Youth Friendly Albany Strategy
2017-2020

A+
Albany

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Contents

We are really excited to have been part of the team putting together the Youth Friendly Albany Strategy. It has enabled us to have our voices heard and we have a commitment from the City to put our ideas and plans into action. This strategy gives all of us a powerful voice going forward so make sure you take advantage of the opportunities to have your say. We all have an important role to play in building Albany to be a more youth friendly community for current and future generations of young people
- Albany Youth Advisory Council 2017

Mayor's Message

I'm pleased to present Council's first Youth Strategy, 'Youth Friendly Albany'.

The greatest period of change in one's life occurs during the ages of 12-25 as a person transitions from childhood to adulthood, dependence to interdependence. This strategy will help us to create a more friendly welcoming community for our young people that recognises and values the contribution they make to our community.

'Youth Friendly Albany' strategy is the result of extensive consultation with young people and I would like to thank all of those who contributed to its development.

This strategy provides a solid framework for the City to contribute to a more inclusive society that values the contribution and opinion of our young people and encourages their participation in all aspects of our community.

Dennis Wellington
Mayor of Albany

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Youth Friendly Albany Strategy was made possible with funding from the Department of Local Government and Communities (DLGC). The Strategy is the result of extensive consultation with young people from Albany and surrounding communities with the aim of creating a more 'Youth Friendly Community'.

This will be the first time the City of Albany (City) has had a strategic framework underpinning activities undertaken in the youth sector The Strategy will document the priorities of our young people now and guide Council's activity across the organisation in the youth sector across four key areas.

Youth engagement & inclusion

Youth spaces and places

Employment, education and training

Events and social opportunities

Youth engagement and inclusion;

Youth spaces and places;

Employment, education and training; and

Events and social opportunities.

These areas were identified as priorities by young people, and are areas that the City can drive significant change over the period of the strategy.

The City's vision is 'to be Western Australia's most sought after and unique city to live work, and visit'. One of the key themes is to create 'communities where people feel they belong and are supported'.

The City utilised online engagement techniques as well as a number of face-to-face forums to collect feedback from young people in Albany and surrounding communities. A mix of qualitative and quantitative data was provided, priorities identified by the frequency of responses and 'dot democracy' voting technique at the forums.

The City recognise and value the contribution young people make to the Albany community and have committed to making Albany a more youth friendly community through the Strategy.

Background

In 2015, a grant was obtained from Department of Local Government and Communities' Youth Friendly Communities Grant Program to engage with young people from Albany and surrounding communities about making Albany more youth friendly.

Members of the Albany Youth Advisory Council and Youth Development Officer trainee were instrumental in driving and facilitating the consultation.

The consultation report was used for identifying the objectives and priorities in the Youth Friendly Albany Strategy.

Council's Commitment

The City commits to making Albany a more youth friendly community. We will achieve this by:

➜ Develop and implement the actions of the Youth Friendly Albany Strategy with the aim of making Albany a more youth friendly community;

➜ Offer young people multiple ways to provide their views to Council;

➜ Include young people as key stakeholders on projects or activities that may impact on them;

➜ Listen to and respect the opinions of young people in the community;

➜ Invest in the development of young leaders in the community;

➜ Encourage other organisations to engage with young people when planning or implementing activities, events and developments;

➜ Advocate the significance of young people in our community to state and federal governments to ensure adequate services are available; and

➜ Ensuring Council programs, services and facilities are inclusive and accessible to all young people.

Role of Local Government in the Youth Sector

Every local government is different and the roles local government play in providing services varies council to council, therefore it is necessary to define what role the City has in the youth sector.

Albany is fortunate to have a number of youth agencies and services who provide young people in crisis with support services. The City is not a youth service provider, however it does have an important role in advocating for the continuation of these services and additional services when required.

The Strategy provides a strategic framework to direct the City's work with young people and youth agencies in a more focused and effective manner that does not duplicate or replicate the activities of other agencies. More broadly, this Strategy will be underpinned by the Connected Communities 2014-2018 principles of inclusion, sustainability and partnerships.

In addition to general local government services, the City provides the following for young people:
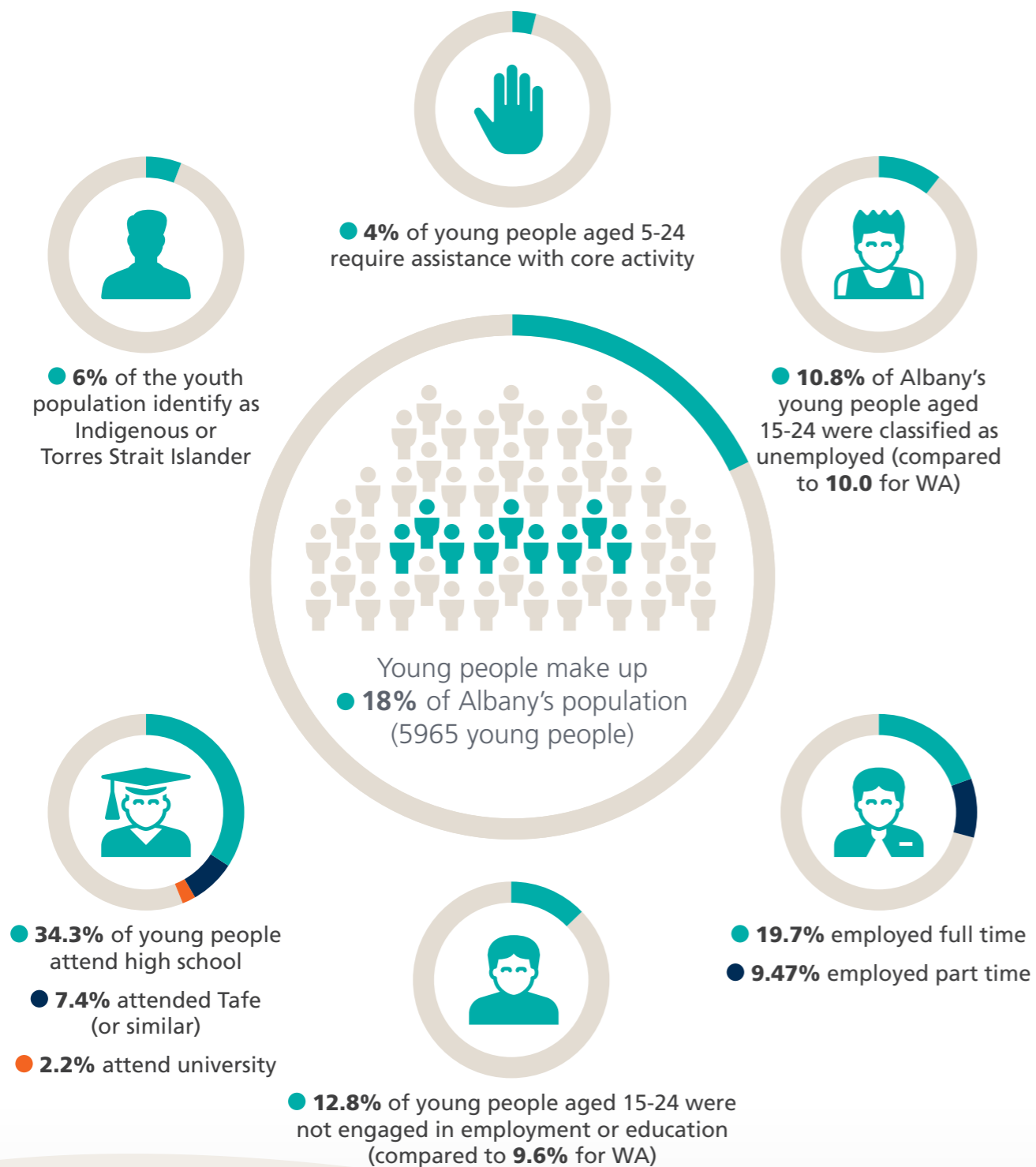
➜ Library services including 'My Tutor', study space, PC and internet access;

➜ Arts and cultural experiences through the Vancouver Arts Centre;

➜ A selection of school holiday activities and events;

➜ National Youth Week activities;

➜ Work experience opportunities;

➜ Volunteer opportunities;

➜ Leadership opportunities through the Youth Advisory Council;

➜ A limited number of traineeship and apprenticeship positions.

About Youth Friendly Communities

The Department of Local Government and Communities (DLGC) defines a 'Youth Friendly Community' as one:

'where young people are treated with respect and where they feel safe, welcome and included. It is a community that encourages and recognises the participation and contributions of young people, supports youth development and provides youth-friendly services, facilities and programs'. (DLGC, 2015).

A Youth Friendly Community is guided by the following principles.

1. Local government support
2. Partnerships in the community
3. Build relationships with youth
4. Diversity of young people
5. Ownership by young people
6. Holistic approach when consulting young people
7. Flexible approach to consulting young people
8. Fun and innovation
9. Evaluation and feedback
10. Youth views embedded in community strategic planning

These principles link back to UNICEF's 'Child Friendly Cities' Framework (UNICEF, 2004).

Snapshot of Albany's Young People

Demographics

Albany Youth Population (ABS, 2011)

● **4%** of young people aged 5-24 require assistance with core activity

● **6%** of the youth population identify as Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander

● **10.8%** of Albany's young people aged 15-24 were classified as unemployed (compared to **10.0** for WA)

Young people make up
● **18%** of Albany's population (5965 young people)

● **34.3%** of young people attend high school
● **7.4%** attended Tafe (or similar)
● **2.2%** attend university

● **12.8%** of young people aged 15-24 were not engaged in employment or education (compared to **9.6%** for WA)

● **19.7%** employed full time
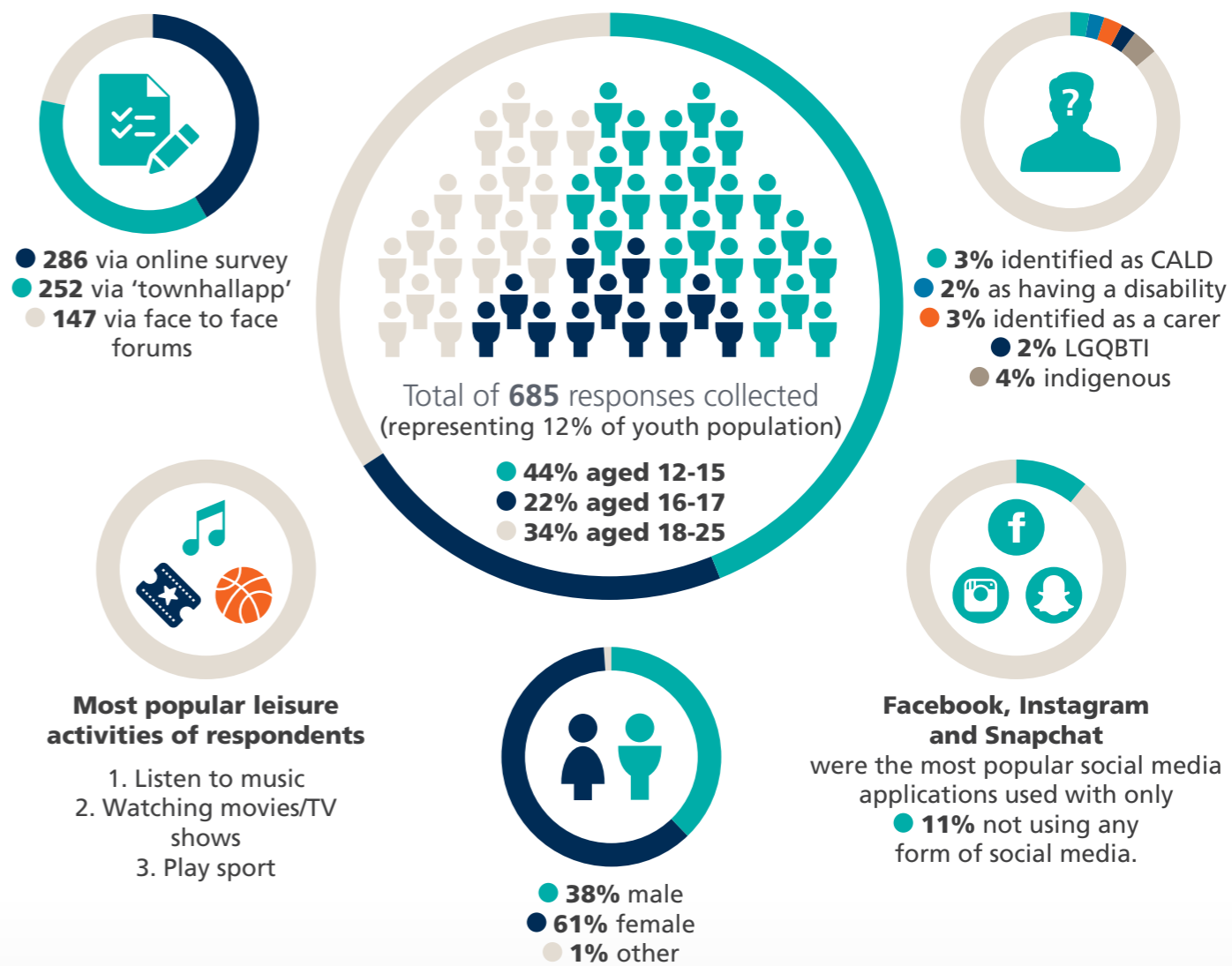● **9.47%** employed part time

Community Engagement and Research

A comprehensive review process was undertaken and included the following components:

➜ Review of Council's role in the youth sector;
➜ Literature Review;
➜ Review of Albany's Youth Demographic profile; and
➜ Consultation with young people, the youth sector and Council staff.

A number of different engagement techniques were used to engage with young people in our community including:

➜ Youth forums;
➜ 'townhallapp' online platform;
➜ Online survey;
➜ Have your say wall; and
➜ Photo competition.

About Our Participants

● **286** via online survey
● **252** via 'townhallapp'
● **147** via face to face forums

Total of **685** responses collected (representing 12% of youth population)
● **44%** aged 12-15
● **22%** aged 16-17
● **34%** aged 18-25

● **3%** identified as CALD
● **2%** as having a disability
● **3%** identified as a carer
● **2%** LGQBTI
● **4%** indigenous

Most popular leisure activities of respondents
1. Listen to music
2. Watching movies/TV shows
3. Play sport

● **38%** male
● **61%** female
● **1%** other

Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat
were the most popular social media applications used with only
● **11%** not using any form of social media.

4.4 Have Your Say Wall

The youth engagement process was launched at National Youth Week on Friday, 15 April 2016. The City in partnership with the YAC, held a 'Mini Youth Fest' with live music, agency displays and free activities in the Town Square. Young people were invited to have their say by writing on the Albany Public Library windows using chalk pens. For consistency, the same questions were asked as in the youth forums.

4.5 Good, Bad and the Ugly Photo Competition

The Good, Bad and the Ugly Photo Competition provided a creative opportunity for young people to offer their perspective using the visual arts.

Young people were encouraged to submit three photos that illustrated:

1. What they love about Albany? (the good)
2. What is it that they find bad about Albany? (the bad)
3. What is it that needs to be improved? (the ugly)

4.6 Youth Stakeholder Engagement

Youth Stakeholders were invited to a forum utilising the same format as the youth forums.

A follow up survey was sent out to all stakeholders after the forum.

Each of these techniques were designed around the City's key principles of community engagement:

➔ Commitment;
➔ Inclusiveness;
➔ Clarity;
➔ Timing;
➔ Transparency;
➔ Resources; and
➔ Accountability.

The majority were facilitated by members of the Albany Youth Advisory Council and Youth Development Officer Trainee, with the support of the Senior Community Development Officer.

Engagement

4.1 Youth Forums

There were five face-to-face youth forums held to provide young people the opportunity to brainstorm and discuss issues with their peers. A world café model was used in most forums, as this process enabled young people to talk directly with their peers rather than to an adult facilitator. An appreciative enquiry approach was preferred, as this approach is consistent with the principles of asset based community development, a recognised best-practice community development model. This technique offered young people an opportunity to think about Albany from a solutions based approach.

A 'dot-democracy' voting process was used to identify the priorities of participants in each forum. This process involved each participant voting using six 'dots' for what they identified as their priorities. Only a maximum of two votes could be cast on any one priority. This ensured every person had the equal opportunity to identify their priorities in a way that didn't involve having to vocalise it in front of a large group. It also enabled the priorities of any adults in the room to be identified differently to young people participating and participants could quickly see what had been prioritised by the group.

4.2 'townhallapp'

Findings from the review of the Albany Youth Advisory Council ("YAC") recently undertaken by the City, online surveys was the preferred method for young people to engage. The City trialled the 'townhallapp.io'. This website enabled a short daily question to be asked and enabled respondents to add their own interactive responses. These responses were included in voting tallies.

A range of questions were asked across a six week period from across each of the theme areas.

4.3 Online Survey

Students from 11 - 12 years were invited to participate in a forum, but after feedback that students were over-committed, the forum was cancelled. The City then offered a flexible option with an online survey developed on Survey Monkey with an added incentive to win one of twenty five cinema vouchers.

Trends

While the concept of 'Youth Friendly Communities' is not new, it has gained interest in Australia over recent years. Examples include Western Australia's Department of Local Government and Communities 'Youth Friendly Communities Funding' and South Australia forming part of a pilot project with UNICEF Australia (Department for Education and Child Development, 2016). There is a growing number of local governments who have or are in the process of developing Youth Friendly Community Strategies.

Increasing youth engagement with local government is a growing trend as more local councils develop youth strategies and/or community engagement policies. This came through very strongly from young people and youth sector stakeholders as a priority area.

Over the past two years, respondents in the Mission Australia annual Youth Survey have nominated coping with stress, school/study problems and body image as their top three issues of personal concern (Bailey et al, 2016). Feedback from consultation participants was that they wanted more opportunities to connect both physically and online with friends as a means of building their social networks. Research has shown young people who feel engaged and who have opportunities to participate experience a better quality of life and contribute to building better communities. Long term, young people who are valued and feel connected have better health and mental health as adults. (ARACY, 2014)

Discrimination and equity questions were added to the Mission Australia Youth Survey in 2016 and over a quarter of all respondents had experienced some form of discrimination or unfair treatment in the last twelve months (Bailey, et al, 2016). This also aligns with feedback from young people in the strategy consultation who identify discrimination as an issue they are concerned with. They identified more opportunities to celebrate diversity and learn about the different cultures in our community as a means of addressing this.

West Australian respondents in the Mission Australia survey were less likely to plan to attend university compared to the national response, but more likely to complete vocational education, get an apprenticeship or plan to look for employment (Bailey et al, 2016). Feedback from those who engaged in the various forms of consultation was the small range of courses available in Albany limited their study opportunities. Finding employment was also an ongoing challenge. In 2011, 10.8% of Albany's young people aged 15-24 years were unemployed compared to 9.5% in regional WA and 10.0% for Western Australia. In comparison, the unemployment rate for the whole of the City of Albany was only 4.9%, compared to 4.4% for regional WA and 4.7% for Western Australia (ABS, 2011).

Vision, Strategic Goals and Objectives

Youth Engagement and Inclusion

The perception amongst young people is that their views and opinions are not valued by council and they are unaware of opportunities to be heard. Research has shown young people who feel valued have better mental health. Under the UN Children's Charter of Rights it is also a fundamental right for young people to influence decisions that affect their lives and to express their opinions.

Strategic Goal: Young people feel that they are an integral part of our community and that their views and opinions are valued.

Objectives

1. Develop the profile of the Albany Youth Advisory Council to provide a young person's perspective to Council and city activities;

2. Increase the profile of volunteering;

3. Develop the skills and profile of young leaders;

4. Promote positive representations of young people in the media;

5. Encourage greater communication between young people and council;

Objective	Actions	Outcome/ Achievement	Who	When
1.1 Develop the profile and the capacity of the Youth Advisory Council to provide a young person's perspective to Council and city activities.	1.1.1 Implement the actions from the 2015 Youth Advisory Council Review.	All recommended actions completed.	Community Development Council Liaison	2017/18
	1.1.2 Initiate biannual Council/youth meeting.	Increased engagement between Council and young people	Community Development Council Liaison	2017/18
1.2 Increase the profile of volunteering to young people.	1.2.1 In partnership the volunteer sector raise the profile of volunteering and increase awareness of volunteering opportunities.	Increase in the number of young people volunteering.	Community Development Recreation Services	2018/19
	1.2.2 Engage young people in City of Albany volunteering programs (tree planting, weeding, events etc.).	Increase in the number of young people volunteering for the City of Albany.	Reserves Events Community Development Human Resources Albany Heritage Park Library Recreation Services	2018/19

Objective	Actions	Outcome/ Achievement	Who	When
1.3 Develop and empower the skills and profile of emerging young leaders.	1.3.1 Identify, support and empower emerging young leaders to increase their leadership skills.	Development of annual leadership program	Community Development	2018/19
	1.3.2 Increase the number of young people recognised for their achievements through nominations for state and federal awards.	Increase in the number of young people nominated for awards.	Community Development Recreation Services	Ongoing
1.4 Promote positive representations of young people through online and print media platforms.	1.4.1 Raise the profile of young people within the media with regular media releases.	Increase in the number of positive media stories promoting achievements of young people.	Communications Community Development Recreation Services	Ongoing
	1.4.2 Partner with young people to develop Youth 'app' or expand CoA app to include additional functions.	Improved access to information for young people.	Community Development IT/Webmaster	2018/19
	1.4.3 Use social media more effectively to communicate with young people.	Increase in the number of young people engaging with council.	Communications	Ongoing
1.5 Encourage greater communication between young people and the City	1.5.1 Identify opportunities for the City and senior staff to engage with young people.	Increased engagement between council and young people.	Community Development Council Liaison	Ongoing

Feel like whatever I have an opinion on doesn't count because of my age
- Male, aged 16 years

Youth Spaces and Places

Albany's natural environment is highly valued by young people. They want the creation of more youth friendly spaces where they can socialise with friends protected from the inclement weather with access to free Wi-Fi. They want to feel included and welcomed within the Albany community.

