment, and the impact of COVID-19. Mental health challenges, including stress, anxiety, and depression affected 30% of respondents. Additionally, psychological distress and loneliness were prevalent among young people. School posed difficulties for almost 42%, with academic pressure, high workloads, and COVID-19 (74%) negatively impacting their education. Young people expressed a need for better accessibility to support services during challenging times. Concerns regarding the environment, particularly climate change (51.0%), equity and discrimination (35.9%), and mental health (33.9%), were significant. The survey highlighted that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth faced more profound challenges, such as financial concerns and discrimination. Gender diverse individuals reported the lowest well-being assessments.

The survey uncovered that various activities contributed to young people feeling connected, including participating in sports (72%), spectating sports (66%), volunteering (45%), engaging in arts, cultural, or musical activities (43%), and taking on student leadership roles (40%).

eSafety Commissioner

Recent research by the eSafety Commissioner focused on online safety for young people. It acknowledged the need for more education, tools and resources to address online issues such as cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content like pornography and intimate images or videos shared without consent. Education about healthy and respectful relationships including consent and protective behaviours was also highlighted as a way to address these issues.

Mental Health

Orygen Institute: Researches youth mental health, informing national policy and treatment. They develop new care models for emerging disorders, advocate for early intervention, and prioritise recovery, ensuring young people receive necessary support.

Headspace National: Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation, offers early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year-olds since 2006. With over 150 branches nationwide, they provide support for mental and physical health, substance abuse, and employment/study aid.

Emerging Minds: Advances mental health and emotional well-being for Australian children, adolescents, and families through policy, interventions, training, and resources. They lead the National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health, in partnership with several institutions, to provide support for professionals and families.

1.3B. State Context

Department of Communities

The Department of Communities Youth portfolio spearheads the State Government's efforts to enhance outcomes for young people aged 10 to 25, who represent nearly 20% of Western Australia's population. Collaborating with youth, community groups, and all levels of government, the Department supports diverse programs and initiatives tailored to young people's needs.

At the time of writing this strategy, the Department is crafting a new Action Plan for Young People in WA, focusing on youth development, engagement, positive promotion, and advocacy. The plan aims to equip young people with life skills, engage them in decision-making processes, celebrate their contributions, and advocate for their needs in decision-making forums.

The Department also oversees the Ministerial Youth Council, comprising 12 young advisors who offer insights on pertinent youth issues and government policies. Additional initiatives include the WA Youth Parliament leadership program, Youth Week WA, WA Youth Awards, International Youth Day, and ongoing consultations for the Action Plan for Young People in WA, which will conclude in March 2024.

Youth Affairs Council Western Australia (YACWA)

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) is the primary independent advocate for the non-government youth sector, functioning as a human rights organisation that seeks to address the exclusion of young people in society. Focussing on three priority areas - housing and homelessness, youth justice, and mental health - its activities encompass various initiatives, including hosting the Director-General

Roundtable on Youth Homelessness, contributing to the Youth Justice Services Strategy, and conducting surveys to gather insights into young people's experiences.

In a 2020 survey, concerns emerged, including the loss of social interaction, heightened mental health issues due to COVID-19-related challenges, job losses, and difficulties associated with services like Centrelink. Survey results indicated need for funding for mental health support, subsidised counselling sessions, expanded telehealth, and improved accessibility in regional and remote areas, especially for vulnerable groups like LGBTQIA+.

Other State-based Youth Programs and Services

There are various state organisations providing programs and support for young people, including:

- Youth Focus: Non-profit providing services for suicide, depression, anxiety, and self-harm, including counselling, education, therapy, mentoring, and substance abuse support. Also leads three headspace centres in WA.
- YMCA WA (The Y): Supports children and youth in early education, youth participation, and health and wellness through preschool transition, community leadership, and physical activity programs.
- The Smith Family: Addresses educational inequality due to poverty through arts, technology, Indigenous programs, financial aid, mentoring, and long-term support. Operates nationally and in six schools in Rockingham.
- WA PCYC: Collaborates with WA Police to empower at-risk youth through after-school activities, recreation, and vocational training.
- Youth Futures WA: Supports homeless youth with safe accommodation, mental health assistance, and meals, providing 18,000 safe sleep nights and over 40,000 meals in 2022.

