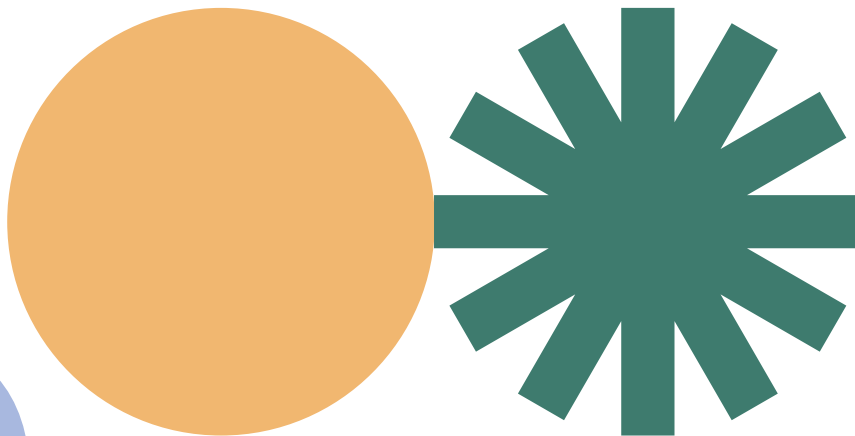


2026



Banyule Youth Services

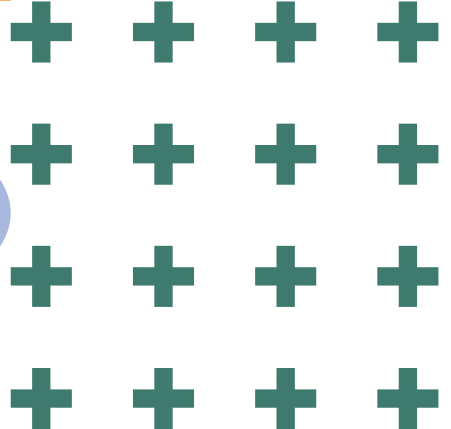
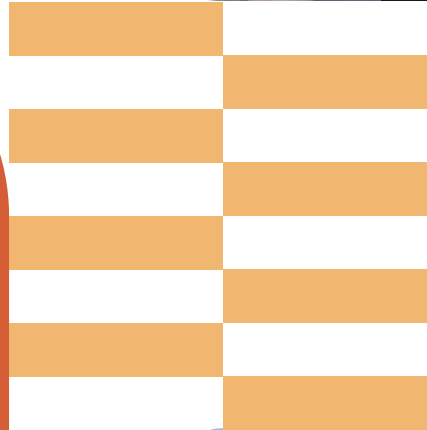
# Action Plan