Strategic Goal: Young people in Albany have a number of spaces and places they feel are welcoming where they can socialise and connect.

Objectives

1. Identify develop and maintain high quality youth friendly facilities;
2. Engage young people in the planning, design and activation of public spaces;
3. Improve connectivity between places, spaces and people;

Objective	Actions	Outcome/ Achievement	Who	When
2.1 Identify, develop and maintain high quality youth friendly facilities.	2.1.1 Map existing facilities and resources and identify options to increase 'youth friendliness' and scope for non-traditional usage options i.e. night time and after hours usage options.	Increased usage of facilities and resources.	Community Development Library Recreation Services Vancouver Arts Events Team Reserves Team	2017/18
	2.1.2 Work with young people and the business community to create a 'Youth friendly' business accreditation.	Youth Friendly accreditation rolled out to local businesses.	Community Development	2018/19
	2.1.3 Engage young people in the creation of 'youth spaces' within City of Albany facilities and reserves (district parks).	Increased use of City of Albany facilities and reserves by young people.	Reserves Projects	2017/18 Ongoing

Objective	Actions	Outcome/ Achievement	Who	When
2.2 Engage young people in the planning, design and activation of public spaces	2.2.1 Increase usage of technology to encourage young people to be involved in providing feedback on public space projects.	Increase in the number of young people providing feedback on public space projects.	Projects Communications Community Development	2017/18
	2.2.2 Actively target young people when engaging community on planning of public spaces.	Increase in the number of young people providing feedback on public spaces.	Projects Communications Community Development	2017/18
2.3 Improve connectivity between places, spaces and people.	2.3.1 Increase awareness of free Wi-Fi locations in Albany.	Free Wi-Fi locations mapped and available on website.	Communications Community Development	2017/18
	2.3.2 Advocate for increased access to public transport for young people (route to include youth spaces and places).	Increase in the number of young people accessing public transport.	Planning Community Development	Ongoing
	2.3.3 Increase the 'connectivity' of footpaths to ensure young people can move safely between spaces and places.	Improved connectivity of footpaths between neighbourhoods and youth spaces.	Reserves TravelSmart City Engineering, Maintenance & Construction	Ongoing

Employment, Education and Training

Young people value the 'country city' lifestyle, so would like more opportunities to pursue tertiary study and career options within Albany. The high cost of training and lack of full time work is an ongoing challenge for young people who struggle to find positions that don't require experience.

Strategic Goal: Albany has a diverse range of education training and career options to encourage young people to stay in Albany longer, or to return to Albany to live.

Objectives:

1. Increase and promote education, training and employment opportunities;

2. Encourage development of social enterprises and opportunities for young entrepreneurs;

3. Provide opportunities for young people to work at the City of Albany.

Good jobs with onsite training, a bigger university
- Hadley, aged 19

Objective	Actions	Outcome/ Achievement	Who	When
3.3.1 Increase and promote education, training and employment opportunities.	3.1.1 Advocate for an increase in the diversity and number of vocational and tertiary courses available in Albany.	There is an increase in the number of young people aged between 17-25 remaining in Albany for study.	Council Executive Management Team	Ongoing
	3.1.2 In partnership with the training and business community, develop a series of work-ready workshops to assist young people find employment.	Increased employability of young people in small businesses.	Community Development	2018/19
3.3.2 Support development of social enterprises and opportunities for young entrepreneurs.	3.2.1 Support development of 'innovation hubs' to support social enterprise models and young entrepreneurs.	Innovation hubs developed.	Community Development	2019/20
	3.2.2 Partner with the business community to identify mentoring opportunities for young entrepreneurs.	An increase in the number of social enterprises and/or young entrepreneurs starting up.	Community Development	2019/20
3.3.3 Provide opportunities for young people to work at the City.	3.1 Maintain the number of opportunities for young people to complete work experience/work placements across the City.	Young people are continued to be offered the opportunity to gain experience in local government.	Albany Leisure & Aquatic Centre Albany Public Library Reserves Vancouver Arts Centre	Ongoing
	3.2 Explore opportunities to increase the number of young people employed by the City.	Increase in the number of young people working for City.	Revenue Development Human Resources	Ongoing
	3.3 Promote local government positions as a potential career option.	Increase in the number of young people working for the City.	Human Resources	Ongoing

Events and Social Opportunities

Young people want to see an increase in the number of affordable 'youth targeted' events and activities to enable to them connect more with people from outside of their school and social circle.

Strategic Goal: Albany has a diverse range of affordable activities and events that enable young people the opportunity to socialise and engage in positive interaction with the community.

Objectives

1. Encourage and support programs and events that celebrate diversity, identity and self-expression;
2. Develop a sustainable year-round program of youth-focussed recreational activities and youth friendly events;
3. Improve promotion of events to young people;
4. Increase the opportunities for cross-school engagement activities;
5. Facilitate initiatives that promote and encourage connectivity;

Objective	Actions	Outcome/ Achievement	Who	When
4.1 Encourage and support programs and events that celebrate diversity, identity and self-expression.	4.1.1 Partner with youth agencies and young people to increase the number of free/affordable sustainable events/activities targeting young people throughout the year.	Increase in the number of activities/events targeting young people.	Community Development Library Recreation Services Vancouver Arts Events	2017/18 Ongoing
	4.2 In partnership with young people host major live 'all ages' music festival.	Major live all ages music festival held.	Community Development Vancouver Arts Events	2018/19
	4.3 Engage with young people when planning large public events.	Young people are engaged in planning phases of large public events.	Events	2017/18 Ongoing
	4.4 Identify funding opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity through multicultural events and activities.	Increase in the number of multicultural events/activities held.	Community Development	Ongoing
	4.5 Identify funding opportunities for youth events and activities.	Additional funding sourced to fund youth events.	Community Development Revenue Development	Ongoing

Objective	Actions	Outcome/ Achievement	Who	When
4.2 Develop a sustainable year-round program of youth-focussed recreation and leisure activities and youth friendly events.	4.2.1 Increase the number of casual recreational opportunities (no commitment to a team).	Facilitate development of casual recreational opportunities for young people.	Recreation Services Community Development	2017/18 Ongoing
	4.2.2. Continue to fund and deliver activities and events for National Youth Week in partnership with young people and youth agencies.	Increase in the number young people participating in Youth Week activities.	Community Development Recreation Services Library Vancouver Arts	Ongoing
4.3 Improved promotion of City news and community events.	4.3.1 In partnership with young people develop a youth targeted marketing and communication plan to promote all city and community events.	Increase in the number of young people engaging with the City on social media.	Communications Community Development	2017/18
4.4 Increase the opportunities for cross-school engagement activities.	4.4.1 Partner with schools to develop inter-school activities to increase connections between students from different schools.	increased opportunities to engage with young people from other schools.	Community Development Recreation Services	2018/19
	4.4.2 Explore options for regional activities/ competitions (Noongar Cup etc.).	increased opportunities to engage with young people from other communities.	Community Development Recreation Services	Ongoing
4.5 Facilitate initiatives that promote and encourage social connection.	4.5.1 Expand on Neighbour day and other programs which build social connection.	Increased feeling of 'connection' to the community.	Community Development	Ongoing

"More events aimed at younger people, more ways to connect with people who don't necessarily go to the same school as you
– Teagan, 17

Policy and Legislation Context

'Our Youth – Our Future' is the WA Government's Strategic Framework for young people which aims to work towards:

➜ Healthy, happy and safe young people;
➜ Learning, work and future financial dependence;
➜ Living Life to the Full; and
➜ Making a difference (DLGC, 2012)

City of Albany Policy Context

The Youth Friendly Albany Strategy aligns with the City of Albany Community Strategic Plan. The plan addresses the key Themes in the Community Strategic Plan: Smart, Prosperous and Growing; A Connected Built Environment; A Sense of Community; and Civic Leadership.

Related City Plans, Strategies and Policies

➜ Corporate Business Plan 2014-2018;
➜ Access and Inclusion Plan 2012-2017;
➜ Connected Communities 2014-2018;
➜ Public Parkland Policy;
➜ Corporate Communications Strategy 2014;
➜ Asset Management Plan;
➜ Community Engagement Policy;
➜ Public Health Plan;
➜ Workplace Development Plan;

Community Strategic Plan Albany 2023 → **Corporate Business Plan 2014-2018** → **Annual Budget**

Informing Strategies

10-Year Financial Plan
Workforce Development Plan
Asset Management Plan

Issue Specific Strategies

Youth Friendly Albany Plan
Public Health Plan
Service Delivery Plans

Implementation Plan

The three-year Implementation Plan outlines the strategic goals, objectives and actions to help the City become a more youth friendly community. While timelines have been added to most actions, delivery will depend on resourcing and external funding. Actions of an ongoing nature are flagged as such.

Monitoring and Review

The success of this Plan is dependent on building partnerships between the City and key stakeholders in the community. These include young people, community organisations, and State and Federal government agencies. Community Services is the lead department for monitoring and reviewing achievement of the Youth Strategy, however the Plan requires a whole-of-City response to be successful. Community Development Team will be responsible for ongoing advocacy of the Plan within and outside the City, as well as monitoring and reporting on progress.

Measuring achievement of the actions will be challenging as some outcomes are easily quantifiable, while others are more perception or experience-based. Evaluation of the success of the Plan will be approached in three ways: annual progress reports to track actions, development of a set of performance indicators to measure actions implemented on a long term or ongoing basis, and through satisfaction ratings captured through engagement with young people and in community perception surveys.

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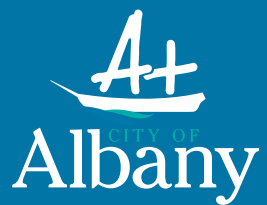
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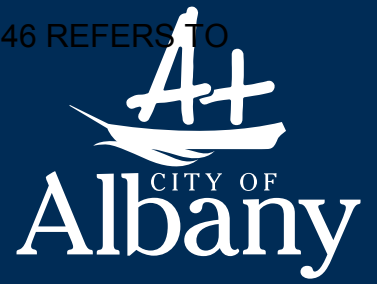
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Have Your Say

Youth Strategy Consultation Report

A+
CITY OF
Albany

RioTinto

Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Local Government and Communities**

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary

This report is in response to funding from the Department of Local Government and Communities (DLGC) for a 'Youth Friendly' Albany. The report is the result of extensive consultation with young people from Albany and surrounding communities to assist in developing a Youth Strategy for the City of Albany.

This will be the first time the City of Albany has had a Youth Strategy. The City's Age Friendly Community Strategy was adopted in May 2016 and this funding opportunity provided the means for the City to progress a Youth Strategy. The strategy will document the priorities of our young people now and guide Council's activity in the youth space into the future across four key areas.

1. Youth engagement & inclusion;
2. Youth spaces and places;
3. Employment, education and training; and
4. Events and social opportunities.

The Strategy is currently being developed, and will be adopted by Council by July 2017.

The partnership with Rio Tinto to fund a part-time Youth Development Officer Trainee was crucial to the success of this project.

The Vision for Albany as stated in the Community Strategic Plan is: 'to be Western Australia's most sought after and unique city to live work, and visit'. One of the key themes is to create 'communities where people feel they belong and are supported'.

The City utilised online engagement techniques as well as a number of face-to-face forums to collect feedback from young people in Albany and surrounding communities. A mix of qualitative and quantitative data was provided, priorities identified by the frequency of responses and 'dot democracy' voting technique at the forums.

The City of Albany recognise and value the contribution young people make to the Albany community and have committed to making Albany a more youth friendly community through the Strategy.

2. Profile of young people

Figures from Census data show how Albany's population is growing with 34,579 residents in 2011, and a resident population of 37,979 in 2015 (ABS 2011, 2015).

Young people aged 12-25 years make up 18% of the Albany population, with 5,965 young people as illustrated in *Figure 1* (based on usual place of residents, ABS 2011).

City of Albany Population by Age Groupings

- 0-11: 15%
- 12-25: 18%
- 26-35: 10%
- 36-59: 33%
- 60-80: 19%
- 80 plus: 5%

Legend: ■ 0-11 ■ 12-25 ■ 26-35 ■ 36-59 ■ 60-80 ■ 80 plus
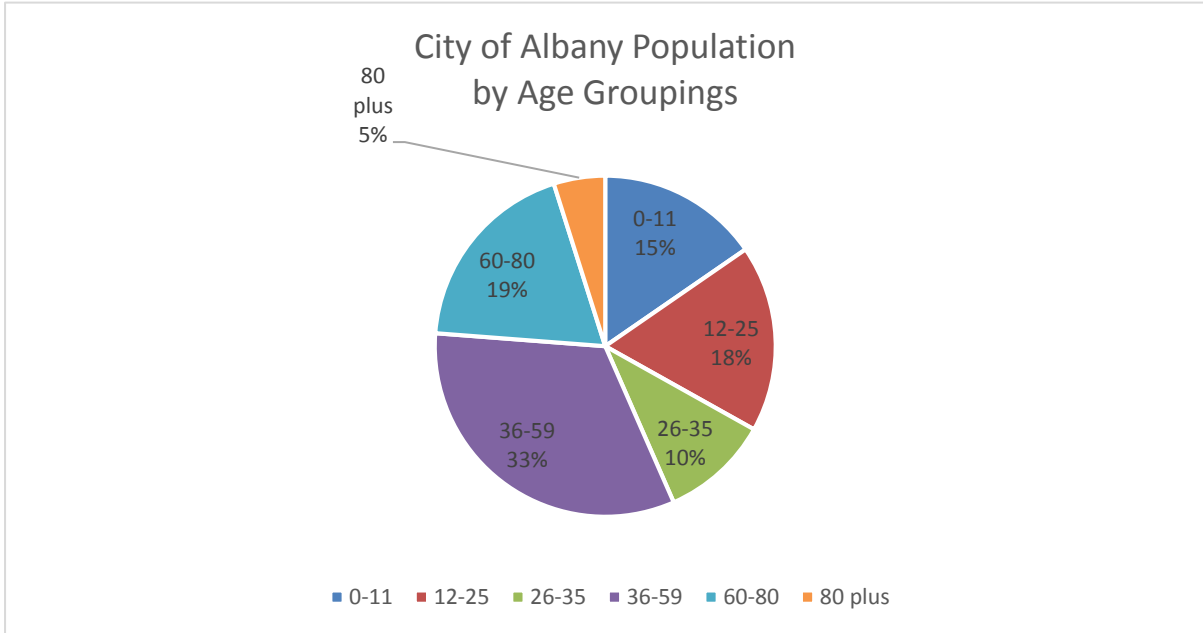
Figure 1: **(ABS 2011)**

Of the youth population, 6% identify as Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander and 4% of children and young people aged 5-24 years require assistance with core activity (ABS 2011). This is a measurement of the number of young people with a profound or severe disability.

While the City has a large proportion of people who speak English only, the City of Albany is experiencing growth in the population who speak Filipino/Tagalog and Afrikaans (ABS 2011). The City also has a growing Karen community however data on the number of young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities is not provided by age groupings in the census data.

As the regional centre for the Great Southern, Albany is the base for many services catering to young people, as well as providing hostel accommodation for both high school and tertiary students from surrounding regional communities in the Great Southern. This is reflected in the number of high school aged students living in Albany compared to the rest of Western Australia. A high proportion of young people aged 18 and above leave Albany to pursue higher education and career options as illustrated in *figure 2*.

Age and sex pyramid, 2011

City of Albany | Western Australia

Age in years

Males | Females

95 - 99
90 - 94
85 - 89
80 - 84
75 - 79
70 - 74
65 - 69
60 - 64
55 - 59
50 - 54
45 - 49
40 - 44
35 - 39
30 - 34
25 - 29
20 - 24
15 - 19
10 - 14
5 - 9
0 - 4

% of males | % of females

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

.id the population experts
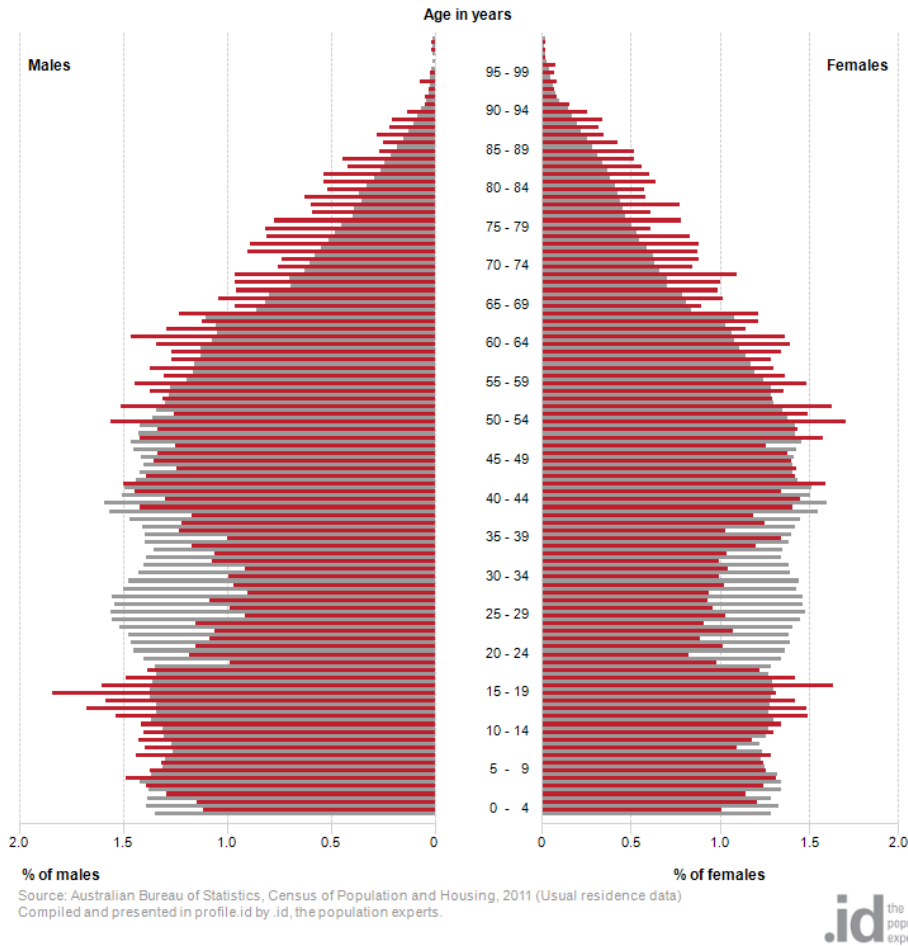
Figure 2: **(.id 2011)**

In the June 2016 quarter, the unemployment rate in the City of Albany was 5.88% which is an increase on the previous June 2015 quarter of 3.43%. In 2011, 10.8% of Albany's labour force aged 15-24 years were classed as unemployed compared to 9.5% in regional WA. (.id 2016)

3. Participants

There were 685 responses received throughout the consultation period with young people. This represents approximately 12% of the youth population (based on 2011 census data).

The data was collected via a number of forums and surveys including:

- 286 responses via online survey;
- 252 responses via 'townhallapp'; and
- 147 participated face to face forums using a 'world café' model of engagement.

In addition to this, there was the opportunity for young people to share ideas during the National Youth Week Youth Festival via a 'have your say wall'. However, as this was not monitored, ideas collected were from a wide range of age groups.
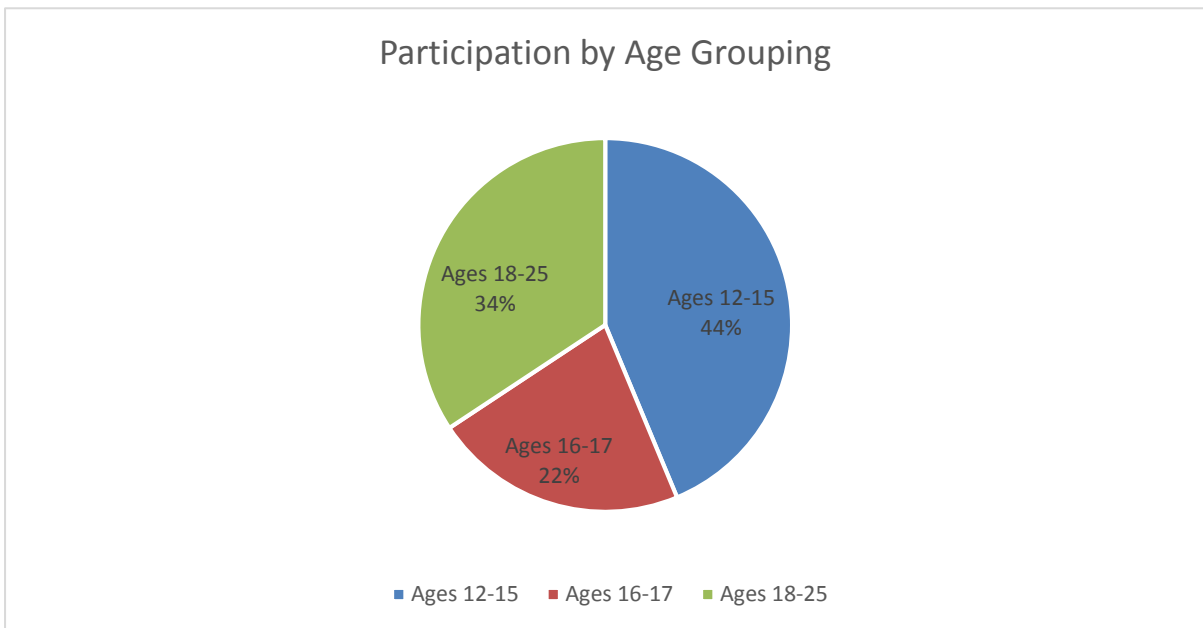
Figure 3
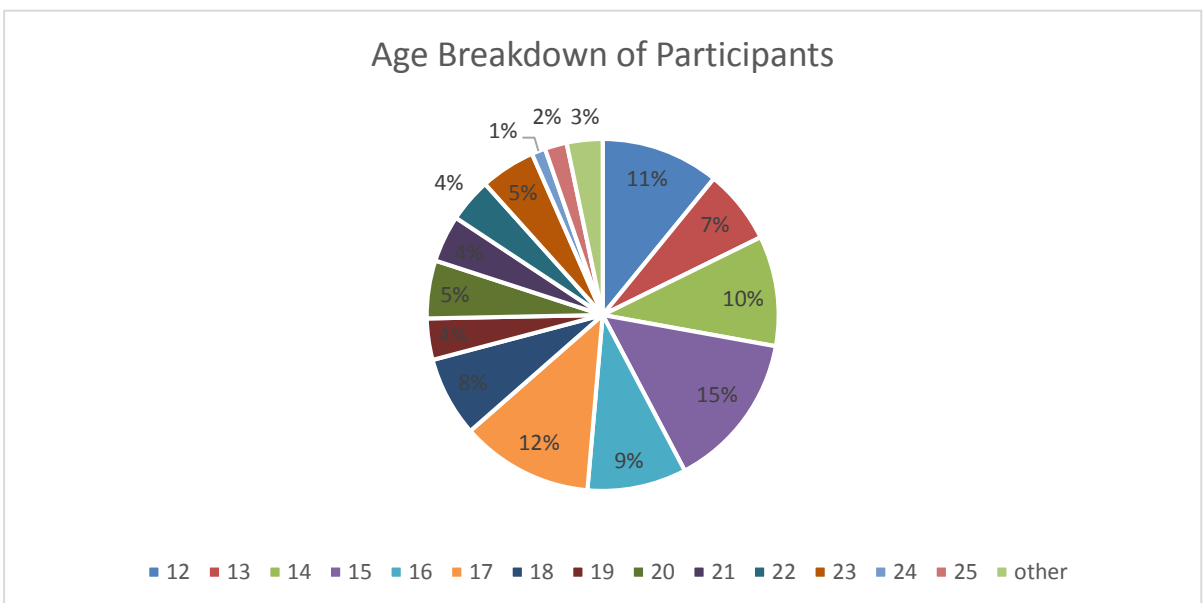
Figure 4

The majority of participants were aged 15 years (15%) followed by 17 years (12%). The least amount of participation was from young people aged 22, and 23 respectively as illustrated in *figure 4*.

