



BANYULE

YOUTH SUMMIT

REPORT 2026



INTRODUCTION

Every two years, Banyule Youth Services brings together young people who live, work, or spend time in Banyule City Council to share their experiences and shape conversations about the issues that matter most to them. In 2025, 100 young people came together to explore and debate a wide range of topics, including community safety, cultural inclusion, mental health, climate action, and social connection.

Through collaborative workshops and discussions, young people worked collectively to develop practical solutions to these challenges. They presented their ideas and recommendations directly to Council, community members, and representatives from local, state, and federal government, ensuring their voices were heard by key decision-makers.

Since then, Council officers have been actively working to implement as many of these recommendations as possible within existing funding and operational scope. To keep young people at the heart of this work, the Banyule Youth Services team partnered closely with young people throughout the implementation process. We are proud to share the outcomes achieved over the past twelve months and remain committed to working alongside young people to create meaningful, positive change in our community.



COMMUNITY SAFETY



VISION:

For a strong and connected community that is safe, trusting and supportive of all people.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We delivered a 'Party Ready' training for young people to give them the skills and knowledge to keep themselves and their friends safe at parties and events.
- ▶ In partnership with Think Village, we delivered a series of crime prevention workshops at a local secondary school, engaging 50 students around safety, decision-making and harm reduction.
- ▶ We activated Buna Reserve and ran a several week street art program, engaging young people to activate the reserve and create a vibrant and safer community experience.
- ▶ We ran free, accredited first aid training to build young people's confidence and capacity to respond in emergency situations.

RECOMMENDATIONS



CULTURAL DIVERSITY



VISION:

For culturally and linguistically diverse young people to feel safe and supported when representing their communities and for improved awareness and education in the community about culturally and linguistically.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We developed and launched a new podcast series “It Matters to Us” with culturally diverse young people, for young people to share their stories and information about the impacts of racism in the community.
- ▶ We provided opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse young people to plan activities and events throughout the year, including a podcast launch, community sports and games events and an Eid celebration.
- ▶ We hosted a training workshop for youth workers and teachers to strengthen their capacity to support young people in recognising, addressing, and calling out racism.

SUPPORTING LGBTIQA+ PEERS



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



VISION:

For neurodiverse and LGBTIQA+ young people to feel that they have a platform within their communities to access support, and to advocate for themselves and others.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We delivered advocacy training for LGBTIQA+ and neurodiverse young people to build self-advocacy skills and support collective action in school and community settings.
- ▶ We developed two teacher resources to equip educators in supporting neurodiverse and LGBTIQA+ young people in the classroom.
- ▶ We developed two youth-focused resources to equip young people in supporting neurodivergent peers and be effective LGBTIQA+ allies.
- ▶ We hosted a professional development session for teachers and youth workers on how to meaningfully incorporate intersectionality into their practices to support diverse groups of young people.



ENVIRONMENT



VISION:

To have access to positive information about environmental changes, volunteering and what can be done to support a clean and green environment. For young people to have more opportunities to access green spaces, and to have a greater understanding of the biodiversity in our communities, including greater awareness of native animals, flora and fauna and places of cultural significance.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We created a youth e-newsletter for sharing information about the environment, volunteering, community opportunities and positive news stories directly to young people's inbox.
- ▶ We delivered more activities for young people outdoors, both aimed at educating young people about the environment and for fostering social connection. This included 'Flora Fest', a youth-led event connecting young people with nature and environmental education from environmental leaders and educators.
- ▶ We ran our very first op-shop hop to support young people in reducing clothing waste and fast fashion. We also shared information on where to find op shops in Banyule so young people can continue to support sustainable shopping.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES BOYS



VISION:

For young Somali Australian men to have greater access to safe spaces to connect, network and build stronger relationships.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We ran a series of events for Somali Australian young men to provide them with safe spaces to connect to each other and their culture. This included sporting tournaments, games nights and a partnership with Darebin Youth Services activating their youth hub.
- ▶ We delivered an employment forum for young Somali Australians that connected them with working professionals who shared their experience, networks and highlighted career opportunities.
- ▶ We created new volunteer roles in the youth services team to assist in event planning and delivery for Somali Australian young men to build their professional skills and connect to community.

RECOMMENDATIONS



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES GIRLS

MAKING
CHANGE
HAPPEN!

VISION:

To feel heard and supported by our local Council on global issues affecting young people in Banyule, and to better understand how to engage with these issues and their impact on our wellbeing.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We delivered a wellbeing session to support young people to navigate the mental health impacts of seeing international atrocities from conflict online and how to deal with “doom” scrolling.
- ▶ We partnered with Hue to run an advocacy training to support young women to use their voice and expand their knowledge of where they can advocate to on local, state and global levels.
- ▶ Banyule young women had the opportunity to meet with Banyule Councillors to share youth perspectives on world events and their impacts on young people in our community.



FIRST NATIONS



VISION:

We want to increase opportunities to engage in cultural activities with other young people from the First Nations community.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ With the support of Barbunnin Beek, Banyule Youth delivered an interschool workshop for First Nations young people to connect with one another in a culturally safe space.
- ▶ The interschool workshop included yarning, Indigenous games, and creative art activities, providing opportunities for cultural expression, relationship-building, and connection.
- ▶ We delivered more First Nations arts activities, including a mob and ally friendly t-shirt and tote making workshop and First Nations ornament making at Jets Block party.