Banyule Youth Services



Banyule  
City Council

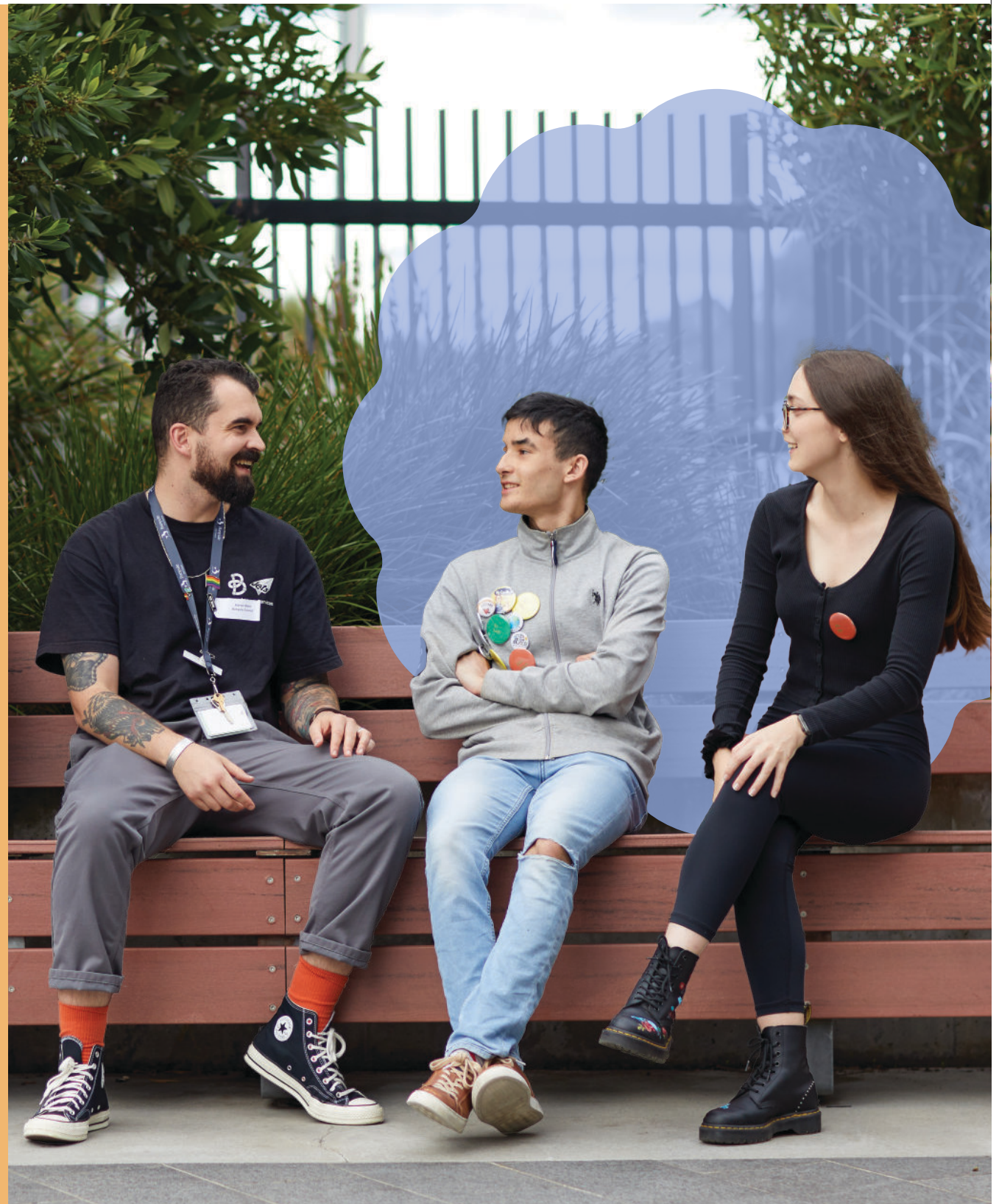


## Organisational context

The Banyule Plan 2025–2029 is Council’s key strategic document that sets out our priorities over a four-year period. Its purpose is to outline the actions Council will take to progress toward Banyule’s Community Vision, as well as the measures we will use to track and report on our progress.

Banyule’s Community Vision is:

**“we in Banyule are a thriving, sustainable, inclusive and connected community. We are engaged, we belong, and we value and protect our environment.”**



## Organisational context

While the 2025-2029 Banyule plan relates to the four years, it intends to align with previous, and future plans – enhancing the long-term opportunities of the Banyule community, whilst fostering new and innovative ways for growth.

The city plan outlines how we will protect, improve, and promote public health and wellbeing within the municipality through maintaining focus on the priority themes of; Inclusive and Connected Community; Sustainable Environment; Well-Built City; Community Assets and Facilities; Thriving Local Economy; Trusted and Responsive Leadership. Banyule Youth Services' operational and strategic work is underpinned by the Council Plan 2021-2025 and has direct linkages with the primary activities of Youth Service's annual action plans by the Banyule Plan 2025-2029.

The Child, Youth, and Family Framework is our commitment to children and young people from pre-birth to 25 years. It will help us develop strategies and initiatives to support children and young people, so they get the best start in life.

The framework builds on the existing strengths of people and communities and finds creative ways to address challenges.

The Framework looks at improving:

- ▶ **Physical assets** - parks and open spaces, and community infrastructure
- ▶ **Social supports** - focusing on supporting families, services, and networks; and
- ▶ **Emotional supports** - on an individual level, supporting children and young people by building cultural support, supporting equality, and resilience.

The Child and Youth Framework 2021-2031 uses a life stage approach where we will develop a plan to achieve goals for each stage of a child or young person's life.