PARTICIPATION BY TARGET GROUP

3% — 2% 3% 2% 4%
86%

■ CALD   ■ Disability   ■ Carer   ■ LGQBTI   ■ Indigenous   ■ Awesome

Figure 5

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

1%
38%
61%

■ Female   ■ Male   ■ Other
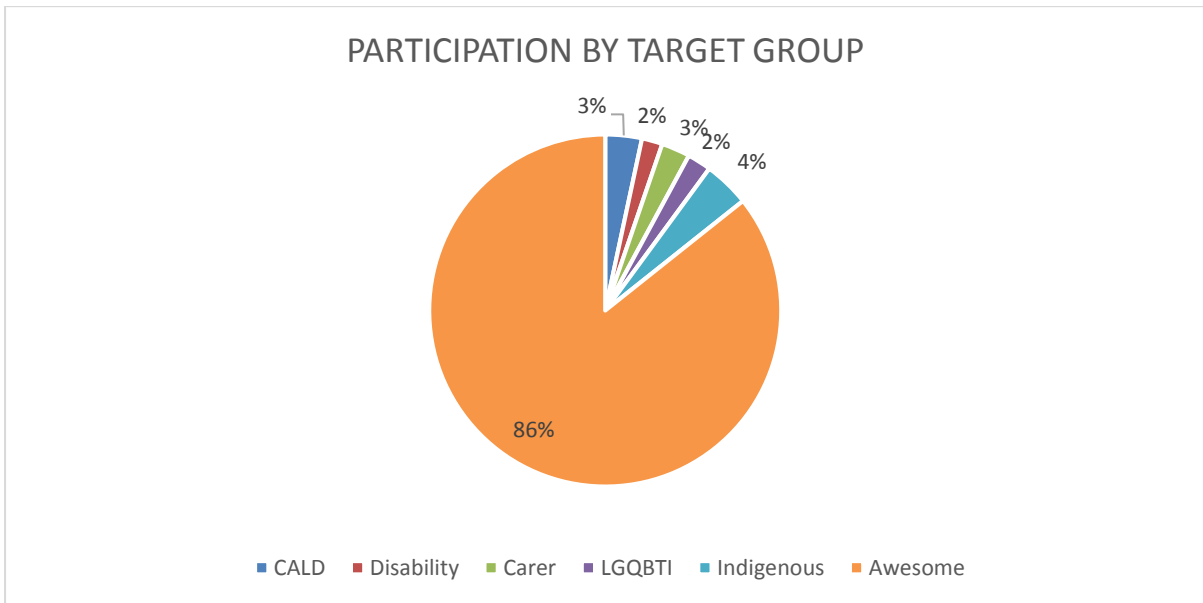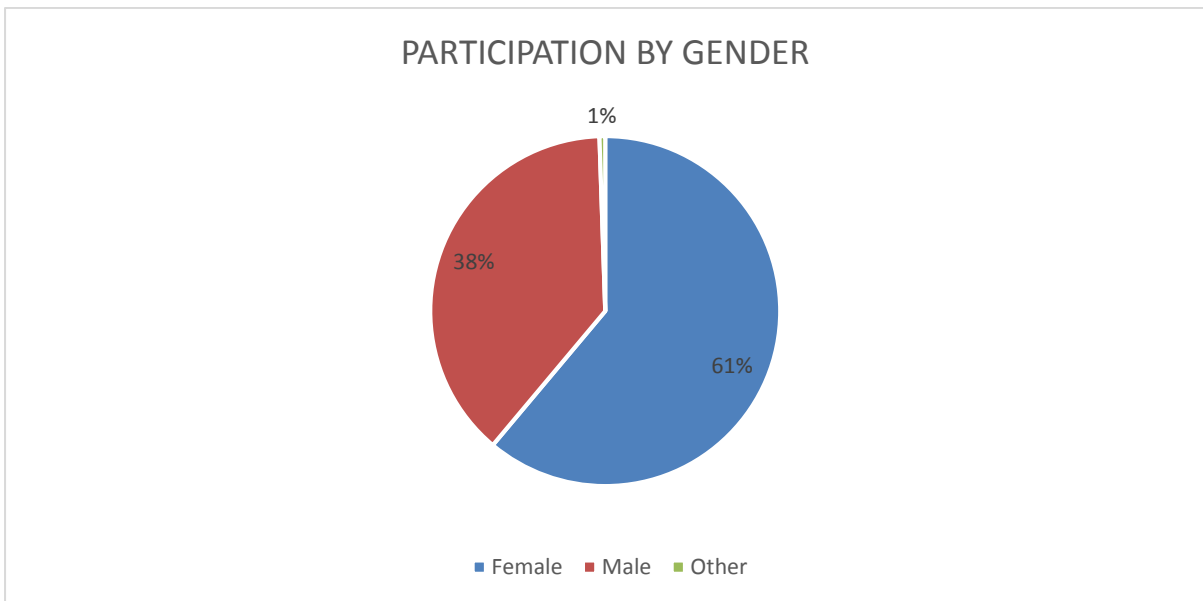
Figure 6

Note: 41% or 263 respondents chose not to provide their personal demographic data. These responses were collected via 'townhallapp' which gave respondents the option to 'register' via email or use a social media account. By choice, a large proportion of respondents chose not to include personal information. *Figures 5* and *6* do not include 'townhallapp' data.

The most popular leisure activities for those who participated were:

1. Listen to music;
2. Watch movies/TV shows; and
3. Playing sport.

Other activities which were popular included:

- Reading;
- Playing video games; and
- Playing music.

The beaches, natural environment and the lifestyle is what they like most about Albany. However, the weather featured as a common barrier to being able to enjoy their favourite past-times or being able to use active transport to move around the City.

Majority of those who participated in the survey did not work at all (this is reflective of the majority of respondents aged 12-15 years of age). There were 26.7% of respondents working in a casual job, 13.2% of respondents in part time roles, and only 12.3% in full time work. There were 35% who currently volunteer for a community organisation with 10% expressing no interest in ever volunteering.

Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat the most popular social media applications used with only 11% of respondents not being a user of social media. They indicated Facebook and the newspaper was their main way of finding out about events other than family and friends.

4. Youth Engagement Strategies

A number of different engagement techniques were used to engage with young people in our community including:

- Face to face youth forums;
- 'townhallapp' online platform;
- Online survey;
- Have your say wall; and
- Photo competition.

Each of these techniques were designed around the City of Albany key principles of community engagement:

- Commitment;
- Inclusiveness;
- Clarity;
- Timing;
- Transparency;
- Resources; and
- Accountability.

The majority were facilitated by members of the Albany Youth Advisory Council and Youth Development Officer Trainee, with the support of the Senior Community Development Officer.

4.1   Youth Forums

There were five, face-to-face youth forums held to provide young people the opportunity to brainstorm and discuss issues with their peers. A world café model was used majority of the time as this process enabled young people to talk directly with their peers rather than to an adult facilitator. An appreciative enquiry approach was taken as the City of Albany operates under an asset based community development model. This technique offered young people an opportunity to think about Albany from a solutions based approach. See attachment 1 for the questions utilised.

A 'dot-democracy' voting process was used to prioritise what was important for the participants in each forum. This process involved each participant voting using six 'dots' for what they identified as their priorities. Only a maximum of two votes could be cast on any one priority. This ensured every person had the equal opportunity to identify their priorities in a way that didn't involve having to vocalise it in front of a large group. It also enabled the priorities of any adults in the room to be identified differently to young people participating and participants could quickly see what had been prioritised by the group.

4.1.1   Forum 1

The first forum was held with students at the Great Southern Institute of Technology (GSIT), on Wednesday 17 February 2016. The students ranged in age from 17 to 29 years of age and who were completing their general education certificate.

4.1.2   Forum 2

The second forum was held with 11 Noongar students in years 7-10 from local high schools on Monday 9 May 2016. The students were participants in the South Coast Natural Resource Management's Wumbudin Kool-yee-rah (Strong & Proud) Program.

The program was established to reconnect students to their culture and to the land with the support of Noongar mentors. A mentor supported each table and encouraged participants to think more broadly about how Albany could be more youth friendly from their perspective.
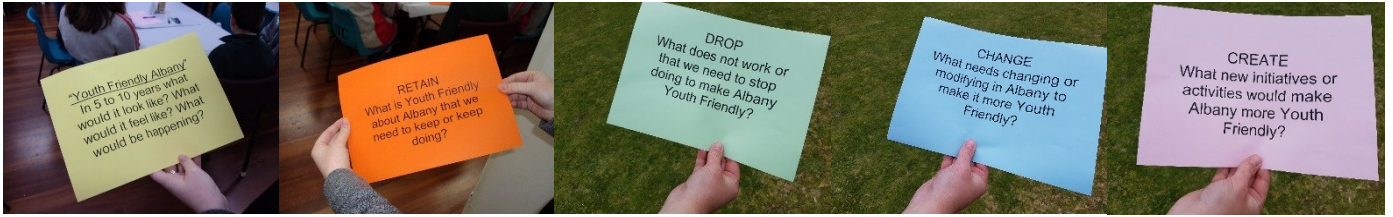
4.1.3 Forum 3

Students from years 7-10 from all public and private schools were invited to participate in the forum which was held at the Albany Town Hall Wednesday 8 June, 2016. There were 80 young people who attended the forum from North Albany Senior High School, John Calvin School, and Albany Senior High School, and four students from the Albany home-school network also attended.

In addition to the world café model utilised at previous forms, students also had lengthy discussions and a brainstorming session focused on the key themes identified by Department of Local Government and Communities.

Teachers were also invited to participate and different colour dots were used when it came time to prioritise their issues/ideas.

4.1.4 Forum 4

The Albany PCYC in partnership with the City of Albany operates the Strike II Friday night youth drop in service. This service provides young people from 10-17 years with a safe supervised space to 'hang' and socialise with friends, participate in a range of activities. Safe transport home is included at the end of each night's program. The program attracts mainly 'at risk' young people from low socioeconomic families. With an average of 80 young people attending the program each week, 50% of whom identify as Indigenous. A recent report from Albany Police advised that 85% of participants were either victims or witnessed assault.

A less formal technique was used to take into account the range of activities on offer and the way participants drift from activity to activity throughout the program.

Large sticky notes were placed on the wall in one of the main corridors on Friday 17 June 2016. Simplified themes were provided to guide participants. They shared their ideas and concerns on how the City could make Albany more youth friendly.

Exact participation numbers were difficult to gauge as a number of the strike participants were keen to observe rather than participate which made counting challenging. It is estimated that 22 young people, mostly Indigenous participated in sharing their ideas and concerns.
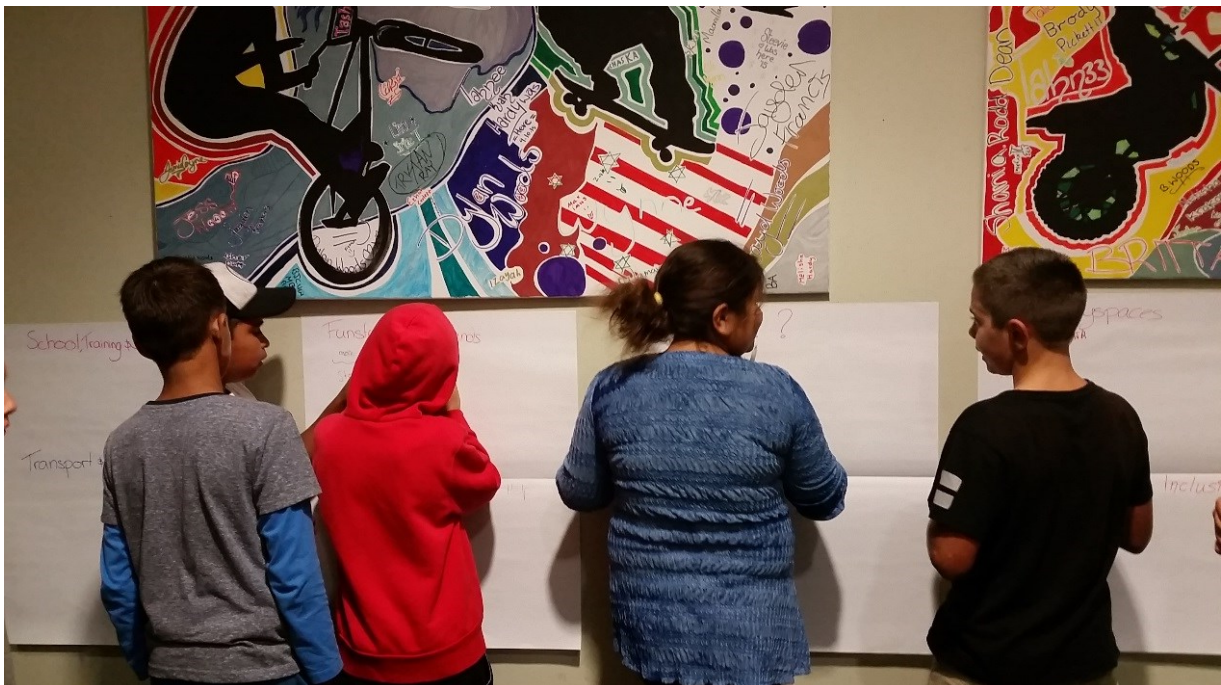
4.1.5 Forum 5

The upstairs function space of a local café was hired to run a forum targeting young adults on Sunday 26 June 2016. This space was identified following conversations with City staff in the youth age bracket as to what venue they would find comfortable and welcoming.

There were eight young adults who participated in the forum. The world café and dot-democracy technique used was consistent with other forums.
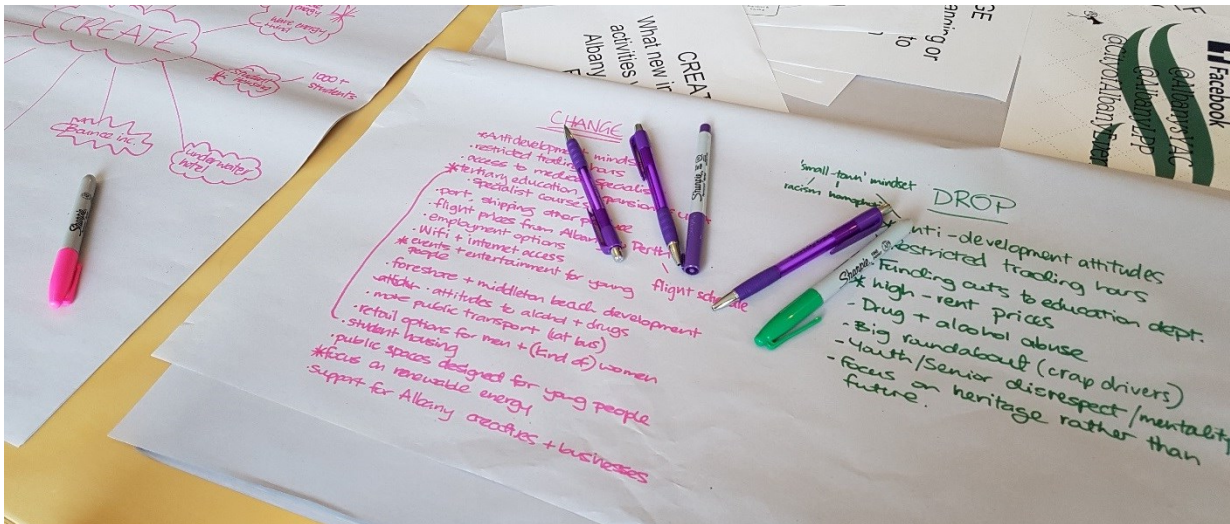
4.1.6 Forum 6

Local agencies who provide services to young people were invited to participate in an external stakeholder forum on Tuesday 18 October 2016. The aim of this forum was to gain feedback and insights from those who work with youth on a regular basis.

There were 16 agencies who attended the forum out of the 43 who were invited. Invitees included government agencies, community organisations and schools that whose service include or target young people 12 – 25 years. The same world café and 'dot democracy' technique was utilised with these external stakeholders for consistency.

A follow up survey was sent out to all 43 agencies with only three feedback forms received.

4.2 'townhallapp'

Findings from the review of the Albany Youth Advisory Council ("YAC") recently undertaken by the City, online surveys was the preferred method for young people to engage. The City of Albany trialled the 'townhallapp.io'. This website enabled a short daily question to be asked and enabled respondents to add their own interactive responses. These responses were included in voting tallies.

A range of questions were asked across a six week period from across each of the theme areas. A full list of questions asked is available appendix 2.

4.3 'Survey Monkey'

The City of Albany invited students from 11 - 12 years to engage but after feedback from schools that they were too busy to fit this in, the forum was cancelled. The City then offered a flexible option with an online survey developed on Survey Monkey with an added incentive to win one of twenty five cinema vouchers.

The survey was divided in to part 'a' and 'b' with another incentive of an extra chance to win a cinema voucher when both sections of were completed.

A copy of the survey results are available in appendix 3.

4.4 Have Your Say Wall
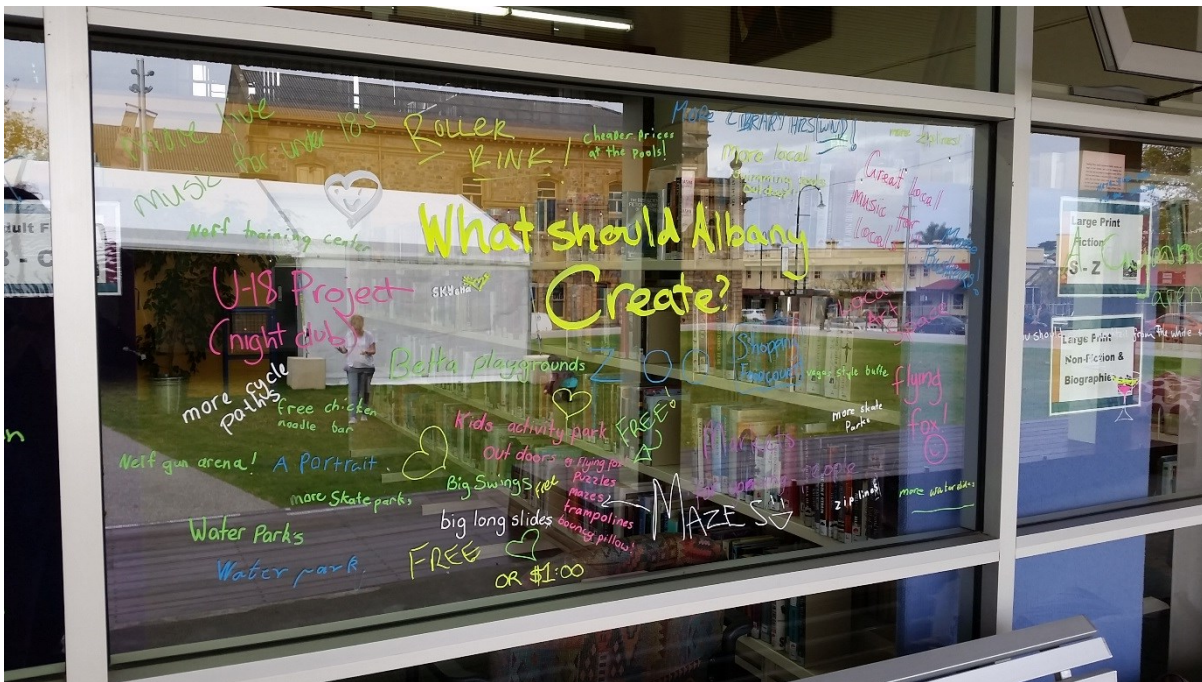
The youth engagement process was launched at National Youth Week on Friday, 15 April 2016. The City of Albany in partnership with the Youth Advisory Council, held a 'Mini Youth Fest' with live music, agency displays and free activities in the Town Square. Young people were invited to have their say by writing on the Albany Public Library windows using chalk pens. For consistency, the same questions were asked as in the youth forums.

