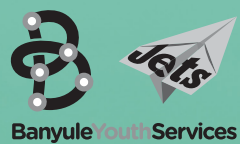


Banyule Youth Summit Report Card

The 2021 Youth Summit brought together 100 young people to discuss issues that concern them and their peers.



Banyule Youth Summit Report Card

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As representatives of their generation, young people discussed and debated many topics which included environment, racism, gender equality, mental health LGBTQIA+ and cultural diversity. On the day, the young delegates at the Summit presented their collective recommendations to representatives from different levels of government and key decision makers both in person and via live stream.

A list of recommendations were proposed and Council officers accepted the challenge to address as many recommendations as possible within Councils funding parameters and scope. The main goal was to ensure that young people were at the centre of the actions taken, with Council working in partnership with young people to deliver these over the past 12 months. Young people were actively involved in consultation processes as well as working tirelessly to achieve great outcomes for their community. We are delighted to share with you these fantastic achievements, and incredible variety of significant outcomes that have been achieved in partnership with Banyule's young people.



Summit Outcomes



YOUNG CARERS

Merri Health produced four short films in partnership with young people to raise awareness of and enhance understanding and appreciation of young carers. The films sought to provide a greater understanding of what a young carer might be experiencing day to day. Council similarly partnered with Merri Health to support young carers through an 8 week 'Young Carers' social group where young people could come together to socialise with other young carers and have access to professional youth worker support.



Responsibility

Staff and Allies need to accept responsibility to call out harmful behaviours - including "jokes" and "games"



Educating peers and holding people to account

Inform people choosing harmful behaviour of the magnitude of harm, ensure measures are put in place to prevent reoccurrence, retaliation and ignorance



Validation and support

Acknowledge the direct and cumulative harm of each behaviour on survivors and ensure they are supported to heal.

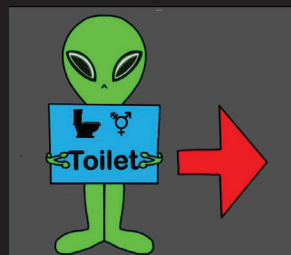


LGBTQI+

Youth Services developed 'Ditching Discrimination' - a workshop to support teachers to understand LGBTIQA+ inclusive language, current statistics and issues experienced by young people, as well as practical ways teachers in schools can support students. Additionally, a second workshop 'Queer-ies' was created in partnership with young people from Councils Rainbow Space program discussing the various ways that young people can be an ally to LGBTIQA+ peers. The workshop also explores the positive impact community support and celebration can have on the health and wellbeing of rainbow youth.

LGBTQI+

In response to a Summit recommendation, Council has developed unisex bathroom signage to be used at Banyule City Council events and celebrations. Young people advocated that all gender bathrooms protect and respect individuals who identify as a different gender and ensures that transgender and non-binary individuals feel safe using Council bathrooms. Free LGBTIQA+ inclusion merchandise and resources are now available at all youth events - celebrating young people's diversity through positive messaging.



Summit Outcomes

LGBTQI+

Council held queer music event 'Shout It Out' for LGBTQIQA+ young people and allies. The event was developed after young people expressed to Council they wanted to be seen, heard and free to express themselves. The event included live music, performances and a LGBTQIQA+ friendly market space.



EDUCATION

Council developed a range of new workshops and school holiday opportunities to address the presenting needs and interests of young people including 'Bullying and Social Harassment' plus a series of workshops aimed at building life skills and pathways.