The Banyule Youth Services' 2026 Action Plan sits within The Child, Youth and Family Framework as well as the broader Council Plan and outlines the five key objective areas that guide service provision.



## Overview of Banyule Youth Services (BYS)

The work of Banyule Youth Services (BYS) is underpinned by several key guiding principles enabling us to work in a way that increases young people's sense of belonging and connectedness to their community.

In our work we:

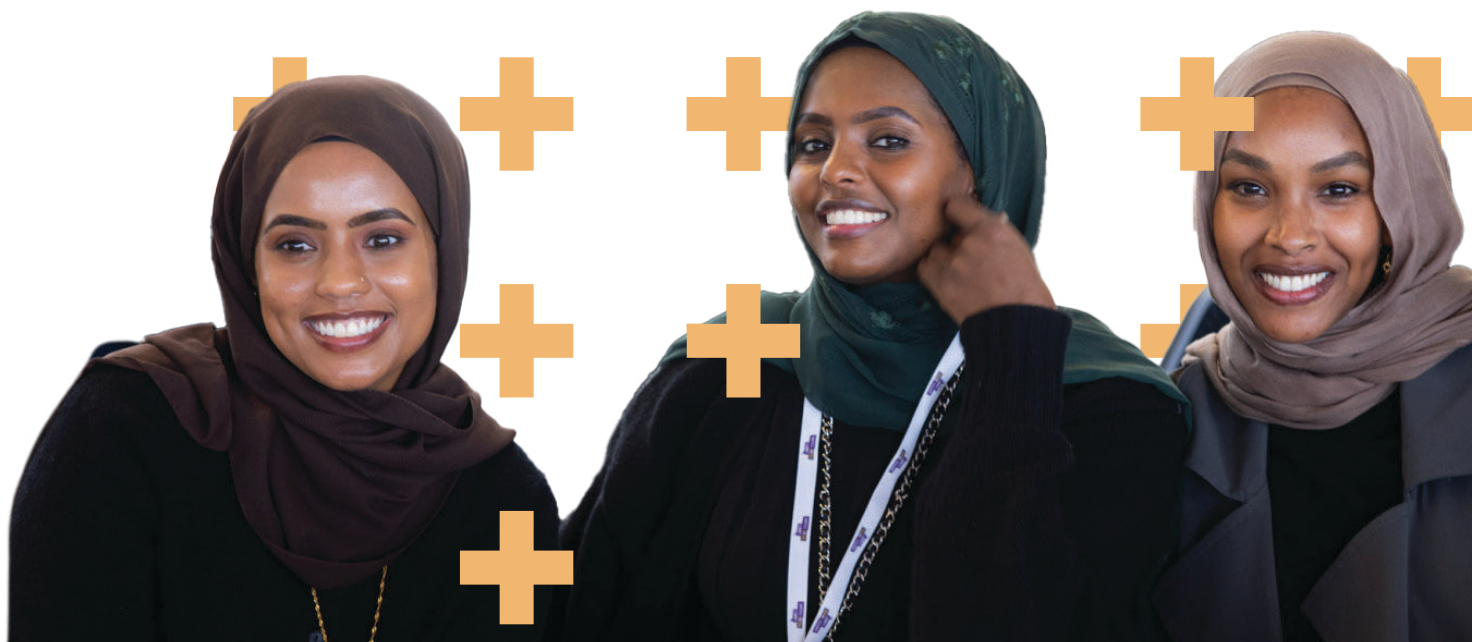
- ▶ **Meaningfully engage and value young people**
- ▶ **Support improved and individualised outcomes**
- ▶ **Actively empower young people**
- ▶ **Celebrate diversity**
- ▶ **Enhance social connectedness for young people**

Banyule Youth Services offer information, activities, resources, and support options for young people and their families, whilst providing strategic and operational advice to the sector and other Council service units on issues that affect young people.

The Youth Action Plan provides insight into the issues that young people are concerned about. Moreover, it outlines innovative ways that BYS, young people, and local services can work together to address these areas and their associated needs. This plan will provide a framework for BYS to assist young people (especially those without supportive adults in their lives) to navigate challenges, develop pro-social coping skills, and access specialist services where needed.

BYS have a unique opportunity to connect young people with a wide range of supports, connections, and skill-building opportunities in an age-appropriate setting that is welcoming, non-clinical, and accessible.