4.5 Good, Bad and the Ugly Photo Competition

The 'Good, Bad and the Ugly Photo Competition provided a creative opportunity for young people to offer their perspective using the visual arts.

Young people were encouraged to submit three photos that illustrated:

1. What they love about Albany? (the good)
2. What is it that they find bad about Albany? (the bad)
3. What is it that needs to be improved? (the ugly)

There were two entries received for this competition.

5. Feedback on Strategies Used

For the most part, feedback from participants was positive on each of the engagement techniques used. Anecdotal feedback was collected at each of the youth forums, and respondents had the opportunity to provide feedback when completing the online survey.

The use of multiple techniques provided young people with the opportunity to engage in the way most comfortable. They also had the choice not to participate. The mix also enabled a wide range of young people from across Albany and the region to engage at a time convenient to their schedules.

5.1 Forum Feedback
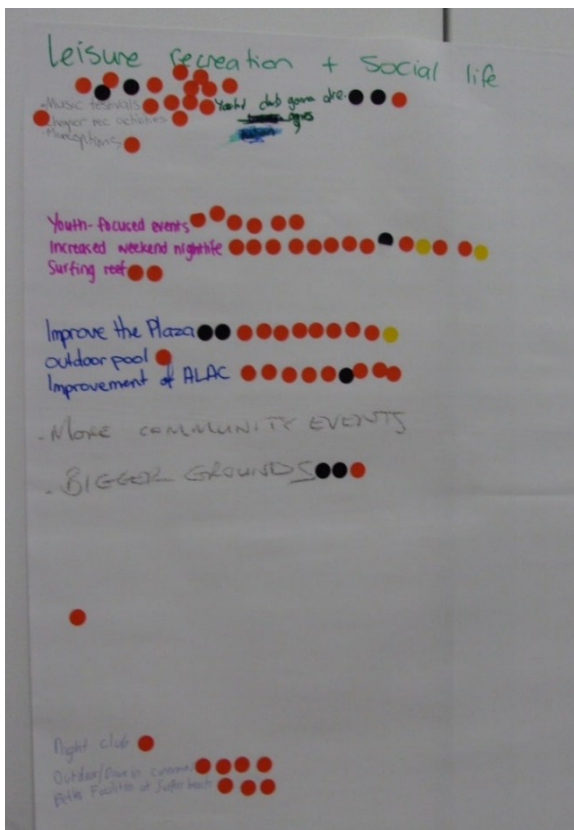
'This was awesome – we need to do this more often so we can talk to students from other schools about the issues in Albany' (Sarah, 14 years, student at John Calvin School).

Participants enjoyed the 'peer-to-peer' format that the world café gave them. They all had the opportunity to meet students from other schools and talk about what was important to them collectively. They expressed that they felt more comfortable sharing their views to their peers. This self-managed conversation balanced perspectives and offered moderation with adult influence.

The dot-democracy prioritisation process received the most positive feedback. Participants found it to be very empowering being able to 'vote' but in the same time challenging as there were a number of projects/ideas/issues they wanted to support, but had to weigh up what was most important to them.

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Feedback from agencies who attended the external stakeholder forum included that they wanted young people to be there; which was contradictory to feedback from the young people engaged. Young people had expressed that they were more comfortable talking to their peers without adult influence.

5.2   Survey Feedback

The City of Albany anticipated negative feedback on the length of the survey but 60% of respondents completed both parts of the survey. This demonstrates a commitment and interest from youth of their willingness to offer detailed views on a range of topics.

> *"I think a survey and move like this should have been put forward a long time ago, Albany is a beautiful place with so much potential to provide safe and enjoyable platforms for the youth to really find their place in the community as well as have productive and fun things to do". (Brooke, 20 years, currently studying in Perth)*

Feedback from the headspace Advisory Group stated that members "*are feeling a bit locked into the survey structure as outlined, without the opportunity for more general feedback about the experience of being a young person in Albany that isn't locked into pre-defined survey domains.*"

5.3   'townhallapp' Feedback

Headspace provided feedback that the 'townhallapp' only gave the option for respondents to give one additional idea to the initial list. From their perspective offering more than one idea would have been beneficial however this was not an option available from the 'townhallapp'.

The City of Albany experienced technical glitches with the scheduling of posts. The aim was to offer a different question daily, instead questions had to be loaded in bulk. Also basic demographic data on participants did not transfer to data and therefore not able to be collected.

6. Key Outcomes of Project

The key outcome of the project will be adoption of the City of Albany's first Youth Strategy. As identified by the consultation, the priorities for young people in Albany include:

1. Youth Engagement & Inclusion;
2. Youth Spaces and Places;
3. Employment, Education and Training; and
4. Events and Social Opportunities.

The strategy is currently being developed and will be adopted by Council in March 2017.

6.1 Youth Friendly Albany

A key question asked was "What does a 'Youth Friendly' space look like?" The City wanted to expand on the theme of 'youth friendly communities' and break it down into specifics on youth friendly spaces that could be implemented for events and shared with business owners and organisations.

The key aspects summarised by respondents as illustrated in the *figure 7* included:

- Free wi-fi;
- Music (Top 40 or Triple J style);
- Style of the place (welcoming, comfortable seats, friendly staff);
- Affordable or free; and
- Food.
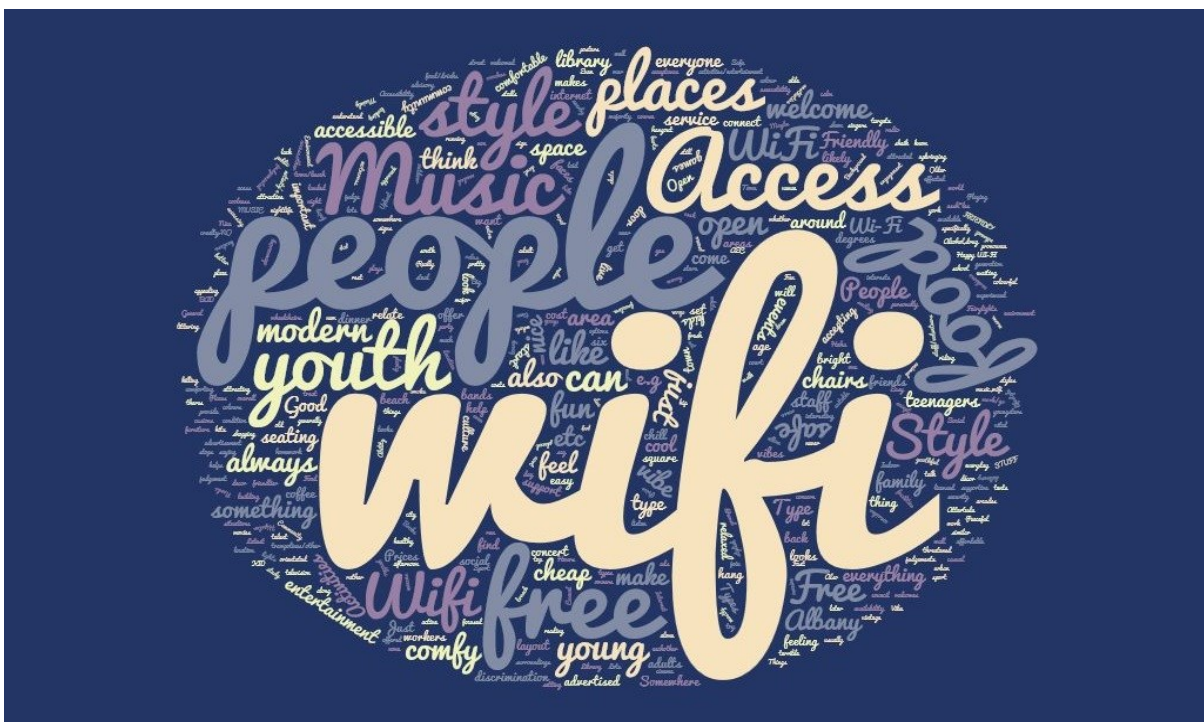
Figure 7

Respondents were asked to rank a number of venues the City could use for youth events, how 'youth friendly' they were, and if they would be suitable for youth events. The results prioritsed include:

1. Beach
2. Albany Leisure & Aquatic Centre
3. Albany PCYC
4. Albany Entertainment Centre
5. Town Square

Young people were also asked; "How youth friendly is Albany currently?", so we could collect a base line to measure the effectiveness of the future youth strategy. As illustrated in *figure 8* the majority of respondents (36%) stated Albany is 'sometimes' youth friendly.
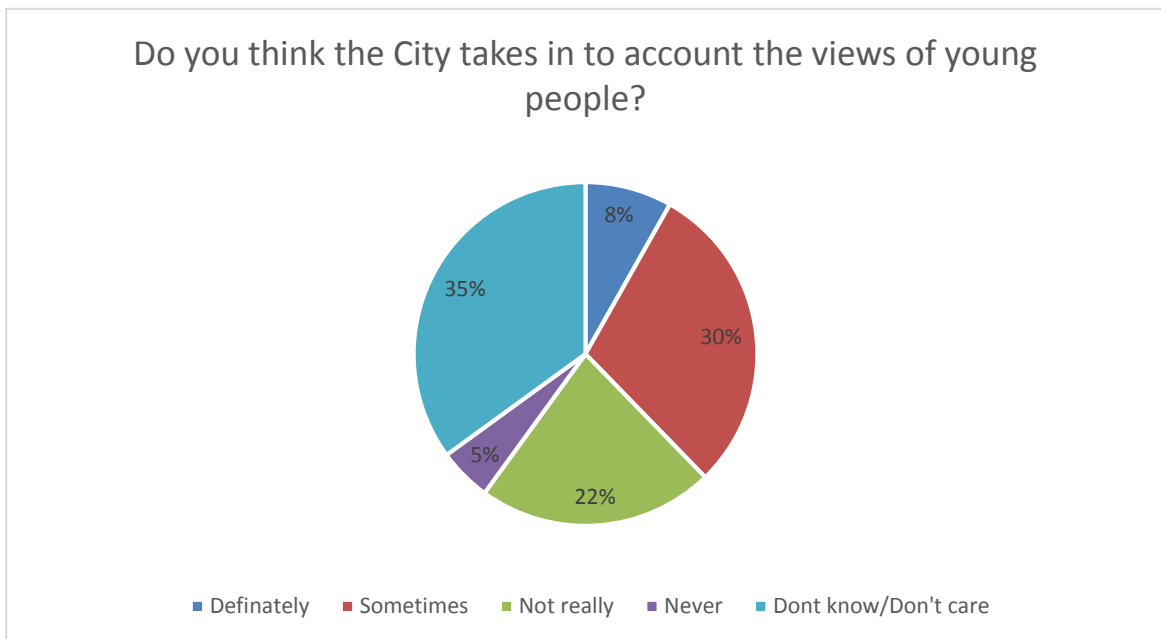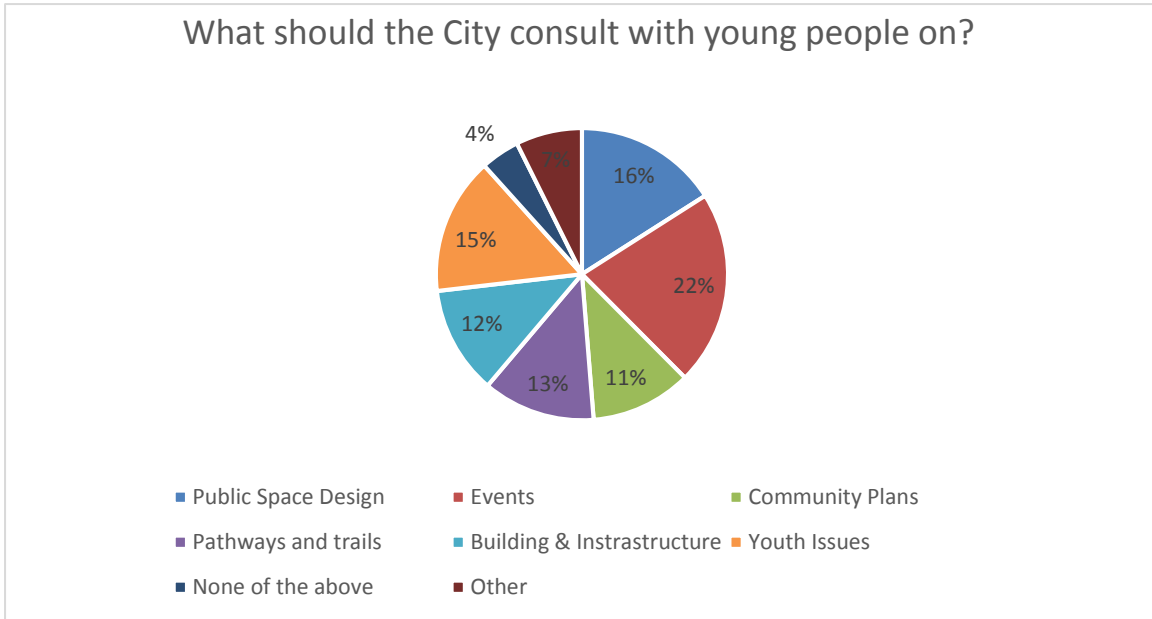
How Youth Friendly is Albany currently?

- Very Youth Friendly
- Mostly Youth Friendly
- Sometimes Youth Friendly
- Occasionally Youth Friendly
- Not youth friendly at all
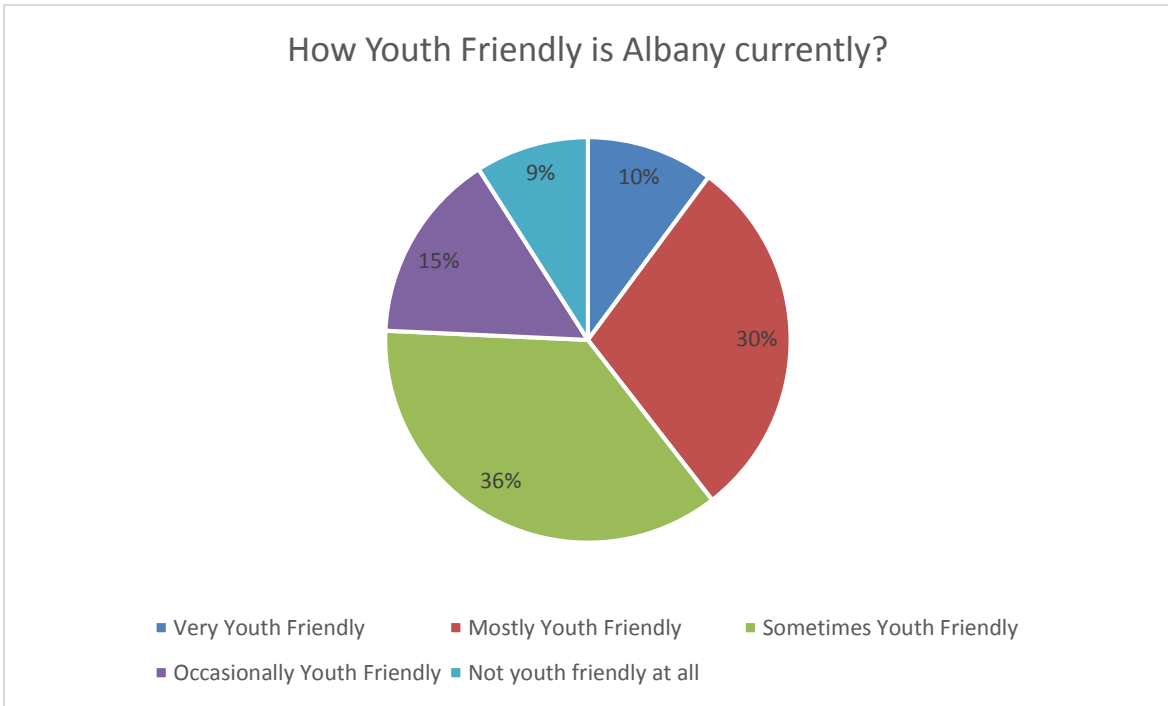
Figure 8

6.2   Civic Particpation and Volunteering

The perception amongst many of the participants in the Youth Forums was that 'Council' prioritised senior's interests over that of young people, and that even if they were to 'speak out' their concerns and ideas would not be taken seriously or listened to. The results of the 2015 Youth Advisory Council review also reflected this perception with only 8% of respondents feeling that the City did take in to account the views of young people [see *figure 9*]. The majority of respondents (35%) stated they 'Don't know/don't care' which illustrated how disengaged some of the youth population are from being involved in any civic activities.

Do you think the City takes in to account the views of young people?

- Definately
- Sometimes
- Not really
- Never
- Dont know/Don't care

Figure 9

Page 17

63

What should the City consult with young people on?

Legend:
- Public Space Design
- Events
- Community Plans
- Pathways and trails
- Building & Instrastructure
- Youth Issues
- None of the above
- Other

Figure 10

The majority of respondents in the YAC review wanted the City to consult on events (22%), public space design, and issues relating to young people. An increase in events was a priority for both young people and for external stakeholders in the consultations as illustrated in 'Leisure, Recreation and Social life'. This was also demonstrated in recent consultations on the Artificial Surf Reef which had 732 participation from mostly young people.

Implementing the key actions from the YAC review will address some of these concerns. The key actions include:

1. Two new youth feedback groups to be formed:

    a. One group targeting young people from 12-18 years with a flexible membership arrangement that meets fortnightly supported by the trainee Youth Development Officer and the Senior Community Development Officer;

    b. One group targeting young adults from 18-25 years that meets bi-monthly with a flexible membership arrangement supported by the trainee Youth Development Officer and Senior Community Development Officer;

    c. Joint meetings held once or twice a year for both groups; and Current members would be invited to be part of the new group with an Expression of Interest to new members.

2. A training program is developed to support the members of the group in their role; and

3. Work with Manager of Community Engagement to ensure that the two youth feedback groups are included as key stakeholders in City of Albany community engagement processes and external agencies will be invited to attend on a rotation basis to ensure adults do not out number young people.

There were 19.5% of respondents who indicated they liked to volunteer in their spare time, however 35% volunteer for a group or organisation.Volunteering was seen as a positive activity with only 8.7% of the online survey respondents not interested in volunteering. The main reasons young people indicated they would volunteer was for:

1. Fun;
2. Supported the organisation's cause; and
3. Experience.

Some respondents stated that volunteering opportunities needed to be better promoted, so there is opportunity for the City to work with the Albany & Regional Volunteer Service to, not only better promote volunteering roles, but also to support agencies in making their roles more appealing to young people.

6.3   Public spaces, buildings and natural environment

The natural environment was the most frequent response provided by respondents as to what they liked about living in Albany, and protection of the environment was highly valued. Littering, graffiti and being charged to access and camp in natural reserves and parks was of concern.

The respondents were also very positive about the recent FORM project where they saw saw murals painted on many walls in the CBD. They liked the way it 'brightened' up the lane ways.

PUBLIC in the Great Southern was fantastic for the youth of Albany, (Yasmine, 20 years)

Respondents were very keen to see more 'all weather' spaces (with free wifi) where young people could hang out with their friends without fear of being 'moved' on by police.

> *"feel as if places like the library are 'youth friendly' as there are places where you can have help with your studying. There is free Wi-Fi and it seems to be a very calm environment, with nice pictures and stuff like that. I also feel like the cinema is very 'youth friendly' as it is very chill and not too uptight" (Shae, 14 years)*

> *"ALAC lots of kids our age enjoy sport so it's great to go there and meet up with people our own age." (Maeve, 14 years)*

This was also reflected in the prioties for external stakeholder who identified the creation of more specific youth spaces an ongoing need.

City skate parks, Eyre Park, Anzac Peace Park and Middleton Beach were their favourite outdoor places. There were numerous requests for more free places where they could socialise which had protection from the weather, WiFi and lighting.

6.4   Education, training and employment

Finding employment and career options were key concerns for the future of over 50% of respondents, [see *figure 14*]. There were 38% of respondents moving away to pursue university/tafe study in Perth as their course was not available in Albany. Key subjects identified included medicine/nursing and media related studies.

There were 50% of respondents who stated that they were very confident or confident of finding full time work in their chosen career.

Part time or casual work, was for many, the only option as full time positions for young people are hard to find. Smaller businesses advertise for staff who already have the skills rather than investing in training a younger inexperienced person. Suggestions included creating/promoting workshops that help them be 'ready for work' in such tasks as: barista; responsible service of alcohol; and safe food handling.

6.5 Community support and health services

Most respondents stated that Albany was well serviced for the majority of community support and health services. Key concerns were around the cost of accessing GP's and availability of appointments for GPs, and counselling services. headspace Albany has recently obtained funding to run a bulk-billed after hours GP clinic. It is anticipated this will address some of this concern.
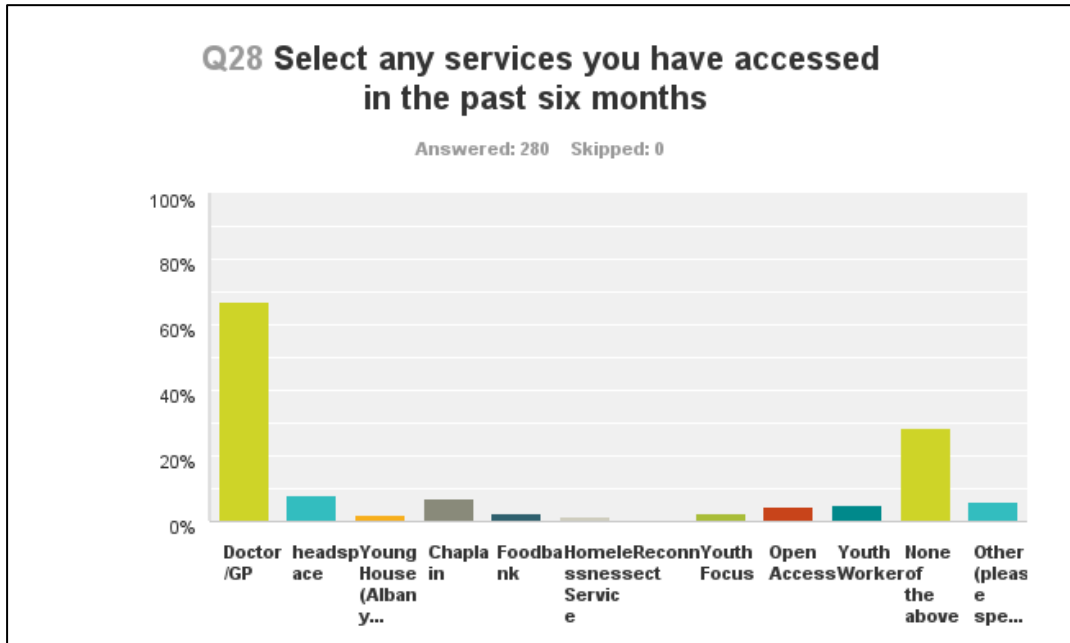

Figure 11

There were 28% of respondents who did not access any community support services in the six months prior to completing the survey. Over 60% of respondents had accessed a GP in the 6 months leading up to the survey, and 7% had accessed headspace [*figure 11*].