Multiculturalism

The Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) WA collaborates with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities and organisations to empower and value individuals from such backgrounds. In WA, over 11% of people aged 12-24 are born in non-English speaking countries, mainly from Malaysia, China, India, etc., with 93% residing in Perth. OMI highlights key concerns for young multicultural individuals, including employment challenges, educational barriers, issues of identity, and health disparities. These obstacles, such as limited access to career guidance, discrimination, transportation issues, and cultural stigma, stem from factors like lack of awareness and reluctance to seek support services.

Jobs and Employment

According to the WA Government's Beyond 2020 – WA Youth Action Plan, youth unemployment in Western Australia is down approximately 14.7% from a COVID-19 peak of 17% in 2021. The Plan outlines that young individuals will have 17 jobs across five careers in their lifetime, and highlights the importance of education on future career opportunities. Notably, women represent only 16% of STEM-qualified Australians, and

enrolment in challenging mathematics subjects is decreasing. Additionally, over 12,000 public school students in WA lack internet access at home.

Homelessness

Shelter WA, the primary advocacy body for housing and homelessness solutions in Western Australia, reports that nearly 2,000 young people are experiencing homelessness, comprising 20% of the state's homeless population. The Commissioner for Children and Young People identified key barriers including a shortage of accommodation services for those under 16, strict eligibility criteria, guardianship challenges, limited specialist support, and difficulties transitioning between services.

Local Government approaches in WA

Whilst metropolitan local governments in Western Australia, of similar size and/or location to Rockingham often take slightly different approaches to youth programming and service provision, there are also many similarities in terms of what is provided, and what is seen to work well.

For example, the City of Gosnells, with a total population of 132,915, of which 21,290 are young people aged 12-24, operates three Youth Centres, outreach programs, a custom-built trailer, sports activities and a Youth Advisory Council. In the City of Cockburn, with 125,000 residents and 18,975 youth, programs include a mobile youth bus, a dedicated Youth Centre, leadership initiatives, and driving mentorship programs. Mandurah, with a population of 95,568 people and 12,850 youth, focuses on youth development through a Youth Centre, outreach van, Indigenous programs, funding initiatives, and job readiness courses. Kwinana, with 49,500 residents and 7,423 youth, offers a youth space, outreach programs, scholarship initiatives, intergenerational activities, and café skills programs. And Wanneroo, with a population of 216,422 people and 36,531 youth, provides four Youth Centres, outreach trailers, job readiness programs, skate parks, and driving mentorship opportunities.

1.4B. City of Rockingham Context

Rockingham has a higher proportion of people aged 0-24 years compared to Western Australia and the greater Perth area. According to Australian Bureau of Statistics data, 34% of the Rockingham community is aged 0-24 years, compared with 30.8% of the Western Australian population, and 31% of greater Perth. 20% of the Rockingham population are under 15 years of age.

Young people in Rockingham face challenges with mental health, employment, and education similar to those reflected at international, national and state levels. The City of Rockingham has high levels of disparity in socioeconomic status, as shown by the SEIFA index of Advantage and Disadvantage. The suburbs of Secret Harbour, Singleton, Baldivis and Karnup experience lower levels of socioeconomic disadvantage than the WA state average, while the suburbs of Hillman, Cooloongup, Rockingham, East Rockingham and Warnbro experience higher levels of socioeconomic disadvantage. Cooloongup, Hillman and East Rockingham are in the top 10% of most disadvantaged suburbs in all of Australia.

As shown in the Community Consultation and Findings (section 1.6, page 43), many key issues and trends outlined in the preceding research sections are relevant to the City of Rockingham, and therefore underpin actions in this strategy.

1.5B.The City's role

The City's role is to support young people by promoting relevant information, providing infrastructure and public amenities, building the capacity of young people and the whole community, and connecting people with relevant services. The City works closely with government agencies, not-for-profits, and service providers. However, the City does not provide health services, education or direct service delivery (except when identified community gaps are unable to be addressed otherwise).

The City's Youth Development team receives funding from the state government to provide youth work support to at-risk young people. Additionally, the team provides programs, events, and workshops to upskill and develop young people, parents, and the sector.