By collecting and analysing consultation data and sector research, BYS have identified five service level objectives. These objectives will be used to guide planning, operation, delivery and evaluation of Banyule Youth Services' actions moving forward.



## Feedback from our young people

Banyule Youth Services is committed to consulting with local young people to ensure their voices are heard and reflected in the programs, services, and advocacy our service offers. In 2025, we engaged with over 1,500 local young people through a range of consultation methods including surveys, focus groups, school workshops, social media campaigns, assertive community outreach, and our ongoing youth programs. These diverse approaches ensured that young people from different backgrounds had accessible ways to share their perspectives. The 2025 Banyule Youth Survey received 534 responses, with an additional 255 young people taking part in the YouthFest Feedback Survey.

Alongside this, over 400 young people contributed their ideas at the YouthFest consultation tent, more than 100 young people shared their voices at the 2025 Youth Summit, and 12 young leaders are continuing their journey as Youth Summit Representatives.

Key themes emerging from this year's Youth Survey and Youth Summit consultations highlight mental health, education and employment pressures, and body image and self-worth as ongoing priorities for young people. Many participants expressed a need for greater support in securing employment and accessing financial assistance, alongside improved accessibility to resources, services, and equitable opportunities to have their voices heard—particularly among LGBTIQA+ and neurodiverse young people.

In response to these identified needs, two pilot programs were introduced at Jets Studios: a Drama/Theatre program designed to build confidence and social connection, and a podcasting initiative that provides a platform for young people to share their stories and address issues such as racism.



## Feedback from our young people

The responses from our consultation showed us that:

**8%** (2024)  
**53%** (2025)



identified **RELATIONSHIPS**  
as a main issue youth are facing

**30%** (2024)  
**56%** (2025)



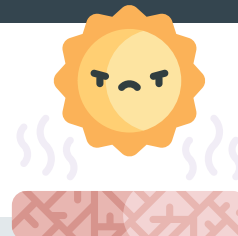
reported feeling concerned about  
**YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**

**29%**  
(2025)



identified **SCHOOL PRESSURES**  
as a concern

**23%**  
(2025)



identified **CLIMATE CHANGE** as a  
concern for Young People

**23%**  
(2025)



Identified **GLOBAL POLITICS  
& WORLD EVENTS** as a concern

**25%** (2024)  
**36%** (2025)



of young people surveyed  
identified as **NEURODIVERGENT**

**6%** (2024)  
**10%** (2025)



of respondents identified as  
**GENDER DIVERSE**

**6%** (2024)  
**6%** (2025)



of young people surveyed  
identified as **ABORIGINAL AND/  
OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER**

### What should Banyule Youth Services be doing to address **YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH?**

Free events  
& workshop **71%**

Trainings for  
teachers & families **55%**

Referrals/connecting  
young people **76%**

How are young people feeling about **EMPLOYMENT & FINANCES?**



Concerned about **MONEY**

**14%**

Concerned about **TRYING TO FIND EMPLOYMENT**

**13%**

Wanted to be informed about **AFFORDABLE EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**59%**

for young people in Banyule

## Feedback from our young people

What should BYS Be doing for Young People:

**50%**



said **MENTAL HEALTH** support

**48%**



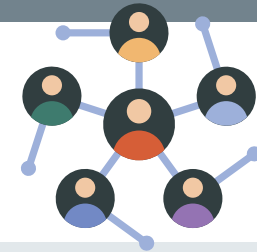
said **FREE EVENTS**

**56%**



said teaching young people about **LIFESKILLS**

**36%**



said having access to a **YOUTH CENTRE** and **LINKING** with other youth services



In the Biannual Youth Summit, Young People advised these **KEY AREAS** they want Banyule Youth Services to address across the next two years:

- ▶ Cultural Diversity
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Youth Futures
- ▶ Mental Health
- ▶ Community Safety
- ▶ Gender Equality
- ▶ Physical Health & Recreation
- ▶ Diversity & Inclusion
- ▶ Online Spaces
- ▶ First Nations
- ▶ Equal Opportunities
- ▶ Social Connections

## Banyule's young people

The data collated from the most recent census (2021) estimated the resident population for the city of Banyule was 129,387 with a forecast of reaching 137,567 in 2022 and reaching 165,256 by 2041. Young people between the ages of 12-24 make up 14.6% of this population.