Youth stakeholders identified the creation of central youth precinct a priority going forward which would house all essential services and housing for young people, however this contradicted the feedback from young people which had concerns that this would place even greater stigma on young people accessing services.

The City of Albany has a role to continue to advocate for community and health services to ensure the needs of young people in our community and surrounding communities have access to the services they need.

6.6 Leisure, recreation and social life

Leisure, recreation and social life showed the highest level of interest. Young people would like to see more frequent youth events (music festivals, live performances, competitions). Youth events was voted the highest prority across all the forums and requested most frequently through the online youth survey.

The majority of respondent stated that while there were activities available, many are not affordable or not well promoted. There was also the perception that most events

targeted the younger 'teens' rather than the older age group (which are harder to engage).

> *"More activities for teenagers regularly not just a once off" (Caleb, 15 years).*

> *"More events aimed at younger people, more ways to connect with people who don't necessarily go to the same school as you." (Tegan, 17 years).*

Youth stakeholders also identified youth events as a priority going forward.

The second priority were the expansion of retail opportunities, recreational businesses (Bounce, theme parks etc.), and retaining the number of sporting opportunities available to young people.

6.7 Transport and housing

The 'under 25' target group were very focused on more 'green' methods of transport and housing options.

The school-aged young people were more focussed on the connectivity of pathways and adjustments to the pubilc transport system to better cater to young people.

There were 45% of respondents from the online survey who relied on their parents for their main form of transport, with 35% driving themselves by car or on a scooter [see *figure 12*].

The inadequancies of the existing public transport system was also frequently raised. The current timetable does not cater to young people to travel to or from sport/music practice or social activities (cinema, 10pin bowling etc.).
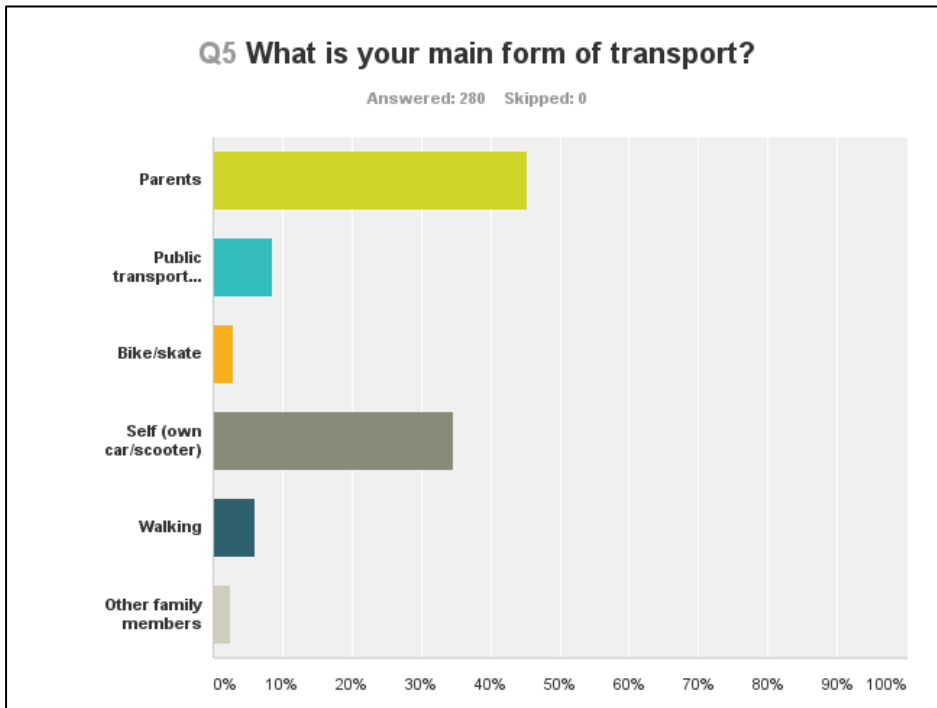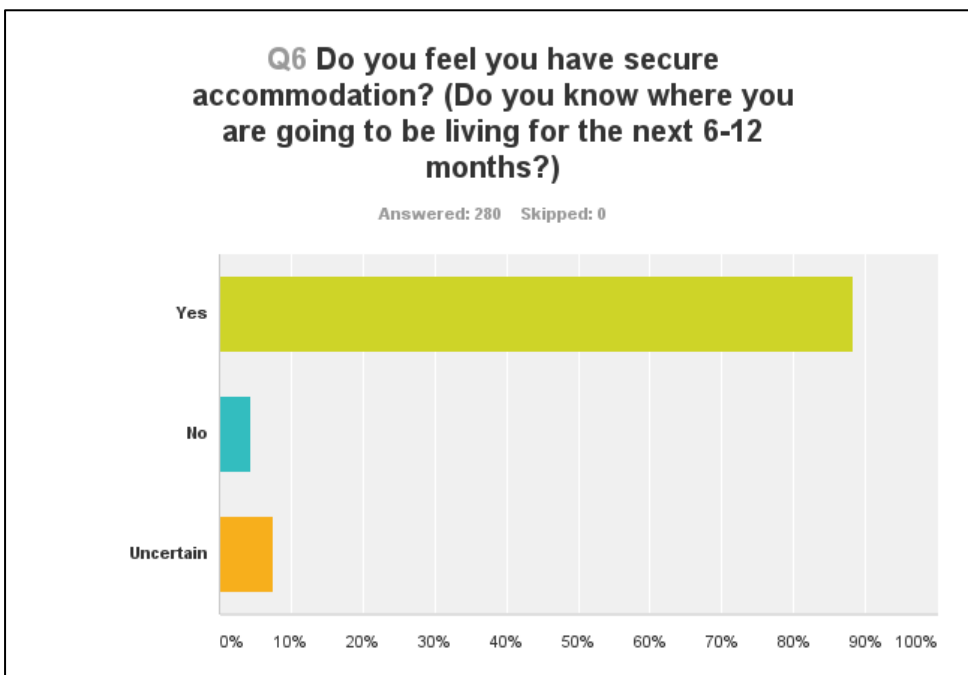

Figure 12

There were 88% of respondents who stated they had secure accommodation for the next 6-12 months. Approximately 11% were uncertain or not confident they had a place to stay, [see *figure 13*].

Only 14% of respondents stated that private rentals were affordable with 46% feeling that there were unaffordable. Only 43% of respondents were confident they will have the ability to buy their own home in the future. Housing affordability was a primary concern for respondents for the future with the second highest response from the online survey, [see *figure 14*].

There were 30 respondents who selected 'other' and gave alternative responses. The most frequent response related to whether or not they would be successful in pursuing the university course of their choosing. Other concerns included internet speeds and crime rate.

Figure 13
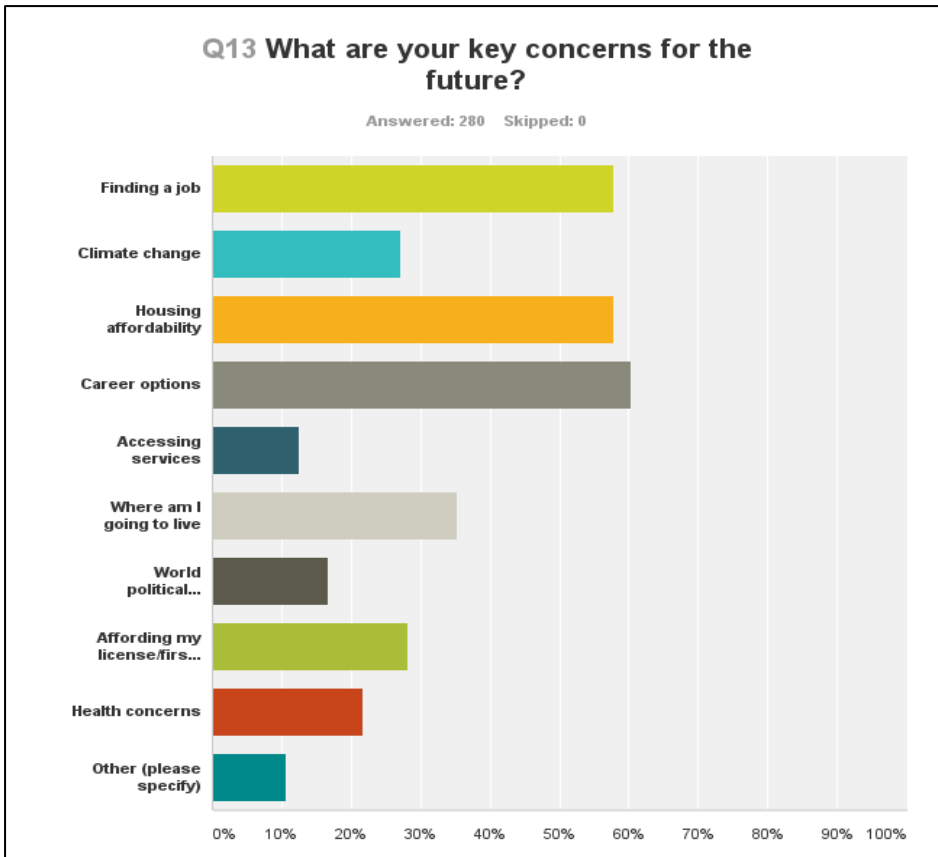
Figure 14

6.8   Respect and inclusion

There were 76% of respondents who felt there is discrimination in Albany. Of those who responded to the question, 77% identified race by as the main discrimination in Albany.

Second was age, followed by disability, gender and sexuality which were also common for over 40% of respondents, [see *figure 15*].

Feedback from the world cafés indicated there was to be more opportunities for cross cultural celebration as solution of reducing this discrimination.

While 70% of respondents felt valued and respected in the community, and 30% did not. Qualitative comments collected from the online survey included:

"Everything is geared up for aged people. 20 to 40 years need more" (male, aged 20 years).

"feel like whatever I have an opinion on doesn't count because of my age" (male, aged 16 years).

Q16 What form does the discrimination take?

Answered: 239   Skipped: 41
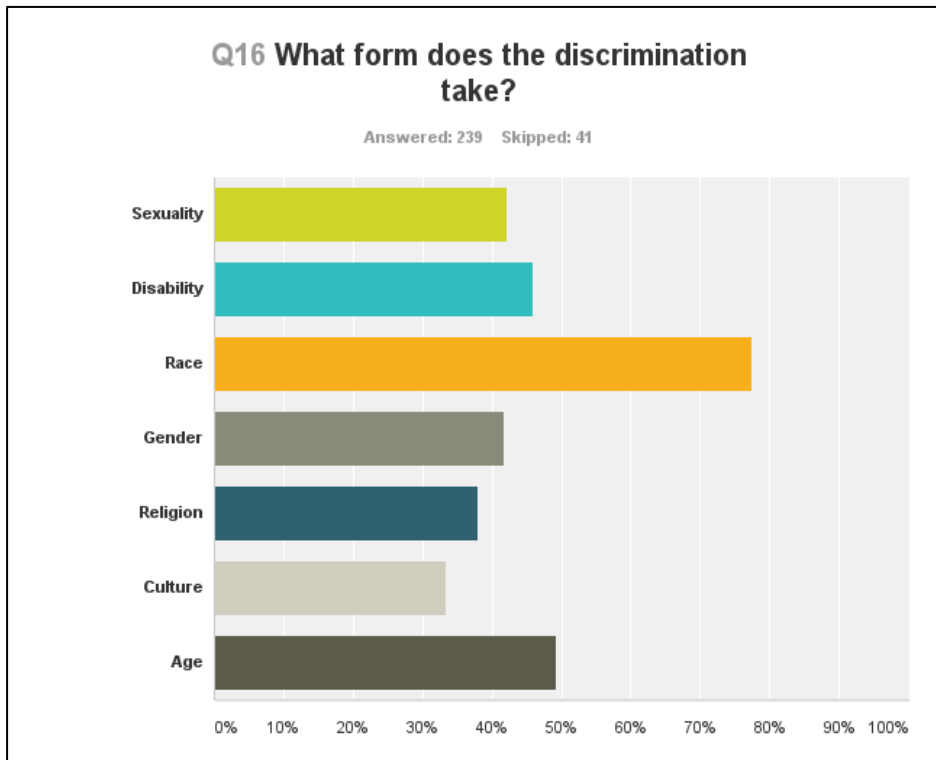
Figure 15

7. Evidence of outcomes

The consultation data collected through this process will inform the development of the City of Albany's first Youth Strategy. The strategy will focus on four key areas identified as priorities by the participants in the consultation:

1. Youth Engagement & Inclusion;
2. Youth Spaces and Places;
3. Employment, Education and Training; and
4. Events and Social Opportunities.

The data collected will also be used in the review of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan review. Young people who participated in these consultations will also be invited to participate in the Community Strategic Plan Review.

The feedback collected has already been utilised by the City of Albany across a number of projects including:

- Expansion of free public wi-fi network in spaces identified by young people; and
- Expanding the number of traineeship opportunities at the City of Albany through successful application in funding through the CLGF Youth Development Program.

8. Learnings from project

What we did well	Lessons learnt
Engaged with a broad section of the youth community.	Schools require dates for full day activities to be advised early with a minimum of a term in advance notice preferably by November the year before.
Engaged with a large number of young people.	Art/multi-media teachers need to be engaged in any artistic based engagement to maximise participation.
Engaged 17-25 years group online.	Identifying the pages frequented by young adults to better promote opportunities to engage.
Utilised a number of different techniques to engage with young people.	The capacity of some agencies to partner with the City on engagement activities was limited. The City will continue to provide a number of options to engage with agencies.
Future Challenges	
Attracting sufficient funding for the delivery of youth events and activities as requested through the consultation feedback.	
Managing the community's expectations and perception of City's role in the youth space.	
Engaging with the schools to match their timetable requirements.	
Engaging the older youth cohort in events and activities.	
Ensuring the Youth strategy clearly defines and communicates the City's role in the youth space.	

9. Statement of commitment to Young People

The City of Albany recognises and values the contribution young people make to the Albany community and commit to making Albany a more youth friendly community.

We will achieve this by:

- Develop and implement the actions of the City of Albany Youth Strategy with the aim of making Albany a more youth friendly community;
- Offer young people multiple ways to provide their views to Council;
- Include young people as key stakeholders on projects or activities that may impact on them;
- Listen and respect the opinions of young people in the community;
- Invest in the development of young leaders in the community;
- Encourage other organisations to engage with young people when planning or implementing activities, events and developments;
- Advocate the significance of young people in our community to state and federal governments to ensure adequate services are available; and
- Ensuring Council programs, services and facilities are inclusive and accessible to all young people.

10. References

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11. Version Control

Document Approval		
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Senior Community Development Officer		Executive Manager Community Services
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Version	**Author**	**Version Description**	**Date Completed**
0.1	Senior Community Development Officer	User version number 0.1, 0.2 during draft phase of document development.	13/12/2016
		Internal Review	
		Ex. Man Review	
		EMT	

12. Appendices

1. World Café questions
2. "townhallapp" questions
3. Online Survey results
4. Youth Stakeholder – returned surveys

Appendix 1

World Café Questions

Overall Question: "Youth Friendly Albany" In 5 to 10 years what would it look like? What would it feel like? What would be happening?

RETAIN
What is Youth Friendly about Albany that we need to keep or keep doing?

DROP
What does not work or that we need to stop doing to make Albany Youth Friendly?

CHANGE
What needs changing or modifying in Albany to make it more Youth Friendly?

CREATE
What new initiatives or activities would make Albany more Youth Friendly?

Appendix 2

Townhall app Questions

Note: For each question, respondents had the opportunity to justify their response, or add further information.

1. Do City of Albany parks and playgrounds have interesting options for young people?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Maybe
2. Do you consider yourself physically active?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Maybe
3. Do you feel part of the community in Albany?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Maybe
4. Do you know who your local councillor or local member of parliament?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Maybe
5. Do you or any of your close friends have a mental health issue?
   a. Yes, myself
   b. Yes, my partner
   c. Yes, my friend
   d. No
6. Do you plan on studying at University of WA's Albany campus?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Maybe
7. Do you think young people are respected by the wider community?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Maybe
8. Do you use any of the City's trails?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Sometimes
9. Do you use public transport at all to travel around Albany
   a. Yes, regularly
   b. Sometimes
   c. No, never
10. Are you a volunteer?
    a. Yes
    b. No
11. What is your preferred method of communication?
    a. Social media
    b. Email
    c. Face to face
    d. Text/SMS
    e. Skype
    f. Letter

g. Telephone

12. How do you travel to work/school/study?
    a. Bus
    b. Parents
    c. Walk
    d. Ride bike
    e. Motorised scooter
    f. Drive myself

13. How do you like to spend your spare time?
    a. Listening to music
    b. Playing video games
    c. Reading
    d. Shopping
    e. Working or volunteering
    f. Playing sport
    g. Skateboarding
    h. Surfing
    i. Other :

14. How easy is it for you to find healthy food when out and about?
    a. Easy
    b. Super easy
    c. Meh
    d. Not really all that easy
    e. Really difficult

15. If you were trying to promote healthy lifestyle choices to young people, how would you do it?

16. Do you feel there is affordable housing for young people wanting to be independent?
    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Don't know

17. Are the City of Albany buildings and public spaces welcoming to young people?
    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Maybe

18. Do you experience any barriers in accessing the services you need?
    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Maybe

19. Are you a member of a club?
    a. Yes
    b. No

20. Are you a member of a sporting club or are you physically active outside of a club?
    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Both

21. What benefits have you gained from being part of a club?
    a. A good community around me
    b. I've made some great friends
    c. New friends and connections as well
    d. The ability to meet new people
    e. Other

22. What have you enjoyed the most from attending previous events?
    a. Free activities
    b. Music
    c. Cost (low or free)

      d. Hanging with my friends
      e. Free mocktails
      f. Free transport home
      g. Other

23. What do you like most about being part of the Albany community?
      a. The lifestyle
      b. Friendly community
      c. I know where everything is
      d. Close community
      e. Small town
      f. Other

24. What do you think needs to be done to expand education and training opportunities?
      a. Lower tafe course prices
      b. Make education more affordable
      c. More opportunities to do training online
      d. Faster, more reliable internet
      e. More universities
      f. Other

25. What things worry you the most?
      a. Anxiety
      b. Finances
      c. Depression
      d. Family breakdown
      e. Am I too awesome?
      f. Safe place to sleep
      g. Bullying
      h. School
      i. Family violence
      j. Sexuality
      k. Gender
      l. Other

26. What leisure things would you like to see more of?
      a. Free wifi
      b. More BBQ facilities
      c. Shaded recreation areas
      d. Public toilets
      e. Drinking fountains
      f. Seating
      g. Signage
      h. Bike racks
      i. Other

27. What method of transport do you use to go to the beach or park?
      a. Drive myself
      b. Parents
      c. Walk
      d. Ride a bike
      e. Go with friends
      f. Other

28. What method would you find easiest to share any concerns or ideas with the City of Albany?
      a. City of Albany website
      b. Approaching people my own age on the Youth Advisory Council
      c. Don't feel comfortable at all
      d. Social media
      e. Addressing council during public question time

      f.   Other
29. What are the barriers to you walking or cycling more?
      a.   Bad weather
      b.   Not enough paths
      c.   Too far
      d.   Nowhere to lock my bike up
      e.   Other
30. What are your main health concerns?
      a.   My physical health
      b.   My mental health
      c.   Other
31. What are your top three sport and recreational activities
      a.   Walking
      b.   Reading
      c.   Social Media
      d.   Watching TV
      e.   Bike riding
      f.   Football
      g.   Hockey
      h.   Music
      i.   Other
32. What things would you like to see in the community that would encourage you to be more active and healthy?
33. What would encourage you to participate in surveys or workshops?
      a.   Free movie tickets
      b.   Food
      c.   Free Wi-Fi
      d.   To know I can have a say
      e.   Other
34. Which of these places do you use most?
      a.   Education facility
      b.   Library
      c.   Café/Pub/Club
      d.   Church
      e.   Sporting facilities
      f.   Swimming pool
      g.   Hospital/doctor
      h.   Youth Centre
      i.   Community Resource Centre
      j.   Child Care Centre
35. What event would you like to see in Albany?
      a.   Colour Run
      b.   LAN Party
      c.   Glow Party
      d.   Live music event
      e.   Silent Disco
      f.   Other
36. What locations in Albany do you consider youth friendly?
      a.   My couch
      b.   Albany Public Library
      c.   Middleton Beach
      d.   Café
      e.   Town Square
      f.   Skate park
      g.   Albany Leisure & Aquatic Centre

    h. Albany PCYC
    i. headspace Albany
    j. Fast food venue
    k. The Plaza
    l. Kate's Place
    m. Vancouver Arts Centre
    n. Open Access
    o. Other
37. Where do you live most of the time?
    a. Live with my parents
    b. Foster Care
    c. Share house with friends
    d. I'm not sure where I will be staying
    e. Live with my partner
    f. Boarding school during the term, but otherwise with my parents
    g. Live with other relatives
    h. Youth refuge
38. Where do you go to find out about upcoming events in Albany?
    a. City of Albany website
    b. Facebook
    c. Noticeboards
    d. Flyers in shop windows
    e. School noticeboards
    f. Email
39. Where would you prefer the City of Albany advertised events and other activities of interest to young people?
    a. City of Albany Website
    b. School noticeboards
    c. Shopping Centres
    d. Albany Public Library
    e. Open Access
    f. Albany PCYC
    g. headspace
    h. School newsletters
40. Which statement describes your current employment?
    a. I'm a student
    b. I work full time
    c. I work part time
    d. Casual
    e. Self employed
    f. Unemployed
    g. I'm on medical leave
    h. I work FIFO
    i. I'm looking for work
    j. Full time carer