Bullying and Social Harassment

THE REAL IMPACT

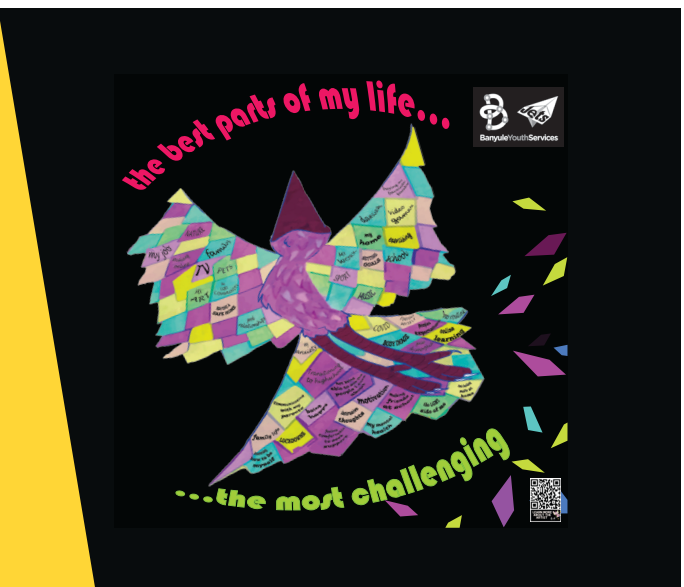
MENTAL HEALTH

Based on feedback from young people, two new workshops 'Supporting Friends: A tool kit of skills to help you check in with your loved ones' and 'Building Boundaries' were developed and have now been presented in person to over 300 students in schools throughout Banyule. In partnership with the Banyule Nillumbik Youth Services Network professional workshops for parents and others who support young people have also been delivered focusing on topics such as suicide prevention and building positive body image and self-esteem.



MENTAL HEALTH

Equipped with responses from Council's annual youth survey, a local young artist developed a digital image that encompassed themes and responses relating to young people's hopes, dreams and challenges experienced throughout 20-2021. This artwork was displayed at the Art on the Walk exhibition in Greensborough over the 2021 summer break. This work invited open conversations and opportunity to 'see' young people in the community and to try to understand their mental health challenges as well as the positive things that get them through.





RACISM

Council came together with First Nations leaders to implement awareness raising activities and workshops. This included working with Nartarsha Bamblett, an Aboriginal woman from the descendants of Yorta Yorta, Gunai Kurnai, Wuradjeri & Warlpiri tribes who delivered a 'Cultural Excellence Workshop' for young people. Youth Services also provided a unique school holiday event 'Traditional Aboriginal Games' allowing a focus on health and wellness while learning about Aboriginal history and culture.



RACISM

At the 2021 Youth Summit, young people made a recommendation to Council to stamp out racism by creating awareness of First Nations culture through sharing stories, culture and hearing First Nations people's voices. In partnership with emerging First Nations leaders, two videos were created on the topic of acknowledging country. The first is an acknowledgement of country in young people's voices, and in the other First Nations young people share their insights about the importance of a meaningful acknowledgement of country.



ALL ABILITIES

Council in conjunction with Yellow Lady Bugs, supported the production of 'Orange Juice'; a short film about the uniquely female experience of being on the Autism spectrum. Written, filmed and directed by a young Autistic woman, it shows a young girl who struggles to identify with her peers, and whose experience asks us to think about acceptance, belonging and how we treat others.

Summit Outcomes

ALL ABILITIES

Council celebrated Banyule's young inclusion community by launching 'Art on the Walk' on International Day of People with Disability 2021. 'Art on the Walk' was a multi-faceted art exhibition by diverse young people. This event culminated in the installation of permanent art on planter boxes in Greensborough, celebrating the talents and creativity of young people active in Council's inclusive creative arts programs for young people. For this exhibit Youth Services also created an innovative 'Inclusion Access Key' allowing a holistic sensory experience of the exhibition. This included interactive elements accessible for people using mobility devices, and elements accessible by sight, smell, vision and sound ensuring all people had the ability to experience the event.



SOMALI AUSTRALIAN YOUNG PEOPLE

Young men from the Somali Australian community were invited by Council to an Employment Forum to connect with career mentors and to investigate their employment pathway opportunities. Attendees had the chance to hear about the successes and journeys of peers and community leaders. Young men were linked in on the day with local support services able to provide expert ongoing access to free employment support.