The analysis of youth disadvantage in the Banyule region requires a specific breakdown to capture

the diverse experience spanning across suburbs. As an LGA, youth disadvantage rates (unemployment, low income, social housing, housing stress) present as similar if not higher to those in Greater Melbourne. At a closer look, it is evident that this is due to significantly higher/lower rates between suburbs such as Heidelberg West/Yallambie respectively.

For example, whilst the youth unemployment rate in Yallambie is 8.8% the analysis showed that areas such as the west precinct of Banyule had youth unemployment rates up to 10% higher than the rates in greater Melbourne (16.7%).





## Banyule's young people

These percentages highlight the polarities in presenting needs within the Banyule area that promote targeted and individualised responses in vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, particularly the suburbs of Heidelberg West, Bellfield, and Heidelberg Heights.

In a similar theme, the analysis of disadvantage in the Banyule area showed that within areas such as Heidelberg West and Heidelberg Heights >20% of the population were classed as low-income households – earning less than \$650 per week before tax. Broader areas in Banyule were similar to those recorded in Greater Melbourne (16.7%) with some suburbs reaching percentages 10% lower. Linked to this level of income it was recorded that 3.6% of Banyule's population was living in a form of public/social housing (compared to 2.3% in greater Melbourne), with rates as high as 25.5% in areas between Heidelberg West and Bellfield.

## Relevant Legislative and Policy context

### Legislation

Governing legislation that applies to this department:

- ▶ Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005;
- ▶ Children, Youth, and Families Act 2005
- ▶ Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

### Guidelines and Standards

- ▶ Victorian Youth Work Code of Ethical Practice

### Plans & policies

- ▶ Banyule Youth Charter (2009)
- ▶ Child, Youth and Family Framework 2021-2031
- ▶ Banyule Community vision 2041
- ▶ Inclusive Banyule Plan
- ▶ Child Safe Policy & Framework
- ▶ Public Art Policy 2020-2041





## The Banyule Youth Action Plan 2026

Banyule Youth Services seeks to value, engage and empower young people between the ages of 12-25 years who are living, going to school, working or socialising in the Banyule community.

The youth services unit has a strategic and philosophical commitment to **community engagement, development and capacity building** via key service objectives: To support and strengthen health, wellbeing and social connection to community; To consult, advocate and collaborate for improved youth-led outcomes; To support a sustainable future, enhance life skills and strengthen pathways; To celebrate young people and recognise their value in our community; To embed inclusivity and create safe opportunities for our varied diverse communities.

## Banyule Youth Services Strategic Objectives:



**To support and strengthen health, wellbeing and social connection to community.**

Banyule Youth Services is committed to improving young people's mental, physical and social wellbeing by facilitating access to appropriate information and services.



**To consult, advocate and collaborate with and for young people for improved youth-led outcomes.**

Banyule Youth Services recognises the importance of young people's proactive role as key stakeholders in their community through collaborative consultation and action. Banyule Youth Services is dedicated to active advocacy to ensure the best outcomes for our young people. We are committed to coordinating and participating in local networks, brokering partnerships and modelling youth sector best practice.



**To support a sustainable future, enhance life skills and strengthen pathways.**

Banyule Youth Services recognises the importance of learning and skill development for young people. We facilitate a range of opportunities for personal growth, educational and employment pathways.



**To recognize and celebrate Banyule's young people and ensure that their voice is reflected in our community.**

Banyule Youth Services works to ensure young people are acknowledged and recognised as valued contributing members of their communities, through the positive showcasing of their talents and achievements. We work to foster greater understanding and respect of youth culture and individuals.



**To improve awareness and create safe inclusive spaces and opportunities for our varied diverse communities of young people.**

Banyule Youth Services work to ensure that all young people are included, acknowledged and valued through the promotion of inclusivity and challenge of negative stereotypes, through the recognition of the unique barriers some young people face and through the development of inclusive and safe opportunities for Banyule's young people.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE

To support and  
strengthen  
health, wellbeing  
and social  
connection  
to community



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE

To support and strengthen health, wellbeing and social connection to community

Banyule Youth Services is committed to improving young people's mental health, physical and social wellbeing by facilitating access to appropriate information and services

Deliver & document a 'no wrong door' supported referral process via a number of mechanisms inclusive of face to face, phone, social media, and email, responding to all enquiries in a timely manner.