Q1 How "Youth Friendly" do you find Albany?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
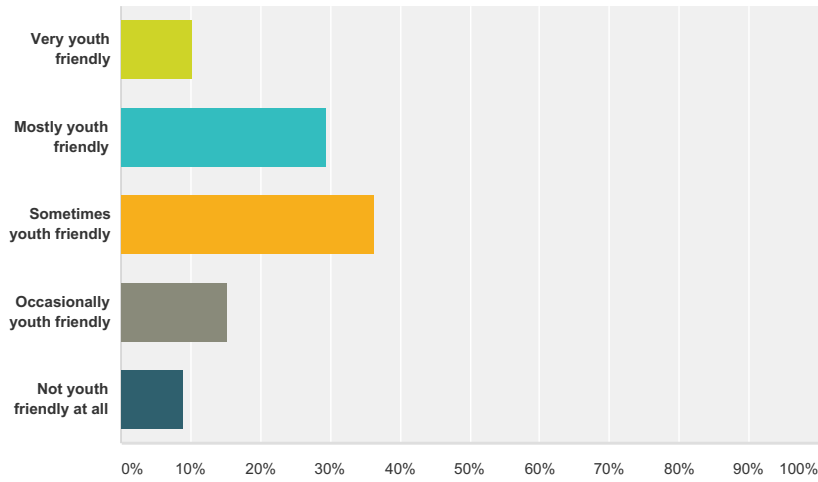
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very youth friendly	**10.14%**	28
Mostly youth friendly	**29.35%**	81
Sometimes youth friendly	**36.23%**	100
Occasionally youth friendly	**15.22%**	42
Not youth friendly at all	**9.06%**	25
Total		**276**

Q2 Is there any place, space, activity or event that you feel is welcoming to young people?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
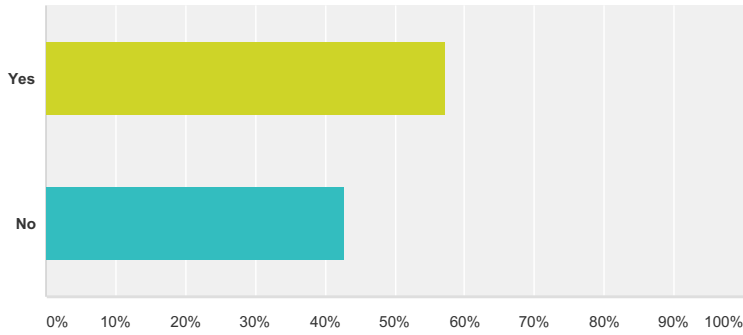
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	57.25%	158
No	42.75%	118
Total		276

Q3 What activities do you like to do in your spare time? (select all that apply)

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
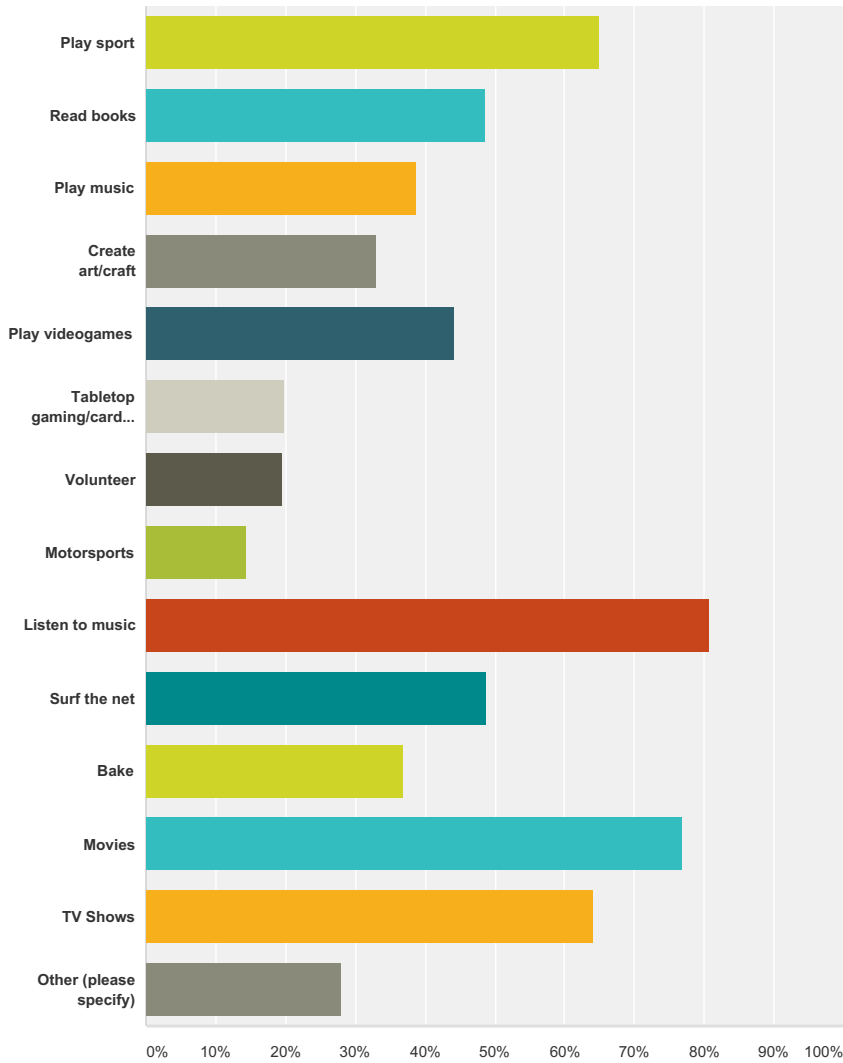
Answer Choices	Responses	
Play sport	64.86%	179
Read books	48.55%	134
Play music	38.77%	107
Create art/craft	32.97%	91
Play videogames	44.20%	122
Tabletop gaming/card games	19.93%	55
Volunteer	19.57%	54
Motorsports	14.49%	40
Listen to music	80.80%	223
Surf the net	48.91%	135
Bake	36.96%	102
Movies	76.81%	212
TV Shows	64.13%	177
Other (please specify)	27.90%	77
Total Respondents: 276		

Q4 What are the main barriers for you to participate in yourfavourite activities? (select all that apply)

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
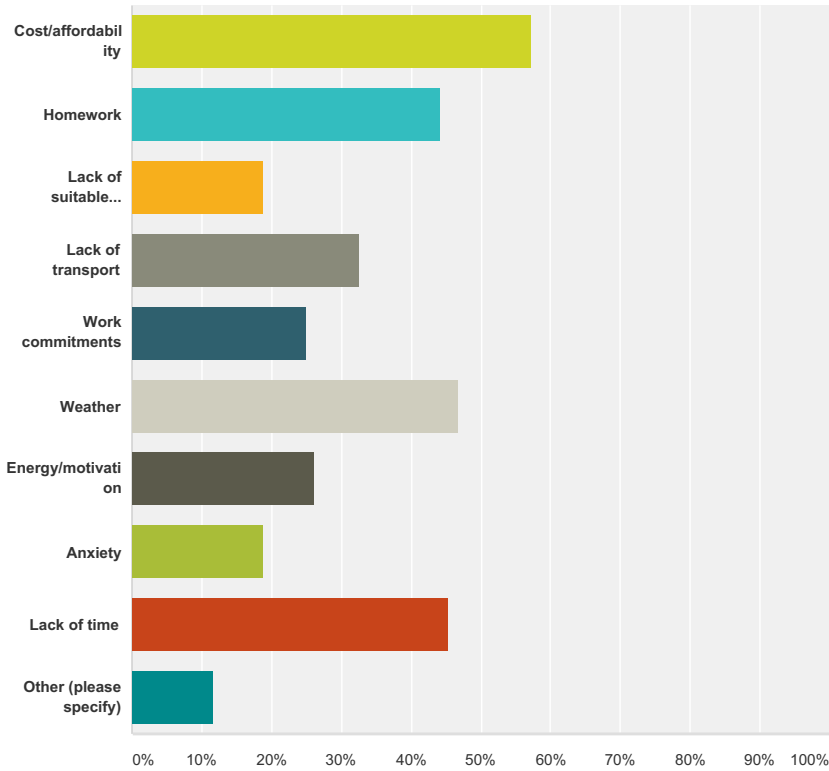
Answer Choices	Responses	
Cost/affordability	**57.25%**	158
Homework	**44.20%**	122
Lack of suitable equipment	**18.84%**	52
Lack of transport	**32.61%**	90
Work commitments	**25.00%**	69
Weather	**46.74%**	129
Energy/motivation	**26.09%**	72
Anxiety	**18.84%**	52
Lack of time	**45.29%**	125
Other (please specify)	**11.59%**	32
Total Respondents: 276		

Q5 What is your main form of transport?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
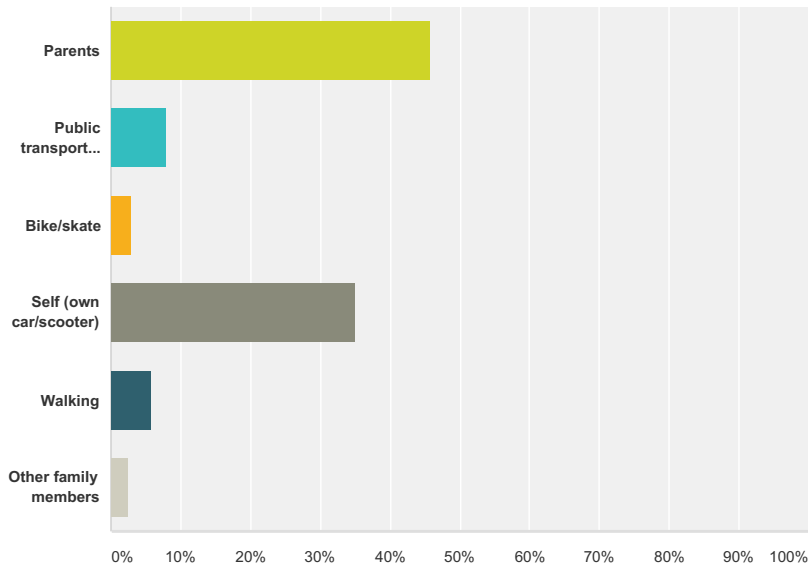
Answer Choices	Responses	
Parents	45.65%	126
Public transport (bus/taxi)	7.97%	22
Bike/skate	2.90%	8
Self (own car/scooter)	35.14%	97
Walking	5.80%	16
Other family members	2.54%	7
Total		276

Q6 Do you feel you have secure accommodation? (Do you know where you are going to be living for the next 6-12 months?)

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
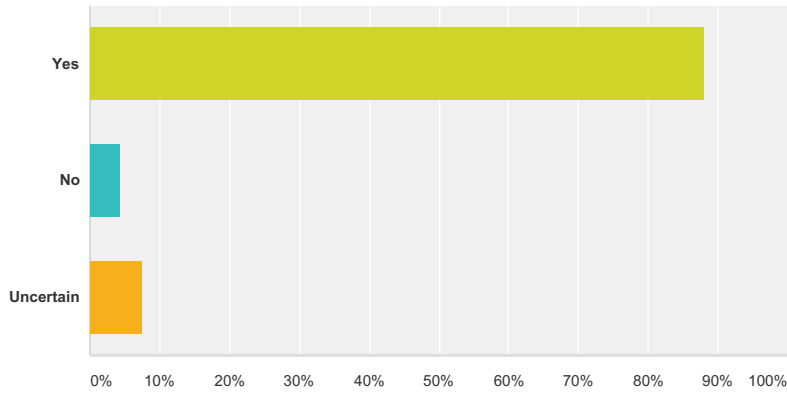
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**88.04%**	243
No	**4.35%**	12
Uncertain	**7.61%**	21
Total		276

Q7 Do you feel you will have the ability in the future to buy your own home?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
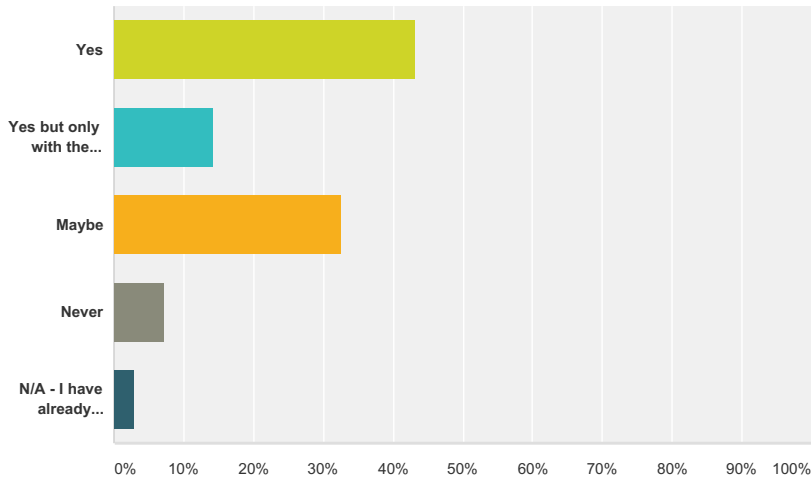
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**43.12%**	119
Yes but only with the support of my parents	**14.13%**	39
Maybe	**32.61%**	90
Never	**7.25%**	20
N/A - I have already purchased my own home	**2.90%**	8
Total		**276**

Q8 Do you think private rentals are affordable for young people?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
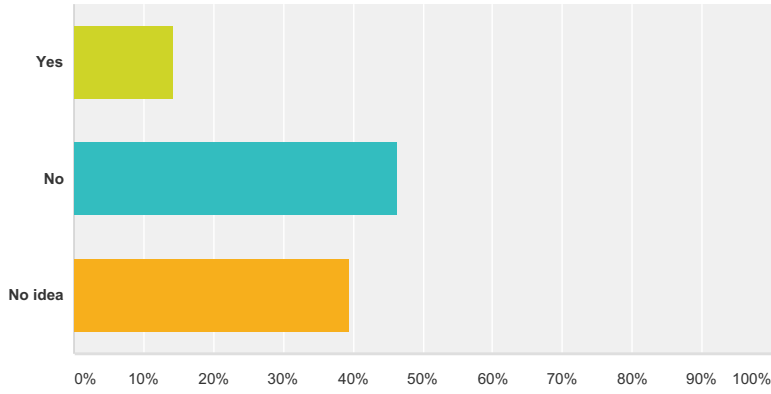
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	14.13%	39
No	46.38%	128
No idea	39.49%	109
Total		276

Q9 Where do you go to find out what is on in Albany each week?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
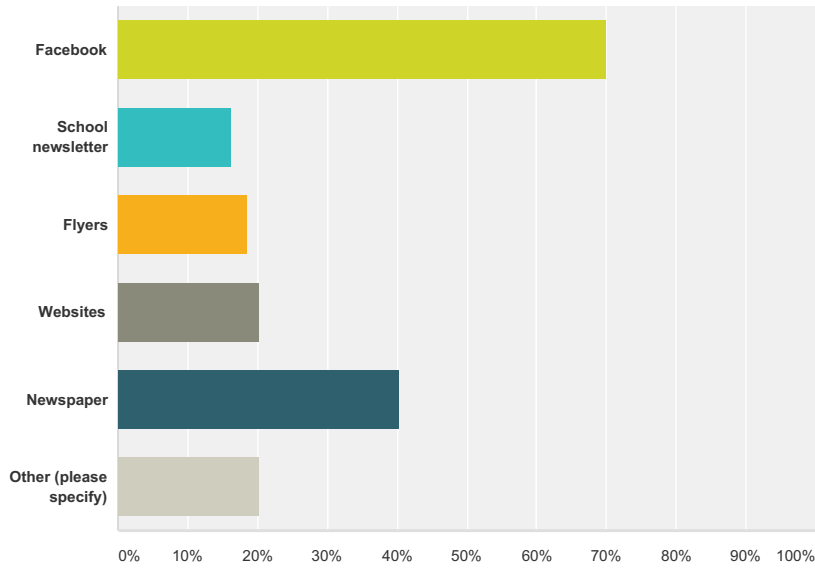
Answer Choices	Responses	
Facebook	**69.93%**	193
School newsletter	**16.30%**	45
Flyers	**18.48%**	51
Websites	**20.29%**	56
Newspaper	**40.22%**	111
Other (please specify)	**20.29%**	56
Total Respondents: 276		

Q10 Where do you go to find information about health issues?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
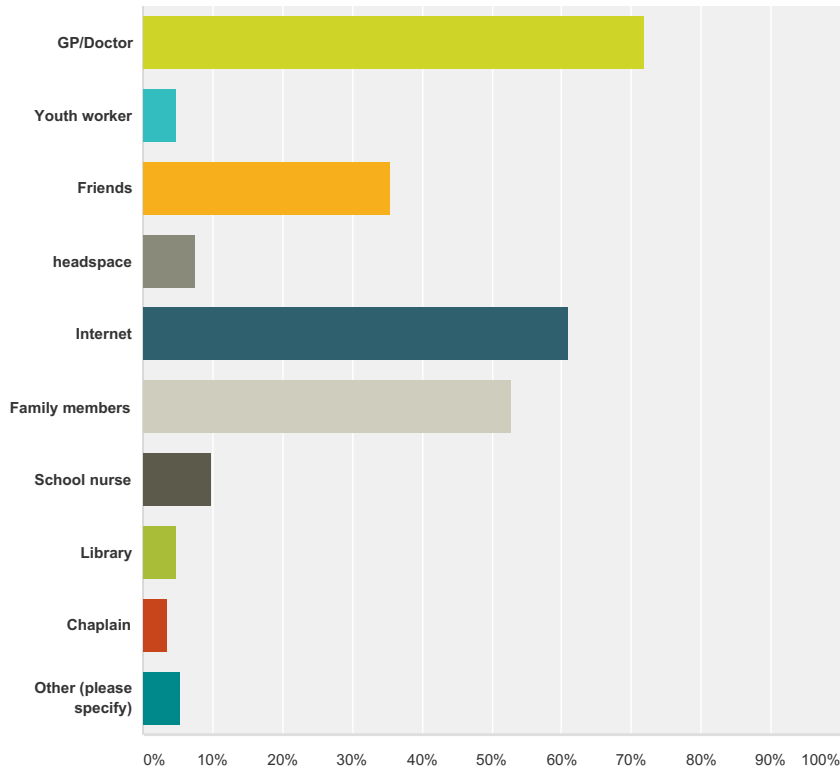
Answer Choices	Responses	
GP/Doctor	**71.74%**	198
Youth worker	**4.71%**	13
Friends	**35.51%**	98
headspace	**7.61%**	21
Internet	**60.87%**	168
Family members	**52.90%**	146
School nurse	**9.78%**	27
Library	**4.71%**	13
Chaplain	**3.62%**	10
Other (please specify)	**5.43%**	15
Total Respondents: 276		

Q11 Rank these venues in order of most youth friendly, or the venue you are most likely to want to attend concerts and other events. This willassist usplan future youth events.