Recreation facilities, parks, skate parks, libraries, community centres, fitness classes, events, and volunteering opportunities are available for young people in the City, providing opportunities for recreation and social connection.

Rockingham Youth Centre

The Rockingham Youth Centre (RYC) opened in March 2021. It won the PLAWA Community Facility of the Year Award in 2022, and the Social and Community Infrastructure Award at the UDIA WA 2023 Awards for Excellence - highlighting its great design and collaboration with young people. Constructed in alignment with the Strategy for Children and Young People 2018-2023, the Centre has seen substantial engagement since it opened. It serves as the main operational hub for youth development in the City of Rockingham, providing a range of programs and activities, including but not limited to:

- Rockingham Youth Reference Group: Youth aged 14-24 providing input on programming, events, and advocacy, fostering leadership and government understanding.

- Mooriboordap Djoowak: Fortnightly cultural program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to connect with their heritage and community in a safe environment.

- Pridespace: Weekly support sessions for LGBTQIA+ young people aged 12-17, fostering friendship and providing a safe space to ask questions.

- Level Up Program: Offers personalised support for resume building, interview preparation, and career planning, along with free certified courses to enhance job market skills.

- Hangout sessions: Opportunities for socialising, games, and craft activities for young people aged 12-17 and 17-24 years at the RYC.

- Music and art programs: Opportunities for young people to develop musical skills, gain experience playing publicly, and participate in various art and craft workshops.

- Gaming programs: Offer a safe, fun space for young people to engage in video gaming whilst developing social skills and building friendships.

- She/her young women's program: A weekly program for young women to develop new friendships, build self-confidence and learn team building skills.

Other Youth Development programs, activities and events

Whilst the Youth Centre serves as the operational and primary program hub for youth development activity, the team also provides and supports a range of initiatives at other facilities and locations, such as:

- Spill the Beans: Social program at local cafes for 17-24-year-olds, promoting friendship and opportunities to develop life skills.

- Breakthrough Music Competition: Annual event showcasing talents of local musicians aged 12-24, providing exposure and potential paid opportunities.

- Youth Beach Party: Annual smoke, drug and alcohol-free event since 2016 on Rockingham Beach for 12-17-year-olds, featuring music and beach activities in a safe environment.

- School holiday programs: A range of activities and programs delivered at the RYC and throughout Rockingham, which change to reflect youth interest and input. Previous school holiday programs have included sport skills workshops, laser tag, gaming tournaments, craft workshops and barista courses.

Other City Facilities

Additionally, other City departments and facilities provide a range of activities and programs for local young people. These include:

- Mike Barnett Sports Complex, Rockingham:
  - Winter and summer netball competitions for all ages
  - Casual pickup basketball for all ages
  - Nominal fee court hire and school bookings
  - School holiday shooting passes
  - Annual shooting passes

- Baldivis Indoor Sports Complex, Baldivis:
  - Summer Kids Program for up to 16-year-olds
  - Lifestyle Program for teens and mums with babies
  - Men Rockin' Goals Together Program
  - Pickleball for all ages
  - Nominal fee court hire

- Aqua Jetty, Warnbro:
  - AJ Connect Program for ages 12+
  - Teen Fit Program for ages 9-16
  - Pilates Beginners Course
  - Nominal fee gym passes and personal training

- o Crèche facilities
- o Teen gym memberships
- o Recreational pool, sauna, spa use

- Libraries - Baldivis, Rockingham, Safety Bay and Warnbro:
  - o School Holiday Programs
  - o Pop Up Library in Golden Bay
  - o Regular programs like Rhyme Time, Story Time, and STEAM Lab for children
  - o Adult programs including LEGO, Sewing Group, and Chess Connect

- Community events – various facilities and venues:
  - o General Community fun days – for all ages – featuring youth components
  - o A series of major events that attract a wide range of people (Christmas, New Years' Eve, Celebrate Australia Day)
  - o Have a go sports days
  - o Pop-up events and activities

- Sporting Clubs
  - o Playing facilities and club development support to over 120 sporting clubs
  - o Access to KidSport funding allows for access by many low income families and young people

- Skate Parks - Baldivis, Cooloongup, Port Kennedy and Singleton
  - o Access to facilities for skate, scooter, BMX, and rollerblading
  - o Clinics and competitions run by the Youth Development team to activate facilities

- Parks, playgrounds and recreation areas
  - o Over 460 individual parcels of public open spaces, including parks, active playing fields and nature reserves
  - o Access to playgrounds throughout the City

1.6B. Community Consultations and Findings

Key findings from the community and stakeholder consultation undertaken throughout October and November 2023, as relevant to young people, are summarised below:

Mental health

- Stakeholders recognise the significant impact of mental health issues on young people, often linked to other life challenges.

