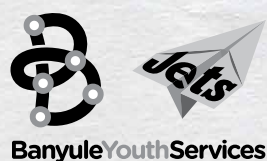




BANYULE YOUTH SUMMIT

2021 REPORT





INTRODUCTION

The Banyule Youth Summit was held at the Heidelberg Golf Club on May 18, 2021.

Young people came together with like-minded peers to discuss topics they're passionate about. These young people displayed invaluable knowledge about their chosen topics and a strong resolve to make positive change in these areas.

The discussion groups were facilitated by the team from Banyule Youth Services, representatives from community organisations and a number of young people who participated in previous Banyule Youth Summits also returned to play a role in facilitating conversations.

The Summit concluded with a presentation of desired outcomes, and suggested actions by the young delegates, community and education sectors as well as representatives from all three levels of government. The presentation was also live streamed to a wide audience who were unable to join us in person due to Covid19 restrictions.

Council will work in partnership with young people and the wider community to ensure these outcomes are met. A report card will be presented to Council in 2022 to outline the achievements made since the Summit.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Young people need to be exposed to different cultures in order to develop a greater understanding and appreciation. This will help reduce stigma and misconception which will position us to be more united moving forward.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Create and deliver a school workshop promoting cultural diversity.
- ▶ Ensure multiculturalism is represented and celebrated at YouthFest.
- ▶ Implement a social media strategy that recognises significant cultural events across the year.



SOMALI AUSTRALIAN YOUNG PEOPLE

Somali Australian young people would like to see more representation in the community services sector of people with similar cultural backgrounds. This will enable targeted support around issues the community faces, particularly in relation to racism, the importance of cultural sensitivity in schools and workplaces, fighting stereotypes, employment and substance abuse.

Culturally sensitive programs in community spaces are also an important need in the community for Somali Australian young people.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Deliver an employment information session for young men.
- ▶ Deliver a drug & alcohol information session for parents
- ▶ Increase representation of Somali workers at Council
- ▶ Hold a women only swim night at Watermarc
- ▶ Hold a wellbeing event for young women
- ▶ Create a tip sheet for workers with Somali Australian young people



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

LGBTIQ+

Safe spaces and easy access to resources for young LGBTIQ+ are essential. Young LGBTIQ+ people need this in order to feel comfortable, seen, supported and understood. The provision of these supports should not specifically be the burden of queer people, but instead should become part of the usual course of an organisation's processes and procedures.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Design gender inclusive toilet signage for use across Council events.
- ▶ Ensure LGBTIQ+ info, merchandise and pronoun badges are available at all youth events.
- ▶ Develop a teacher resource pack and/or web page.
- ▶ Hold an all-inclusive music event and market space for young people.



MENTAL HEALTH

We need to accept people's diverse mental health to reduce stigma and achieve a higher level of empathy, support and prevention. There needs to be greater awareness and an increase in conversation about mental health.

Young people want to find unity in our community. This means society not judging them, listening with their hearts, not being alone, asking questions to understand and building mutual trust.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Provide Mental Health First Aid training for young people to enable them to best support their peers.
- ▶ Deliver a mental health professional development session for local worker who work with young people
- ▶ Create a mosaic park bench with designs relating to mental health by young people with an accompanying plaque explaining why it was created and how to reach out for mental health support.
- ▶ Develop a social media campaign to address stigmas surrounding mental health, educating the community and offering support.
- ▶ Deliver wellbeing workshops to schools.
- ▶ Have a wellbeing stall at YouthFest.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

RACISM

We should celebrate diversity and educate people about racism.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Support a community run First Nations basketball event.
- ▶ Conduct a social consultation event with First Nations young people to work towards addressing community need.



EDUCATION

The education system needs to offer more diverse learning options and opportunities for young people to represent their peers and have a voice.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Create an opportunity for young people to regularly voice their opinions to Council.
- ▶ Develop new practical life skill modules that will be offered by Council to schools.
- ▶ Expand & promote Banyule Youth Services workshops and creative offerings to schools.