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
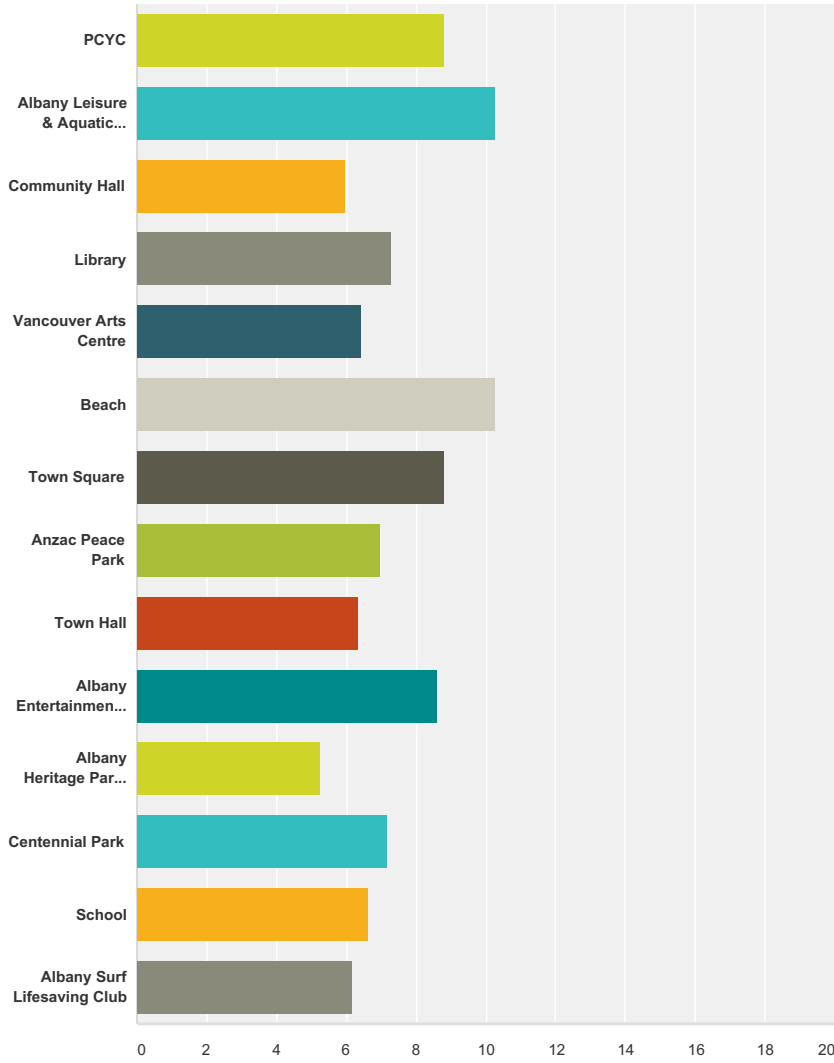
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total	Score
PCYC	15.22% 42	14.86% 41	8.33% 23	6.16% 17	7.61% 21	7.25% 20	3.99% 11	4.35% 12	4.71% 13	4.35% 12	5.07% 14	6.88% 19	3.26% 9	7.97% 22	276	8.83
Albany Leisure & Aquatic Centre (ALAC)	17.75% 49	24.28% 67	13.77% 38	9.78% 27	4.71% 13	2.90% 8	3.62% 10	2.17% 6	2.17% 6	5.07% 14	3.99% 11	2.54% 7	3.99% 11	3.26% 9	276	10.28
Community Hall	1.81% 5	1.09% 3	6.88% 19	5.43% 15	3.99% 11	5.43% 15	6.52% 18	10.51% 29	8.70% 24	7.97% 22	11.59% 32	11.96% 33	9.78% 27	8.33% 23	276	5.99
Library	3.62% 10	7.25% 20	6.16% 17	11.59% 32	6.52% 18	7.25% 20	6.16% 17	5.07% 14	7.97% 22	7.61% 21	9.42% 26	7.61% 21	7.61% 21	6.16% 17	276	7.29
Vancouver Arts Centre	2.90% 8	3.26% 9	3.62% 10	4.71% 13	11.59% 32	4.35% 12	7.97% 22	8.33% 23	7.61% 21	11.23% 31	7.25% 20	9.78% 27	9.06% 25	8.33% 23	276	6.42
Beach	25.00% 69	13.41% 37	14.49% 40	7.97% 22	5.80% 16	6.52% 18	4.35% 12	3.62% 10	3.26% 9	3.62% 10	1.81% 5	3.26% 9	2.90% 8	3.99% 11	276	10.27
Town Square	6.52% 18	6.52% 18	9.78% 27	11.96% 33	9.78% 27	11.23% 31	13.41% 37	7.61% 21	6.16% 17	5.43% 15	2.90% 8	3.99% 11	2.90% 8	1.81% 5	276	8.80
Anzac Peace Park	0.72% 2	4.71% 13	5.43% 15	6.16% 17	6.52% 18	7.97% 22	8.33% 23	14.86% 41	10.51% 29	10.87% 30	7.61% 21	7.25% 20	6.52% 18	2.54% 7	276	6.97

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total	Score
Town Hall	2.17% 6	3.26% 9	1.45% 4	2.54% 7	5.07% 14	13.04% 36	8.33% 23	8.70% 24	14.13% 39	9.06% 25	11.23% 31	9.42% 26	6.88% 19	4.71% 13	276	6.36
Albany Entertainment Centre	9.78% 27	6.52% 18	9.06% 25	12.68% 35	7.61% 21	8.70% 24	6.88% 19	5.80% 16	6.88% 19	10.87% 30	6.16% 17	3.26% 9	3.62% 10	2.17% 6	276	8.59
Albany Heritage Park (Princess Royal Fortress)	0.36% 1	1.09% 3	1.09% 3	5.07% 14	6.88% 19	3.26% 9	8.70% 24	5.80% 16	8.33% 23	8.33% 23	16.30% 45	11.59% 32	13.41% 37	9.78% 27	276	5.25
Centennial Park	3.99% 11	4.35% 12	4.71% 13	7.25% 20	9.78% 27	9.06% 25	9.42% 26	10.51% 29	6.88% 19	5.80% 16	3.99% 11	11.59% 32	8.33% 23	4.35% 12	276	7.19
School	6.88% 19	5.80% 16	9.06% 25	5.43% 15	6.88% 19	6.16% 17	3.62% 10	5.07% 14	5.43% 15	3.62% 10	5.07% 14	5.80% 16	13.04% 36	18.12% 50	276	6.62
Albany Surf Lifesaving Club	3.26% 9	3.62% 10	6.16% 17	3.26% 9	7.25% 20	6.88% 19	8.70% 24	7.61% 21	7.25% 20	6.16% 17	7.61% 21	5.07% 14	8.70% 24	18.48% 51	276	6.16

Q12 What is it you most like about Albany?

Answered: 276 Skipped: 0
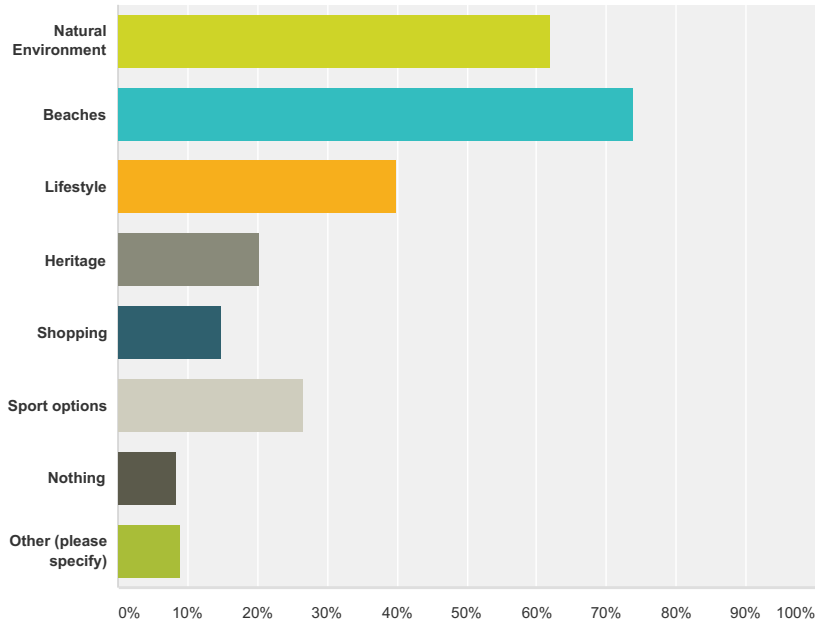
Answer Choices	Responses	
Natural Environment	**61.96%**	171
Beaches	**73.91%**	204
Lifestyle	**39.86%**	110
Heritage	**20.29%**	56
Shopping	**14.86%**	41
Sport options	**26.45%**	73
Nothing	**8.33%**	23
Other (please specify)	**9.06%**	25
Total Respondents: 276		

Q13 What are your key concerns for the future?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
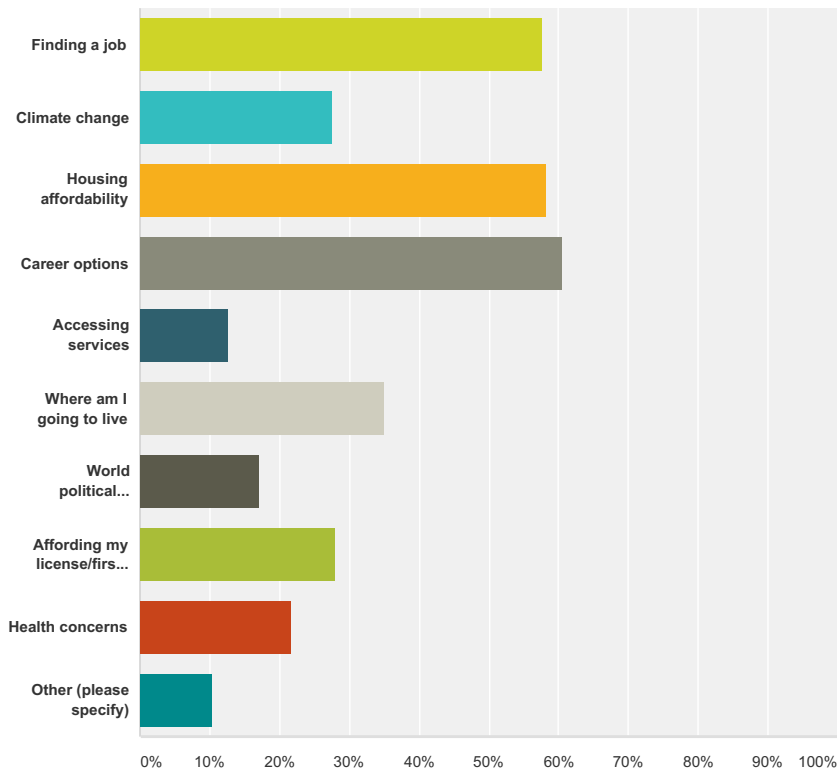
Answer Choices	Responses	
Finding a job	**57.61%**	159
Climate change	**27.54%**	76
Housing affordability	**58.33%**	161
Career options	**60.51%**	167
Accessing services	**12.68%**	35
Where am I going to live	**35.14%**	97
World political climate	**17.03%**	47
Affording my license/first car	**27.90%**	77
Health concerns	**21.74%**	60
Other (please specify)	**10.51%**	29
Total Respondents: 276		

Q14 Do you feel valued/respected in the community?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
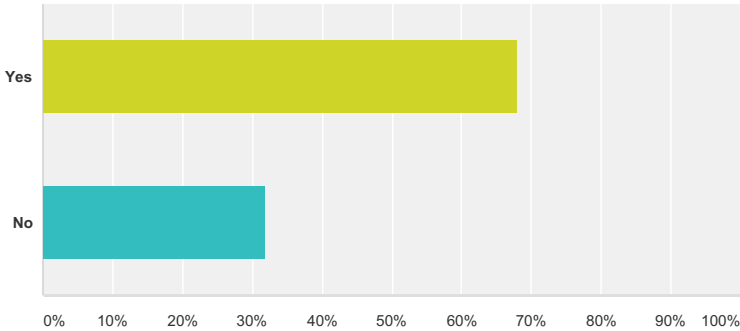
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**68.12%**	188
No	**31.88%**	88
Total		276

Q15 Do you think there is discrimination in Albany?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
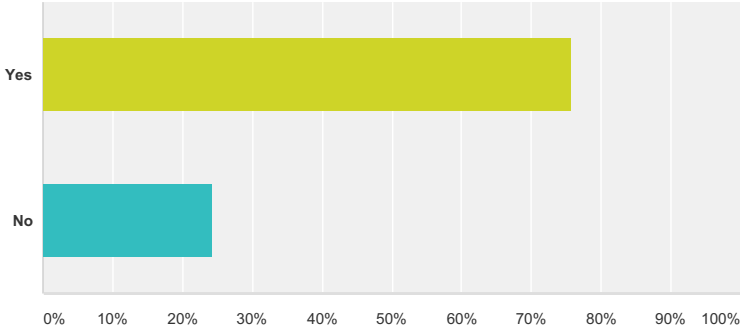
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**75.72%**	209
No	**24.28%**	67
Total		**276**

Q16 What form does the discrimination take?

Answered: 235   Skipped: 41
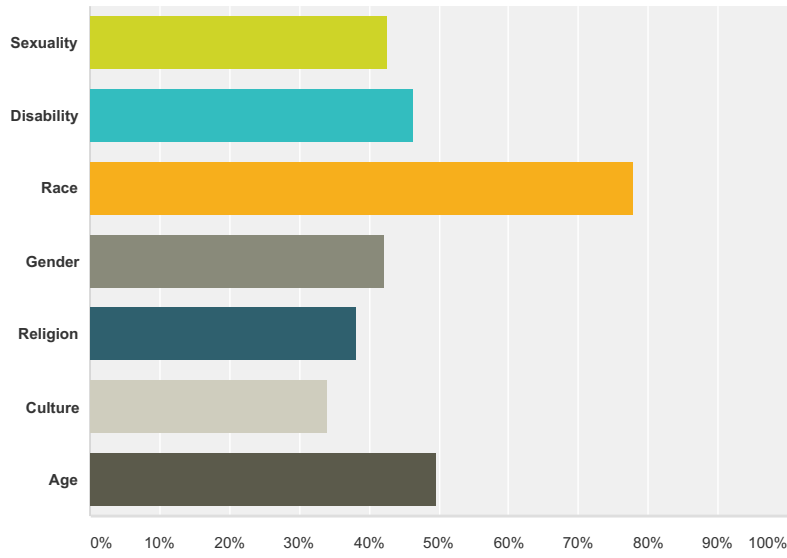
Answer Choices	Responses	
Sexuality	42.55%	100
Disability	46.38%	109
Race	77.87%	183
Gender	42.13%	99
Religion	38.30%	90
Culture	34.04%	80
Age	49.79%	117
Total Respondents: 235		

Q17 What are your future plans?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
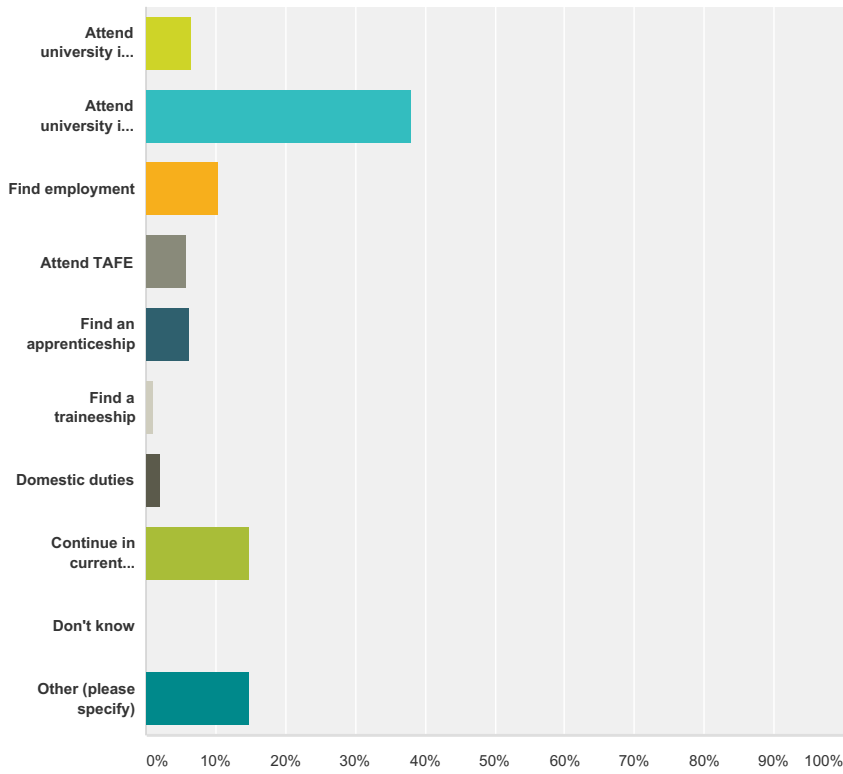
Answer Choices	Responses	
Attend university in Albany	**6.52%**	18
Attend university in Perth	**38.04%**	105
Find employment	**10.51%**	29
Attend TAFE	**5.80%**	16
Find an apprenticeship	**6.16%**	17
Find a traineeship	**1.09%**	3
Domestic duties	**2.17%**	6
Continue in current employment/study	**14.86%**	41
Don't know	**0.00%**	0
Other (please specify)	**14.86%**	41
Total		**276**

Q18 Are there any missing subject areas for training/study that would encourage you/enable you to stay in Albany?

Answered: 265   Skipped: 11
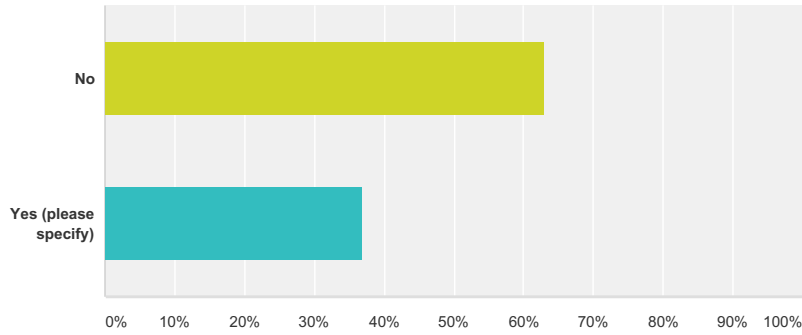
Answer Choices	Responses	
No	**63.02%**	167
Yes (please specify)	**36.98%**	98
Total		**265**

Q19 How confident are you of finding full time work in your chosen career?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
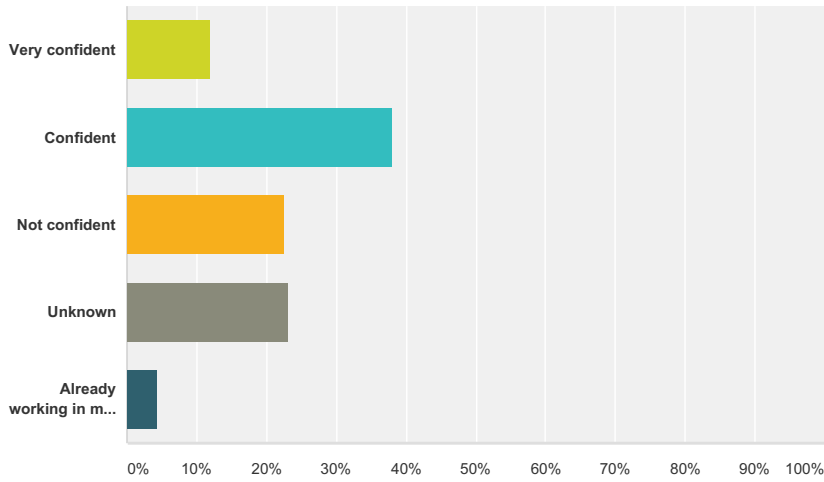
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very confident	**11.96%**	33
Confident	**38.04%**	105
Not confident	**22.46%**	62
Unknown	**23.19%**	64
Already working in my chosen career	**4.35%**	12
Total		**276**

REPORT ITEM CCCS046 REFERS TO

Q20 How old are you?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0

21043

REPORT ITEM CCCS046 REFERS TO

Q21 What gender do you identify as?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0

Q22 What suburb do you live in?

Answered: 276 Skipped: 0

REPORT ITEM CCCS046 REFERS TO

Q23 Do you have your own mobile phone?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
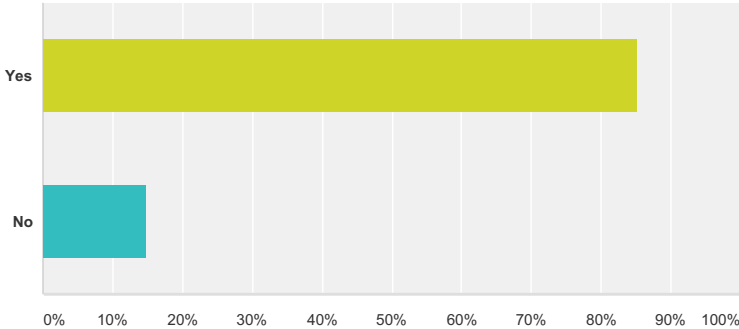
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**85.14%**	235
No	**14.86%**	41
Total		**276**

Q24 Do you have access to the internet at home?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
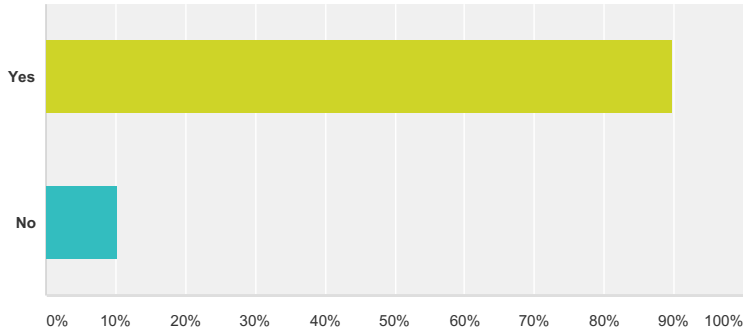
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**89.86%**	248
No	**10.14%**	28
Total		**276**

Q25 Do you have a computer or laptop at home?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
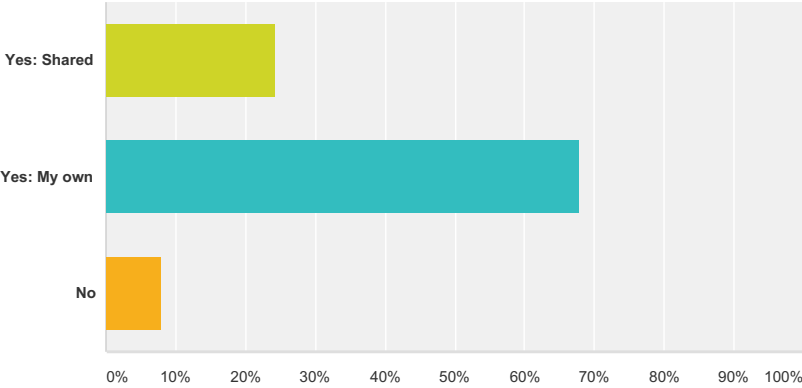
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes: Shared	24.28%	67
Yes: My own	67.75%	187
No	7.97%	22
Total		276

Q26 Do you work?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0

27043
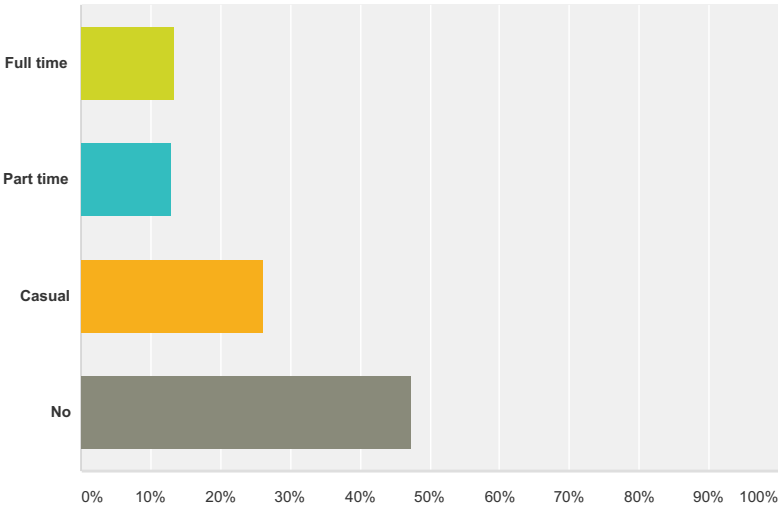
Answer Choices	Responses	
Full time	**13.41%**	37
Part time	**13.04%**	36
Casual	**26.09%**	72
No	**47.46%**	131
Total		**276**

Q27 Who do you live with?