- The majority advocate for City collaboration and expanded mental health support.

- Despite awareness efforts, there's a lingering stigma around mental health.

- Suggestions include normalising mental health through support groups, specific programs, and advocating for free services.

- Frustration arises from limited access to mental health professionals, especially psychiatrists, due to long wait times and costs.

- Stakeholders stress the need for targeted support groups or counselling for male mental health issues.
- Support is needed for neurodiverse youth (E.g. sensory zones and education on different communication styles).

Diversity and inclusion

- Nearly 1 in 5 Youth Survey respondents identify as LGBTIQA+, emphasising the need for improved education and support.
- The Rockingham Youth Centrewas commended for its inclusive approach to the LGBTIQA+ community.
- Stakeholders advocate for greater recognition of multicultural young people.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people account for 2.7% of the population, necessitating increased education on cultural heritage.
- Stakeholders propose capacity building for First Nations and CaLD youth, stressing supportive and culturally safe methods.
- Diversity in staff, including representation from First Nations, CaLD, and LGBTQIA+ communities, is important.
- Mentorship programs are valued for fostering connections and resilience across diverse communities.

Inclusive environments for all abilities

- Stakeholders stress accommodating 'invisible differences' to ensure equal participation. Challenges like anxiety, lack of confidence, and neurodiversity are noted.
- Suggestions include quiet or sensory zones at events and diverse learning methods such as online platforms.
- Young people call for inclusivity for those with physical disability, proposing measures like beach wheelchair ramps, and creating an environment where all young people can equally enjoy events and programs.

Social connection and belonging

- Some suggested Rockingham needs more social connections, engagement opportunities and safe spaces for young people – including outdoors activities and events.
- There are concerns about the location of the Rockingham Youth Centre limiting accessibility for young people in other suburbs like Baldivis and Secret Harbour.
- Stakeholders suggest increased outreach to areas such as Baldivis, Secret Harbour, and Port Kennedy due to limited access to events.
- Requests for extended Youth Centre hours and more Youth Officers are common among young people and stakeholders.
- There were suggestions to investigate a Youth Centre bus and additional centres, potentially in Baldivis.
- There's a desire for inter-generational connections to promote mutual respect.

- Young people seek more volunteering opportunities despite barriers like insurance.

- There is support for the consolidation of services and/or creation of 'hubs' that co-locate youth centre activities with libraries, child health nurses, and relevant youth service organisations.

At risk young people

- While many young people at the Rockingham Youth Centre are at-risk, more engagement is needed for highly disengaged or antisocial individuals.

- Efforts should focus on addressing antisocial behaviour and fostering unity among all youth, including visiting hang-out spots like skate parks to build trust.

- Opportunities for stronger connections with Rockingham PCYC and alternative education providers are identified.

Education and resilience

- Youth aged 12-24 are significantly affected by home relationships, highlighting the need for parental education on mental health and adolescent issues. Suggestions include family activities addressing diverse family dynamics and educational programs on respectful relationships and handling toxic situations.

- Concerns about family violence suggest a need for further education in this area.

- Confidence in addressing challenges would increase with improved information, life skills, and problem-solving abilities.

Life skills

- Life skills education, covering areas like sex education, substance use, stress management, and financial literacy, are considered important.

- Transitioning to adulthood without adequate guidance is a shared concern.

- Advocacy for learner driving support, such as the Regional Youth Driver Education (RYDE) program, is common.

Cost pressures and housing issues

- Cost pressures hinder youth participation in sports and recreational activities, necessitating increased funding mechanisms.