GENDER EQUALITY



VISION:

For everyone to have equal opportunities regardless of gender identity. Recognising all genders and that gender equality is about having a choice.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We created a new resource for schools to help share information about menstrual health using gender neutral language.
- ▶ We launched our new "Just in Case" bags, a free menstrual emergency kit to make period products more accessible.
- ▶ We ran a parent information session on how to support young people in navigating respectful relationships and how to recognise unhealthy relationship patterns.
- ▶ We partnered with Roller Derby Victoria to run a come and try roller skating session to increase opportunities for young women and gender diverse people to engage in sporting activities.



MENTAL HEALTH

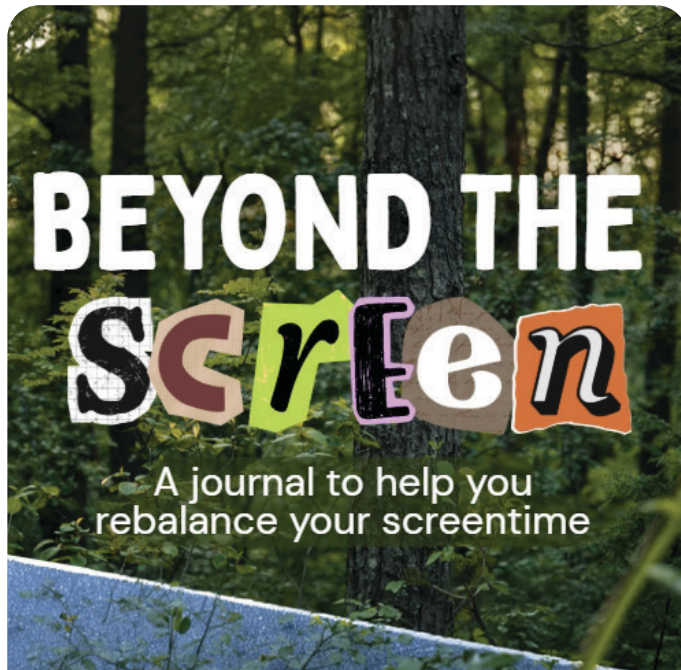


VISION:

For young people in Banyule to have better access to supports and services to provide positive mental health outcomes.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We hosted an information session for parents on how to navigate mental health supports and services in Banyule.
- ▶ We partnered with headspace Greensborough's Youth Reference Group to create supportive information for young people on where to seek help for mental health challenges.
- ▶ We hosted a professional development session for youth workers and teachers on how to navigate Banyule's primary and tertiary mental health services.
- ▶ We delivered a youth mental health awareness event on the Greensborough Walk, featuring local services, youth markets and live performances to support safe conversations about mental health and to connect young people to wellbeing services.



ONLINE SPACES



VISION:

For young people to be able to explore their interests and hobbies outside of the online environment and for young people to be better educated on how to navigate the challenges in online spaces.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We created a new page on the Banyule Youth Services website that helps young people connect to opportunities for socialising, engaging in hobbies, and joining local clubs.
- ▶ We shared content created by young people across our socials on the importance of media literacy and how young people can recognise misinformation online.
- ▶ The Youth Summit Representatives developed a new wellbeing journal "Beyond the Screen" for young people that supports them to reduce their screen time through interactive activities, goal setting and phone wellbeing tips.



PHYSICAL HEALTH AND RECREATION



VISION:

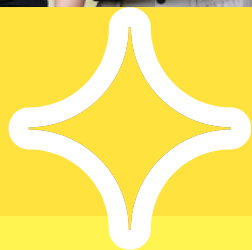
For young people to have greater access to affordable activities that support their physical health. For young people to be better educated on how to look after their bodies so that they can carry healthy habits into their futures.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We shared a social media campaign to provide information to young people about identifying and exploring new sports, improving engagement in physical health and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- ▶ We met with a number of local gyms and recreation centres to advocate for lower costs at sporting facilities for young people. We also shared and promoted youth membership offers and discounts at recreation centres across Banyule on social media.
- ▶ We ran more school holiday activities that involved getting physically active and engaging in sports.



YOUTH FUTURES



VISION:

For young people to be supported in accessing information on how to get a job and volunteer at both small and large scale activities and events, and for young people to have accessible opportunities that support their personal and professional development.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We supported the Banyule Nillumbik Local Learning and Employment Network to launch their new Jobs Hub, a portal designed for young people to find local job opportunities.
- ▶ Our Youth Summit Reps attended a number of Banyule Youth events to hear directly from young people about what matters to them and continued to advocate for young people's interest to Council.
- ▶ We ran our annual Youth Survey and heard from over 500 young people and used their voices to inform our Youth Action Plan.
- ▶ We met with Diamond Valley Volunteers Hub to explore pathways that support young people interested in volunteering. Additionally, we created new resources on volunteering and how to connect to meaningful volunteer opportunities to gain experience and give back to the community.
- ▶ In our new youth newsletter, we shared volunteering and professional development opportunities for young people to build their professional skills.



SOCIAL CONNECTION



VISION:

For young people to be able to be connected their communities and have creative and unique opportunities to build strong social relationships with one another.

OUTCOMES:

- ▶ We ran a new drama program at Jets Studios for young people who were interested in performing arts and making new friends.
- ▶ We offered activities during the school holidays that focused on mental health and wellbeing, including a self-care and journalling workshop.
- ▶ We partnered with Olympic leisure centre to run physical activities that supported young people to be active and build new social connections.
- ▶ We provided opportunities for young people who game to game and connect. This included tabletop gaming, role-playing games and a school holiday Mario Kart tournament.

Banyule Youth Services would like to acknowledge the work of the young people who were involved in the Youth Summit, and participated in bringing all of the outcomes to life.

To find out more about the Banyule Youth Summit go to:
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