SOMALI AUSTRALIAN YOUNG PEOPLE

A range of exciting leadership, cultural and wellbeing activities have been delivered for Somali-Australian young men and women based on consultation and feedback from the community. Opportunities have included Mental Health First Aid, Recreation activities, Art workshops, Wellbeing events and Intergenerational, Cultural and Community celebrations.





GENDER EQUALITY

In partnership with WaterMarc, Youth Services hosted a 'Women's Only Slide' Night to bring together girls and women of all ages to enjoy themselves in a safe environment. This event was developed in response to feedback from young women who asked for a woman's only space where they could experience a greater sense of security and enjoyment.



AFTER THE MAN CAVE EXPERIENCE IT WAS REPORTED THAT.....

95% OF THE BOYS BETTER UNDERSTAND THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF NOT TALKING ABOUT THEIR EMOTIONS.



Banyule Youth Services

GENDER EQUALITY

Council funded the delivery of 'Man Cave' workshops in a Banyule secondary school which worked closely with 70 young men from across Year 9 and 11 to support their understanding of healthy masculinity and emotional regulation. Feedback indicated that young men who completed the program felt better able to manage their mental health, seek support and communicate their emotions in a healthy way.



UPPAREL

ENVIRONMENT

Council supported a school jumper recycling project that saw over 200 jumpers originally destined for landfill head towards a textile recycler. They took these jumpers to use the wool to make new product and in doing so, prevented many kilograms of greenhouse gases from polluting out atmosphere.



ENVIRONMENT

Councils Sustainability Team invited young people to hear about actions and initiatives that Council is working on to tackle environmental sustainability. Young people spent the afternoon workshopping ideas about how change could be realised in their communities, and Council provided information about how young people could action a project with positive environmental outcomes, and the support that could be provided to make young people's ideas come to life. Young people were also invited to take part in an indigenous planting potting workshop and asked to be the custodian of their native flower.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

With support from the Victorian State government, Council has created the SALDHIG Diverse Community project team, to build capacity within the local CALD and Somali Australian community. Council has been responsible for strength-based community led capacity building activities, which with evidence-based consultation have successfully developed inclusive and culturally sensitive workshops and events for the community on topics that are important to them.



CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Council's Diverse Communities team has designed a 'Cultural Competency Training' for community sector workers that aims to equip participants with a deeper understanding of Somali culture, community and faith. The training aims to improve the knowledge of Somali Australian culture with the hope of increasing CALD community access into local services while promoting cohesion and knowledge.



More outcomes from the Summit

- ▶ Young people were supported by Council to re-imagine their clothing by coming along to swap and up-cycle their wardrobes. The event encouraged young people to consider the long-lasting effects of the fast fashion industry on the environment and provided young people with ideas about how to go about applying more sustainable consumer habits to their fashion choices by cutting, sewing and adding to old clothes to make them new again.
- ▶ Council supported a young graphic design artist to showcase an all abilities awareness campaign they had developed to educate the public about how young people with all abilities can be helped to feel more included at events. The campaign reiterated the different ways that events providers can work to ensure people with disabilities have access to events in the same way able bodied people do.
- ▶ Youth services ran a First Nations Latitude social/consultation event to enable young people to feed back to Council and the community about what was important for them to have full lives.
- ▶ Council engaged social media as an avenue to raise awareness on the issues identified by young people in the 2021 Youth Summit. This included acknowledging significant cultural days/events/topics, while promoting and sharing existing resources, information and links to services relating to mental health, wellbeing, cultural identity, sustainability and belonging.
- ▶ Development of a new environmental resource online, www.banyuleyouth.com/enviro - supporting young people to access local sustainability actions, resources and information.

More information:

To find out more and to see videos from both the Summit and Report Card events please visit banyuleyouth.com or contact Banyule Youth Services for more information.

Phone: 9457 9855 | Email: banyuleyouth@banyule.vic.gov.au