- Emergency funding is suggested for immediate needs – particularly housing.

- Closure of facilities like beach volleyball courts and dance studios is attributed to cost impacts, significantly affecting youth.

- Cost pressures affect housing access and contribute to homelessness risks, particularly for around 200 young people believed to be homeless or couch-surfing in Rockingham.

- Rental costs and government requirements affect young people's ability to leave unsafe homes and gain independence.

Youth participation

- Young people showed enthusiasm and a desire to contribute to their community, stressing the importance of being heard.

- Stakeholders value initiatives like Junior Council and the Youth Reference Group to ensure youth voices are heard.
- Co-designing initiatives with young people is crucial for building capacity and creating sustainable programming.
- Promoting youth leadership through speaking opportunities at school assemblies and community forums is suggested.

Education and employment

- Young people express interest in local employment opportunities and education to contribute to the community.
- Advocacy for increased access to internships, work experience, and career taster programs was highlighted.
- Concerns about gender disparities in STEM fields prompt suggestions to encourage female participation.
- Support for resume preparation and interview skills is sought, with suggestions to expand existing programs.

Communication and collaborations

- Tapping into school networks and newsletters to better advertise programs, services, and activities, is strongly supported.
- Communication, particularly through social media, is highlighted as crucial for engaging the community.
- Proposals for increased collaboration between City departments, non-profits, and service providers aim to share resources and reduce complications.
- There are some concerns about support for young carers.

Health and safety concerns

- Concerns about vaping, smoking, and drug use persist, despite education efforts, with calls for increased public awareness.
- Improved security measures on public transport and in public spaces are sought to address discomfort about gang presence.

Youth and community perceptions

- Young people seek better media representation, desiring coverage that portrays them as productive and proactive.
- Outreach to at-risk youth is proposed to combat antisocial behaviour and assist to change overall perceptions.

2B. The Way Forward

Key element 1B: Inclusion and Diversity

Ensuring events, spaces and activities are safe and welcoming, and celebrate diversity.

What the research told us

- Inclusion, identity, and diversity among young people are frequently associated with positive mental health and a sense of inclusion and belonging.

- Mission Australia's 2022 Youth Survey revealed widespread mental health challenges, notably affecting 30% of respondents, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and gender diverse individuals facing additional hurdles.

- Discrimination and cultural stigma may affect the extent to which young people from diverse cultural backgrounds access programs and services.

What the local community and stakeholders told us

- Mental health challenges are prominent for young people, and there is a critical need for relevant service provision and programming.

- There are calls for more inclusive environments, support for multicultural youth, greater focus on First Nations culture, and continued capacity building.

- Nearly 1 in 5 Youth Survey respondents identified as LGBTIQA+, emphasising the demand for improved education and support in relation to young people who identify within this community.

What the City will do

The City will continue to support an inclusive and diverse community, through the following initiatives:

- Creating spaces, programs and events that focus on mental health, diversity and creativity.

- Encouraging young people from all backgrounds to participate in City initiatives.

- Celebrating and creating awareness of First Nations culture.

- Providing young people with opportunities to learn about the experiences of those from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Key Element 2B: Social Connection and Resilience

Ensuring young people have access to social activities and programs, are educated about supportive and healthy relationships, and are supported to develop their resilience.

What the research told us

- Psychological distress and loneliness are prevalent among young people, and school poses difficulties for many.

- Young people need accessibility to support services during challenging times.

- The Youth Affairs Council of WA 2020 survey uncovered concerns relating to the loss of social interaction, heightened mental health issues due to COVID-19-related challenges, job losses, and difficulties associated with services like Centrelink.

- There is a perceived need for funding for mental health support, subsidised counselling sessions, expanded telehealth, and improved accessibility in regional and remote areas, especially for vulnerable groups like LGBTQIA+.

What the local community and stakeholders told us

- There is perceived need for more social connections and safe spaces for young people.

- There are concerns about the central location of the Rockingham Youth Centre, which may impact attendance by young people in outer areas like Baldivis, Secret Harbour, and Port Kennedy.

- There are impacts on young people arising from issues such as poor family relationships and/or family and domestic violence. Suggested approaches focused on activities addressing diverse family dynamics, and educational programs relating to respectful relationships and handling toxic situations.