Partner with local providers in the promotion and delivery of wellbeing programs.

Provide organisations/schools/families with information and secondary support about topical youth issues.

Deliver parent/carer information sessions to encourage increased knowledge and positive discourse between parents/carers and young people.

Deliver an outreach program in Banyule using an assertive outreach model where youth workers engage respectfully with young people providing referral, support, information and advocacy during need, transition, and crisis.

Provide opportunities for young people to develop their artistic and leadership skills through the delivery of street art workshops and murals using a holistic and diversionary approach. Provide development opportunities for participants to act as mentors through the delivery of workshops and murals.



Provide and maintain a range of thematically based service brochures outlining services available to young people and their families in Banyule.

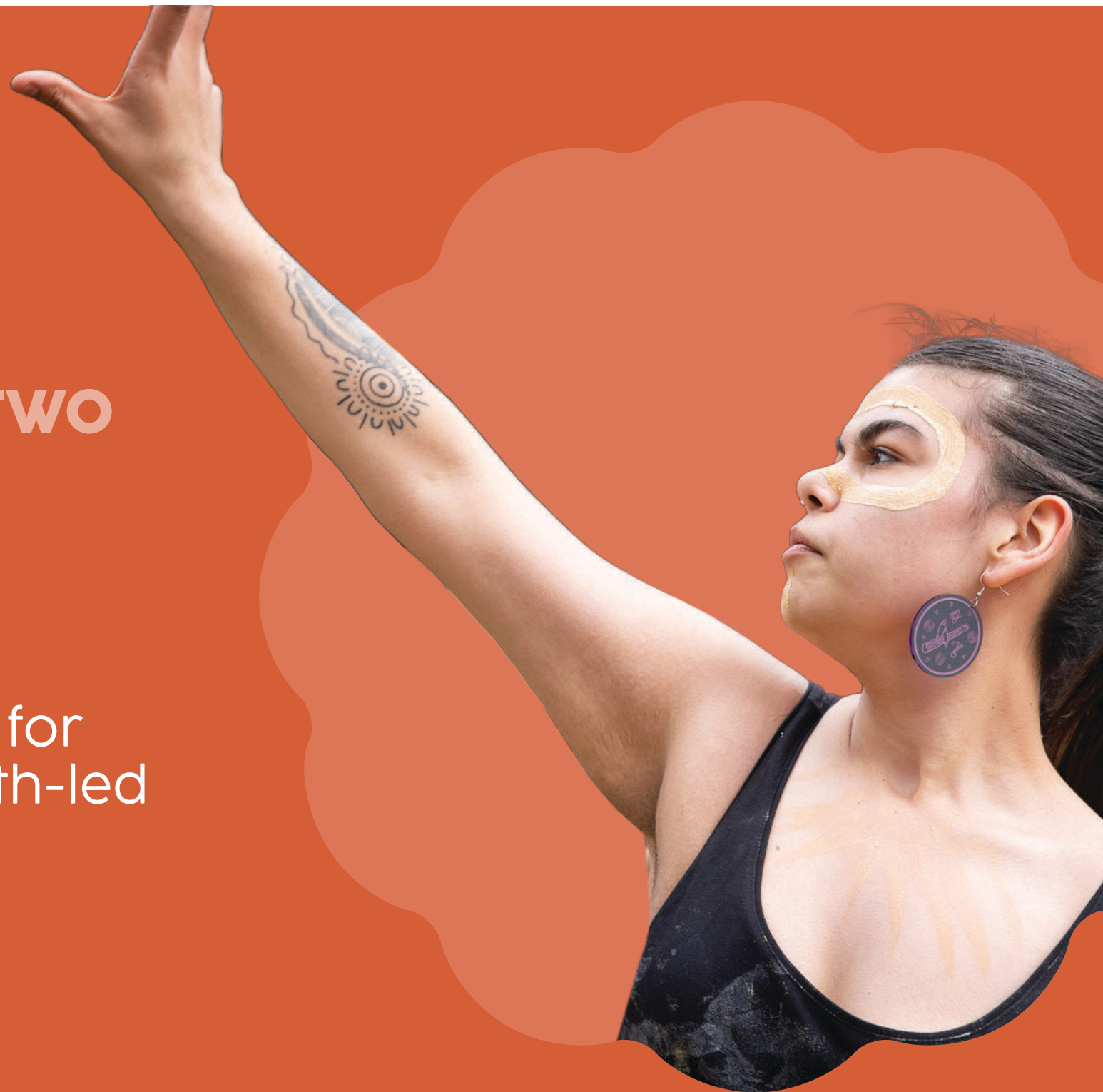
In partnership with local organisations and internal service units, support the delivery of inclusive recreational and school holiday activities to a diverse range of local young people.