ENVIRONMENT

We need to educate the community on environmental issues that affect us and our futures. We need to raise awareness about the small-scale solutions that we can enact as individuals.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Offer an invitation to young people to meet with environment officers to learn about the various environmental services that Banyule delivers.
- ▶ Create a section on the Banyule Youth website with youth friendly environment information.
- ▶ Deliver a series of environment workshops including planting, beeswax wraps and repurposing clothing to learn ways to reduce our environmental footprint.
- ▶ Conduct a community clothes swap
- ▶ Install an e-waste bin at Jets Creative Arts facility
- ▶ Offer a school jumper recycling drive to redirect jumpers bound for landfill to an organisation that reuses wool to make new products.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUNG CARERS

Young carers want to raise their profile so that the community knows what it means to be a young carer – both the challenges and positives experienced.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Present a professional development session to educate teachers, community workers etc. on the challenges faced by young carers and ways to provide support.
- ▶ Produce a short video that illustrates the young carers' experience of caring
- ▶ Create a brochure for young carers that outlines available services and supports.

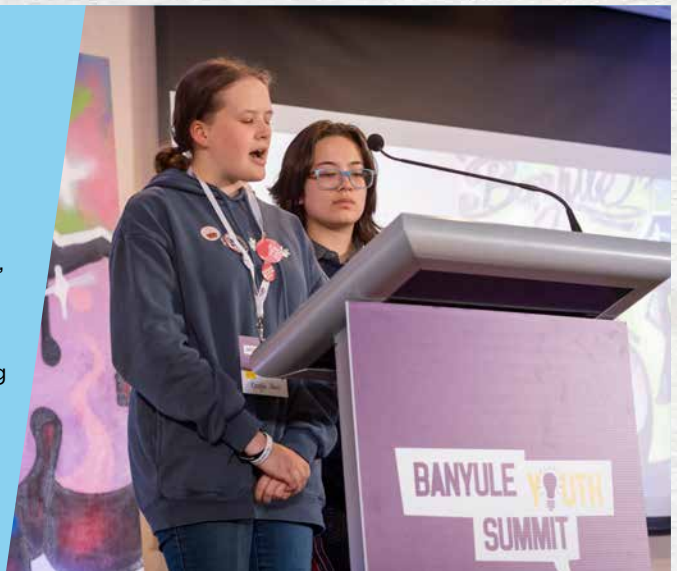


GENDER EQUALITY

Equal standing, opportunity and representation of all genders is important in gender equality, alongside equal standards and repercussions. Gender equality impacts everyone. Young people need quality education programs to teach respectful relationships, consent and gender equality of all genders.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Poster and social media campaign targeting young people as part of 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence.
- ▶ Create and deliver workshops focussing on healthy relationships and body image for schools.



CONSENT

It is essential that we respect others and acknowledge their boundaries. Individuals must be able to give permission and take ownership over what happens to their body, making the decision with free will, agency and autonomy. Consent education should be taught from a young age.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Deliver a community workshop that focuses on disrupting negative gender related stereotypes.
- ▶ Create and deliver a workshop containing education around consent for schools.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

ACCESSIBILITY

Equal access for all people to all areas of the community is essential. More consideration for all people with additional needs is required in all areas of Council's planning and service delivery.

ACTIONS

- ▶ Advocate to decision makers on the issue of physical access to buildings where needed.
- ▶ Support the production of Orange Juice, a film focussing on the female autism spectrum disorder experience.



"TODAY WE ARE
NAVIGATING
SOME OF THE KEY
CHALLENGES
THAT WE FACE
AS YOUNG
PEOPLE."

—KAREEM

BANYULE  YOUTH
SUMMIT



The Summit showed
me how easy it is to
advocate for change.

The Summit was
amazing. I really hope
this is around for a long
time so that we can
continue to be heard and
our opinions valued.

I felt seen and safe.
Thank you!

BANYULE  YOUTH
SUMMIT

To find out more about the 2021 Banyule Youth Summit and follow progress, go to www.banyuleyouth.com/youth-summit or contact Naomi Simmonds at Banyule Youth Services:

P 9457 9902 | E naomi.simmonds@banyule.vic.gov.au