- Access to life skills education, covering areas like sex education, substance use, problem solving, stress management, and financial literacy, are considered very valuable and beneficial for young people.

What the City will do

The City will aim to increase social connection and resilience through activities such as:

- Outreach support and the provision of information and referrals for young people.

- Life skills and educational workshops.

- Opportunities for social connection.

- Continued provision of support and information (directly and through referral).

- Investigating co-facilitating youth services with other City facilities.

Key Element 3B: Engagement and Participation

Supporting young people to engage in education, employment and training, engaging them in decision making, and providing opportunities to ensure their voices are heard.

What the research told us

- Key focus areas for young people include education, leadership and positive development.

- Mission Australia found that school poses difficulties for almost 42% of survey respondents, and that various activities contribute to young people feeling connected (E.g. participating in sports, spectating sports volunteering, and engaging in arts, cultural, or musical activities).

- It is important to equip young people with life skills, engage them in decision-making processes and celebrate their contributions.

- Young people will have around 17 jobs across five careers in their lifetime, so education is a critical component in assisting with future career opportunities.

What the local community and stakeholders told us

- Youth engagement and empowerment through community development and capacity building is extremely valuable.

- There is perceived need for increased access to local employment opportunities and educational resources.

- There is enthusiasm for more internships, work experience, and career taster programs.

- There are calls for better job information access, and continued support for young people to obtain work (E.g. resume preparation and interview skills support).

- Young people voiced strong enthusiasm towards being heard within the community, and stressed the importance of programs like Youth Councils and Reference Groups as valuable ways to achieve this.

- Co-designing initiatives with young people, and promoting youth leadership through speaking opportunities, are critical for building young people's capacity.

What the City will do

The City will continue to facilitate and support youth participation and engagement, by:

- Reviewing and continuing to deliver the Rockingham Youth Reference Group (RYRG).

- Providing and facilitating job readiness programs and workshops for young people to overcome barriers to entering the workforce.

- Promoting and providing opportunities for young people to gain volunteering and paid work experience.

- Providing support and information referral services for young people through the Rockingham Youth Centre.

Key Element 4B: Community Education and Awareness

Taking a community capacity building and collaborative approach to raising awareness of support services, sharing information, addressing priority safety and wellbeing issues, supporting the sector, and celebrating young people's positive contributions.

What the research told us

- Globally, violence, alcohol, drug use, and mental health disorders are identified as leading causes of death for young people.

- Housing issues/homelessness, youth justice and mental health are prominent issues affecting young people in Western Australia.

- Within the state, there are a range of programs focused on empowerment and support, particularly for at-risk and homeless young people, such as WA PCYC and Youth Futures WA.

- The City of Rockingham has a higher than average proportion of young people when compared to the rest of WA and the Greater Perth area, as well as relatively high levels of disparity in socioeconomic status, as shown by the SEIFA Index.

What the local community and stakeholders told us

- Around 200 young people are believed to be homeless or couch-surfing in Rockingham.

- Rental costs and government requirements often affect young people's ability to leave unsafe homes. Support programs and services are critical in addressing this.

- It is important to tap into school networks and newsletters to advertise services.

- Communication, particularly through social media, is crucial.

- Young people regularly provide positive contributions to the community, however, this side of young people is often not seen or acknowledged, and negative perceptions can dominate public opinion.

What the City will do

Noting research findings and key community feedback, the City will:

- Engage various networks, communication channels, and stakeholders to promote its programs and communicate external youth support services and programs.

- Foster partnerships and collaborations with local schools to address priority areas such as homelessness, domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse.

- Use existing educational campaigns to reinforce positive messaging and connect young people with support services and information.

- Promote positive news stories about young people within the community.

- Continue to deliver programs that highlight young people's accomplishments.