Maintain and provide accurate, accessible, updated and timely information via a range of online communication tools inclusive of youth specific websites and a range of social media platforms.

Deliver a range of accessible, inclusive, unstructured recreational opportunities mitigating as many barriers as possible with the aim of promoting positive wellbeing and social connectedness.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO

To consult,  
advocate and  
collaborate  
with and for  
young people for  
improved youth-led  
outcomes



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO

To consult, advocate and collaborate with and for young people for improved youth-led outcomes

2

Banyule Youth Services recognises the importance of young people's proactive role as key stakeholders in their community through collaborative consultation and action. Banyule Youth Services is dedicated to active advocacy to ensure best outcomes for our young people. We are committed to coordinating and participating in local networks, brokering relationships, and modelling youth sector best practice.

Participate in and provide executive support to Banyule Nillumbik Youth Services Network (BNYSN) and advocate for identified priority issue areas that impact young people.

Continue to advocate for the needs of young people at local, state, and federal government levels.

Deliver a biennial Youth Summit in partnership with a diverse representation of young people from Banyule. After the event, work collaboratively with young people to advocate for and/or deliver their Summit recommendations.

Deliver a biennial Summit Report Card to let our community know what actions have been undertaken from the previous Banyule Youth Summit recommendations that were made by young people.

Undertake ongoing consultation and collaboration with a diverse range of young people in youth spaces and other varied settings to ensure a wide range of young peoples' voices are captured in all youth planning.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE

To support a  
sustainable future,  
enhance life skills  
and strengthen  
pathways



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE

To support a sustainable future,  
enhance life skills and strengthen pathways

3

Banyule Youth Services recognizes the importance of learning and skill development for young people. We facilitate a range of opportunities for personal growth, educational and employment pathways.

Maximise Jets Studios in order to provide a range of strength based creative and technical training opportunities, personal development opportunities and pathways for young people.

Support the capacity of young people to work in the creative industries through workshops, event planning & delivery, production, performance, and other creative opportunities.

Provide opportunities for young people to undertake work experience and tertiary placements to provide them with a diverse range of skills, professional references, employment pathways and satisfy educational requirements.

Model best practice in reducing environmental footprint through the running of Jets facility and local events, whilst providing opportunities for young people to access information, workshops, and resources on environmentally friendly living.

Provide safe spaces where young people are able to connect and explore their interests.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR

To recognise and  
celebrate Banyule's  
young people and  
ensure their voice  
is reflected in  
our community



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR

To recognise and celebrate Banyule's young people and ensure their voice is reflected in our community



4

Banyule Youth Services work to ensure young people are acknowledged and recognised as valued contributing members of their community, through positive showcasing of their talents and achievements. We work to foster greater understanding and respect of youth culture and individuals.

Collaborate with young people to create an engaging and contemporary annual youth festival to celebrate the contribution young people make to the community.

Highlight and celebrate youth led initiatives & groups through internal and external networks. Provide platforms for young people to share their stories to the broader community.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FIVE

To improve  
awareness and  
create safe  
inclusive spaces  
and opportunities  
for our varied  
diverse communities  
of young people



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FIVE

To improve awareness and create safe inclusive spaces and opportunities for our varied diverse communities of young people

5

Banyule Youth Services work to ensure that all young people are celebrated, represented, and valued. This is done through the promotion of inclusivity, challenging negative stereotypes, recognising the unique barriers some young people face in order to enable safer opportunities.