3B. Implementation Plan: Actions

Key Element 1B: Inclusion and Diversity

	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
1.1B	Collaborate with local service providers to develop and implement evidence based and targeted mental health programs for young people.	Ongoing	$20,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CSSS
1.2B	Provide opportunities for young men to engage in support with male role models.	New	$15,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
1.3B	Provide workshops for young people to express themselves creatively, in order to increase overall wellbeing.	Ongoing	$30,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
1.4B	Increase opportunities for sharing of First Nations culture through a range of programs and events.	New	Officer Time		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
1.5B	Work directly with First Nations people to support First Nations children and young people to connect with and celebrate their culture.	Ongoing	$25,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**

ID	Description	Status	Cost	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Lead
1.6B	Provide multicultural programming and events for young people.	New	$10,000		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
1.7B	Deliver programs and events that celebrate the inclusion of a variety of people, e.g. Pride Week.	Ongoing	$35,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
1.8B	Ensure access and inclusion are considered for all youth programs and events.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CoR**
1.9B	Support community events that encourage families and young people to engage and participate in the Rockingham community together.	Ongoing	$15,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
1.10B	Participate in the review process of the City's Public Open Space Community Strategy and advocate for specific play areas and equipment.	New	Officer Time	✓	✓					AS CCB

Key Element 2B: Social Connection and Resilience

No	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
2.1B	Investigate opportunities for co-locating youth programming with other City facilities.	New	Officer Time	✓	✓					**CCB** CALF LIS AS
2.2B	Develop and implement an Engagement Plan for at-risk young people, including provision of outreach services.	New	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
2.3B	Develop an intergenerational program fostering relationships between young people and seniors.	New	$10,000		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
2.4B	Promote and support volunteering opportunities for young people.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
2.5B	Investigate opportunities to support young people with gaining a driver's license, including potential collaboration with the Department of Education and the City's Roadwise Advisory Committee.	Ongoing	Officer Time		✓	✓				**CCB**
2.6B	Deliver workshops to support and educate young people regarding a range of issues, including	Ongoing	$20,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**

No	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
	transition to high school and respectful relationships.									
2.7B	Continue providing youth work support for young people, as per funding agreement with Department of Communities.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB DC**
2.8B	Advocate for an increase in funding from Department of Communities for youth work support within the City of Rockingham.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓				**CCB DC**
2.9B	Continue to provide pop up and major events, e.g. Youth Beach Party.	Ongoing	$120,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**

Key Element 3B: Engagement and Belonging

No	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
3.1B	Review the Rockingham Youth Reference Group model and implement changes if/as required.	New	Officer Time		✓	✓				**CCB GMS**

ID	Action	Status	Cost							Responsibility
3.2B	Review the grants available for young people to ensure they meet community needs.	New	Officer Time		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
3.3B	Develop a broad range of arts, cultural and creative programs for young people.	Ongoing	$40,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
3.4B	Schedule young people and RYC staff to speak and present at local schools, to promote City programs and opportunities.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
3.5B	Review and implement relevant life skills and job readiness programs.	Ongoing	$85,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
3.6B	Promote opportunities for young people to access information about jobs and work experience opportunities in Rockingham.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
3.7B	Develop additional opportunities for young people to gain experience in working for the City. This could include work experience, student placements, internships, graduate programs or traineeships.	New	Officer Time			✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB HRD**
3.8B	Continue to promote the Tertiary Scholarship	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**

	Scheme and other relevant City grant opportunities.								

Key Element 4B: Community Education and Awareness

No	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
4.1B	Implement networking, collaboration and professional development opportunities for professionals and volunteers working with young people.	Ongoing	$5,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
4.2B	Continue to build on the City's relationship with schools in order to utilise their communication channels to disseminate information about programs and events.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**
4.3B	Promote physical activity and informal recreation opportunities for young people, such as fitness classes and sporting activities.	New	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CALF
4.4B	Increase education, awareness and visual information regarding the dangers of vaping, smoking and drug use	New	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB**

No	Task	Type	Annual Cost	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	Team
	through promotion of existing campaigns.									
4.5B	Ensure that young people have access to information about homelessness support services in Rockingham.	New	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CSSS
4.6B	Advocate for additional services to support young people and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.	New	Officer Time			✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** CSSS
4.7B	Continue to work with local media, young people and community stakeholders to promote good news stories and opportunities for recognition of local young people.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**CCB** SMC
4.8B	Facilitate access to information amongst the youth sector, focusing on Child Safeguarding and applicable legislation requirements.	Ongoing	Officer Time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CSSS CCB

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