Provide safe and supportive social and advocacy opportunities for LGBTIQ+ young people. Promote positive gender and sexual diversity through advocacy, information provision and celebration.

Provide a range of inclusive and skill building programmatic responses and supportive social opportunities for young people with disabilities.

Support culturally and linguistically diverse communities by creating culturally relevant activities/events, developing community links, and creating opportunities for strategic advocacy.

Provide appropriate and culturally competent support, wellbeing, and secondary support.

Provide a platform for best practice in hosting sensory friendly community events through tools such as access keys, communication tools, low sensory zones/times, and sensory reduction accessories.

# Contact Us

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**Instagram:** @banyuleyouth

**Website:** [www.banyuleyouth.com](http://www.banyuleyouth.com)

## Jets Studios

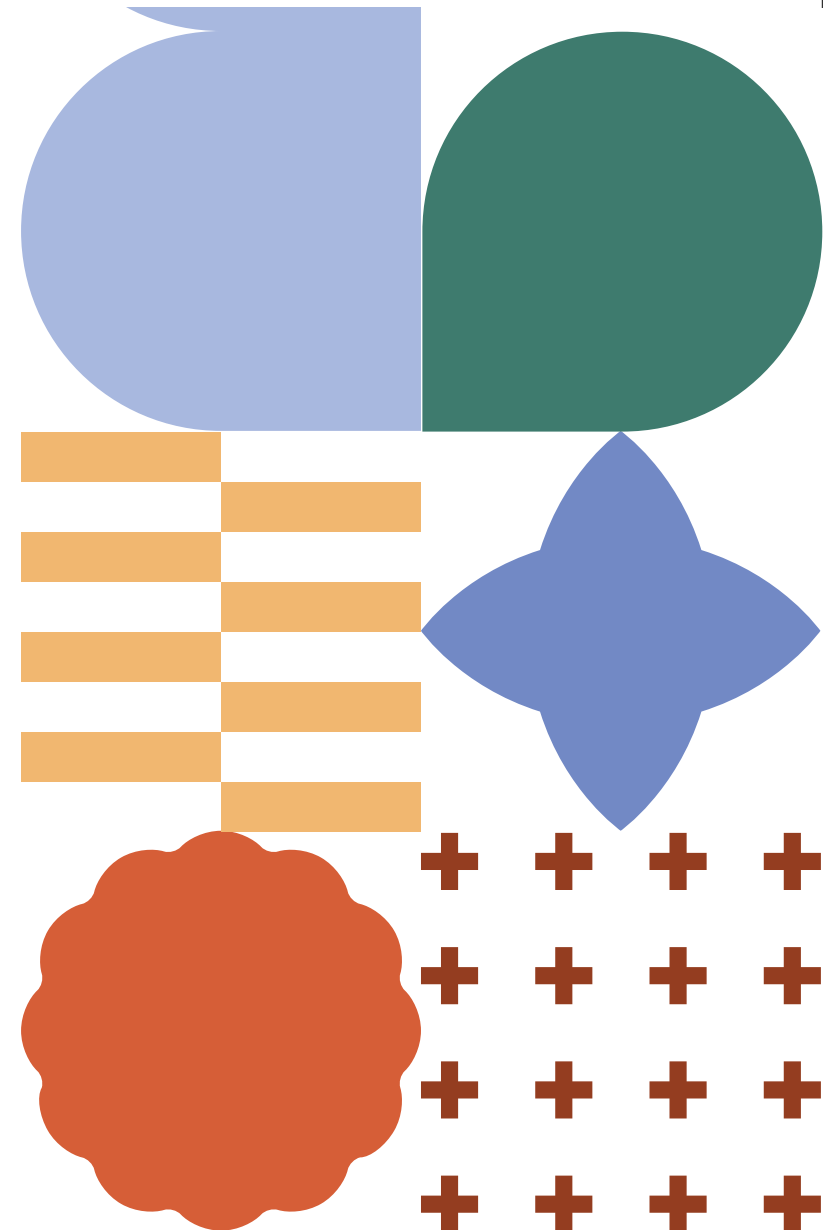
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**BanyuleYouthServices**

Supporting diversity,  
inclusion & equity for all