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
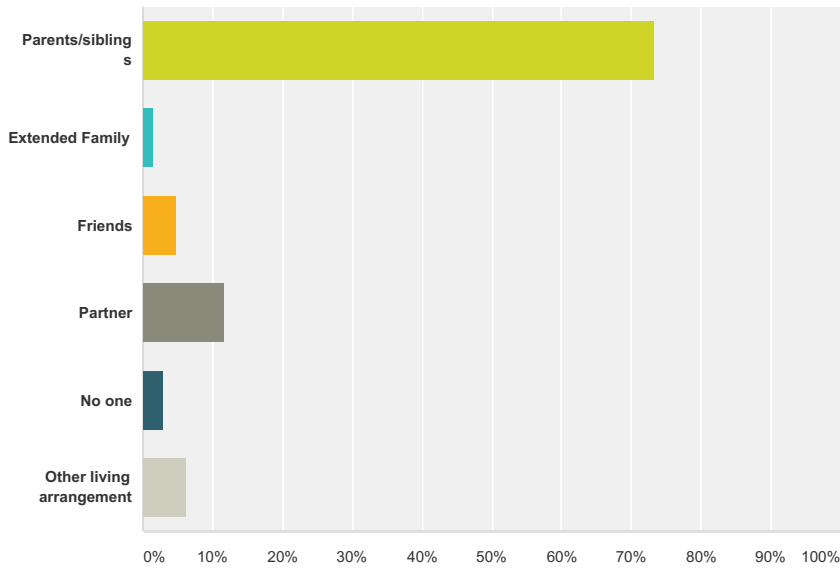
Answer Choices	Responses	
Parents/siblings	**73.19%**	202
Extended Family	**1.45%**	4
Friends	**4.71%**	13
Partner	**11.59%**	32
No one	**2.90%**	8
Other living arrangement	**6.16%**	17
Total		**276**

Q28 Select any services you have accessed in the past six months

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
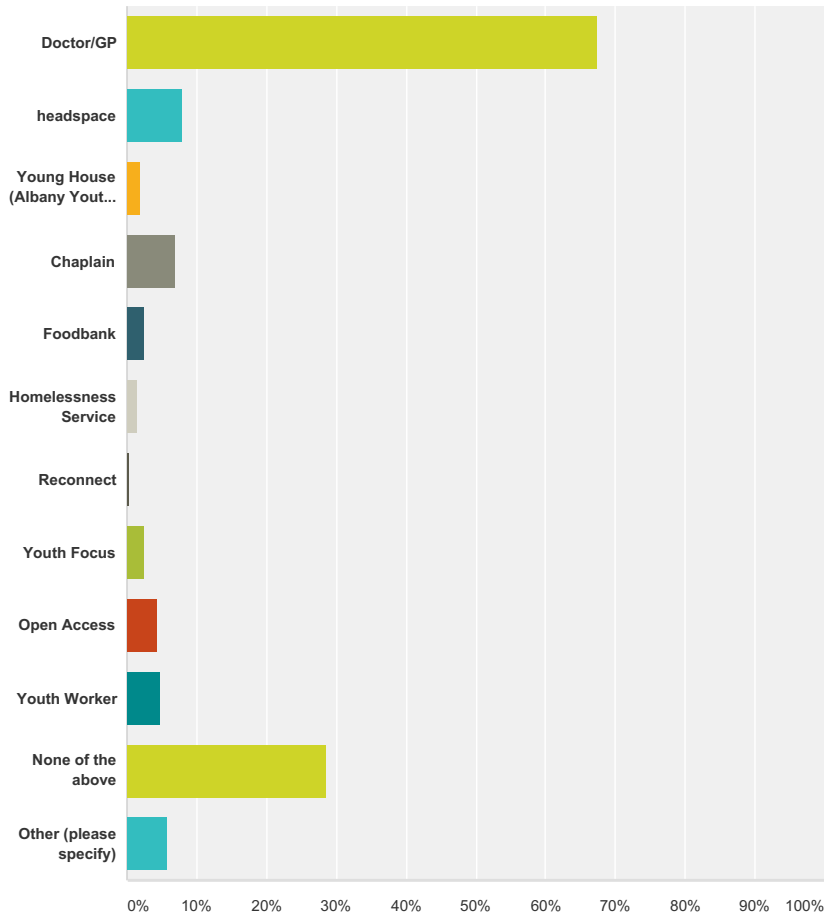
Answer Choices	Responses	
Doctor/GP	67.39%	186
headspace	7.97%	22
Young House (Albany Youth Support Association)	1.81%	5
Chaplain	6.88%	19
Foodbank	2.54%	7
Homelessness Service	1.45%	4
Reconnect	0.36%	1
Youth Focus	2.54%	7
Open Access	4.35%	12
Youth Worker	4.71%	13
None of the above	28.62%	79
Other (please specify)	5.80%	16
Total Respondents: 276		

Q29 Do you identify as:

Answered: 276   Skipped: 0
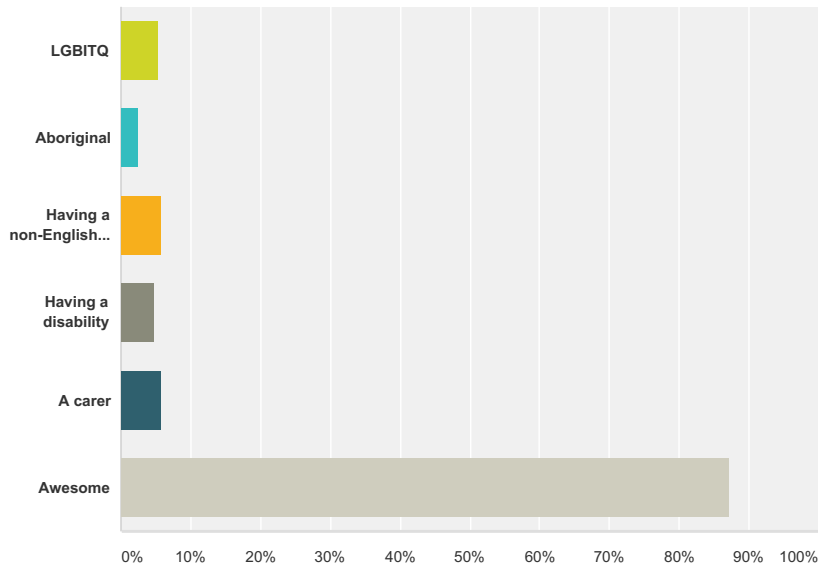
Answer Choices	Responses	
LGBITQ	**5.43%**	15
Aboriginal	**2.54%**	7
Having a non-English speaking background	**5.80%**	16
Having a disability	**4.71%**	13
A carer	**5.80%**	16
Awesome	**87.32%**	241
Total Respondents: 276		

**Q30 To go in the draw to win one of 25 cinema tickets, please enter your details below:**

Answered: 216   Skipped: 60

Answer Choices	Responses	
Name	**99.54%**	215
Company	**0.00%**	0
Address	**97.69%**	211
Address 2	**16.67%**	36
City/Town	**99.07%**	214
State/Province	**97.69%**	211
ZIP/Postal Code	**97.69%**	211
Country	**0.00%**	0
Email Address	**95.83%**	207
Phone Number	**84.72%**	183

REPORT ITEM CCCS046 REFERS TO

Q31 What is it about places that make them youth friendly or welcoming? For example: type of music playing? Access to wifi? Style of the place?

Answered: 165   Skipped: 111
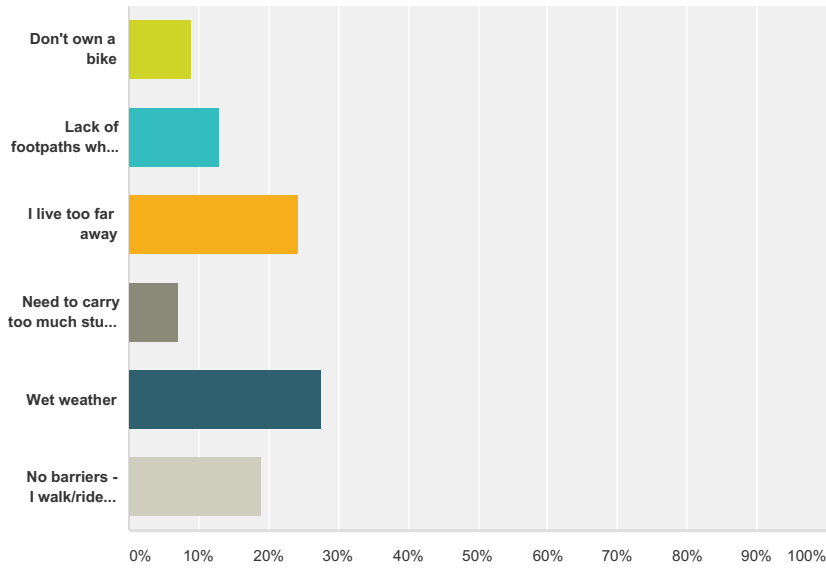
Q32 Do you consider yourself physically active?

Answered: 216   Skipped: 60
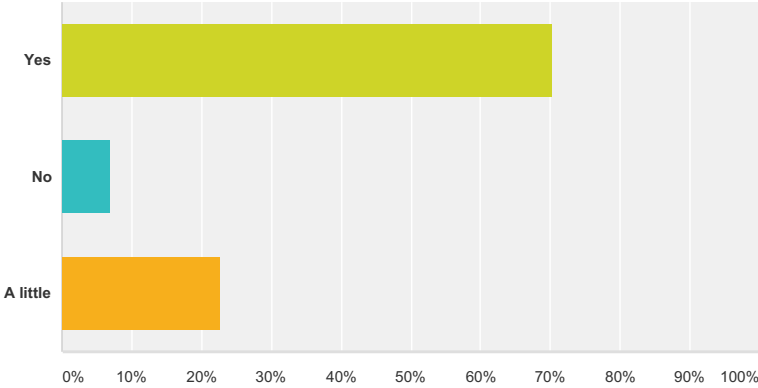
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**70.37%**	152
No	**6.94%**	15
A little	**22.69%**	49
Total		216

Q33 What are the barriers for you to walk/cycle more often?

Answered: 210   Skipped: 66

Answer Choices	Responses	
Don't own a bike	9.05%	19
Lack of footpaths where I need to go	12.86%	27
I live too far away	24.29%	51
Need to carry too much stuff to walk/ride	7.14%	15
Wet weather	27.62%	58
No barriers - I walk/ride regularly	19.05%	40
Total		210

REPORT ITEM CCCS046 REFERS TO

Q34 What is your favourite park/playground in Albany? Why?
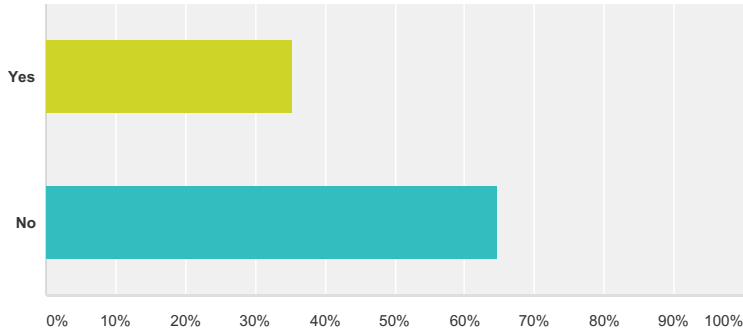
Answered: 179 Skipped: 97

Q35 What do we need to provide to encourage young people to be more active?

Answered: 177   Skipped: 99
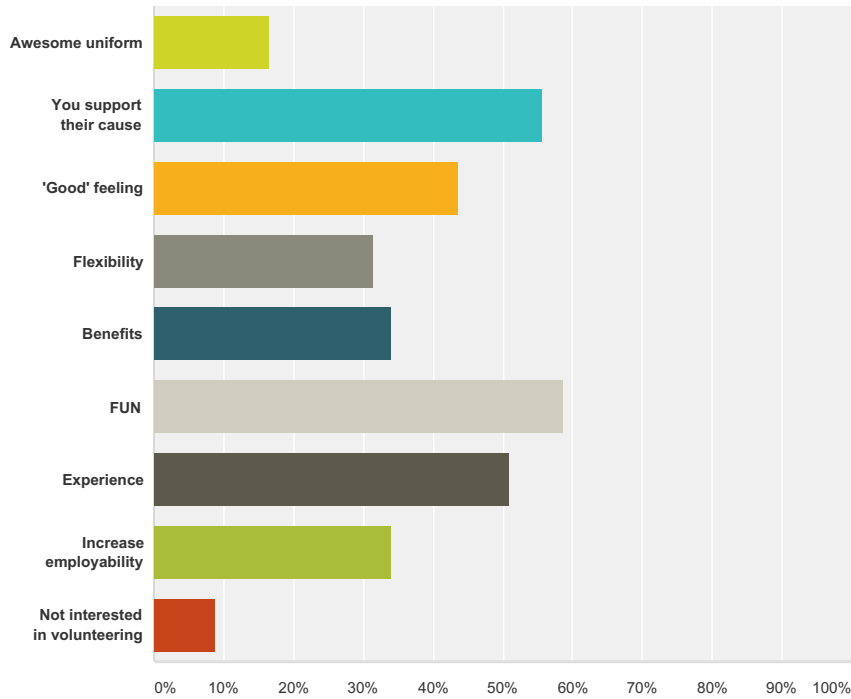
Q36 Do you volunteer for a group or organisation?

Answered: 207   Skipped: 69

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	35.27%	73
No	64.73%	134
Total		207

Q37 What would encourage you to volunteer for an organisation?

Answered: 206   Skipped: 70

Answer Choices	Responses	
Awesome uniform	**16.50%**	34
You support their cause	**55.83%**	115
'Good' feeling	**43.69%**	90
Flexibility	**31.55%**	65
Benefits	**33.98%**	70
FUN	**58.74%**	121
Experience	**50.97%**	105
Increase employability	**33.98%**	70
Not interested in volunteering	**8.74%**	18
Total Respondents: 206		

Q38 How often do you eat take out?

Answered: 209   Skipped: 67
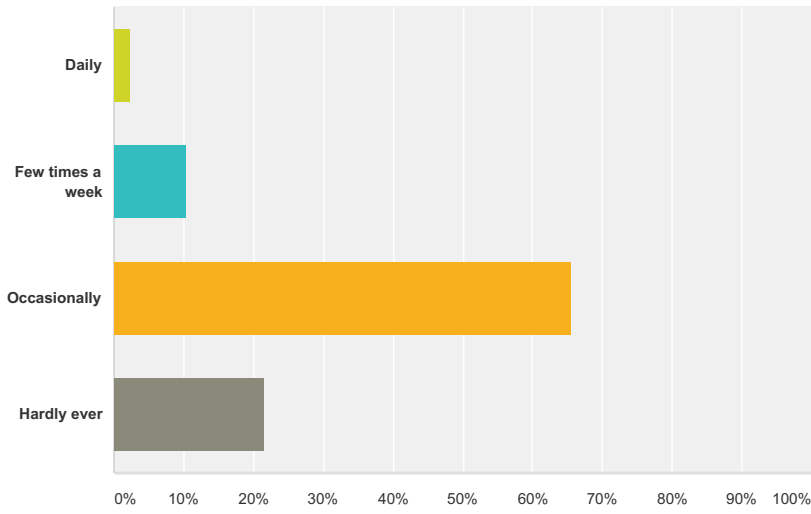
Answer Choices	Responses	
Daily	2.39%	5
Few times a week	10.53%	22
Occasionally	65.55%	137
Hardly ever	21.53%	45
Total		209

Q39 What social media accounts do you actively use?

Answered: 208   Skipped: 68
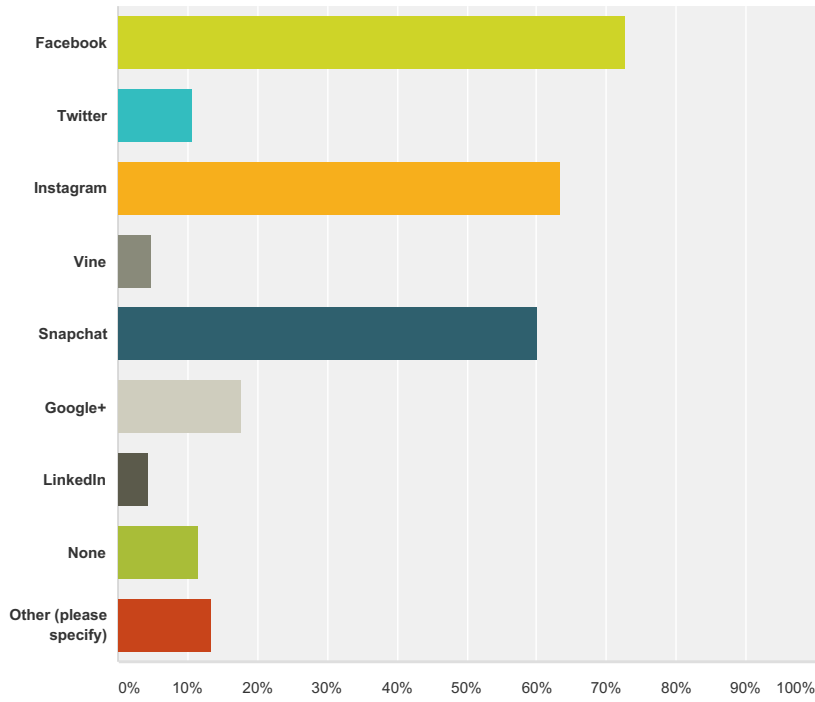
Answer Choices	Responses	
Facebook	**72.60%**	151
Twitter	**10.58%**	22
Instagram	**63.46%**	132
Vine	**4.81%**	10
Snapchat	**60.10%**	125
Google+	**17.79%**	37
LinkedIn	**4.33%**	9
None	**11.54%**	24
Other (please specify)	**13.46%**	28
Total Respondents: 208		

Q40 **Do you have any other ideas or comments on how we can make Albany a more 'Youth Friendly' City?**

Answered: 138   Skipped: 138

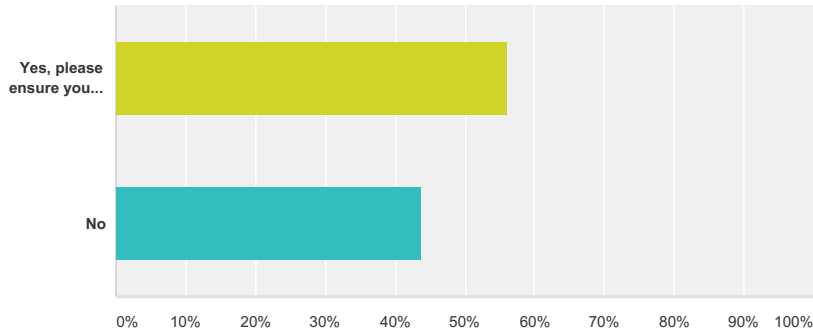## Q41 Do you complete surveys/participate in consultations for the City of Albany or other organisations?

Answered: 204   Skipped: 72
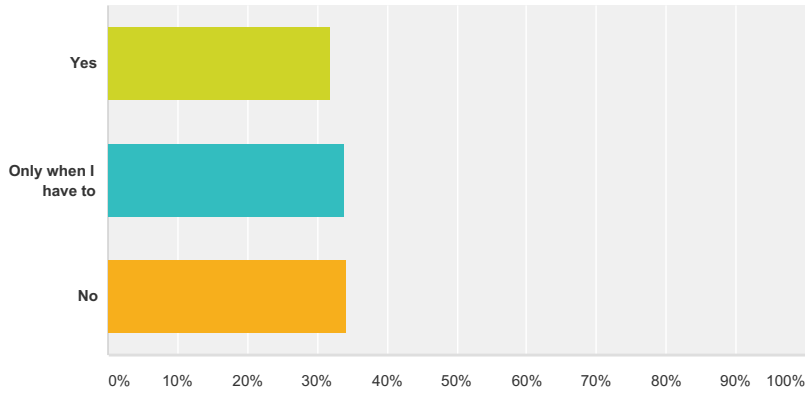
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	31.86%	65
Only when I have to	33.82%	69
No	34.31%	70
Total		204

Q42 Would be interested in participating in future surveys/consultation for the City of Albany?

Answered: 198   Skipped: 78

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, please ensure you provided your contact details earlier so we can contact you.	**56.06%**	111
No	**43.94%**	87
Total		**198**
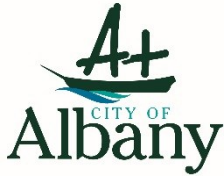
Youth Friendly Albany
External Stakeholder Survey

The City of Albany is in the process of drafting the City's first Youth Strategy which will prioritise and guide the City of Albany's involvement in creating a more youth friendly community.

The key principles of a youth friendly community as defined by the Department of Local Government and Communities include:

1. Local Government Support
2. Partnerships in the Community
3. Relationships built with young people
4. A diversity of young people
5. Ownership by young people
6. A holistic approach when consulting young people
7. A flexible approach to consulting young people
8. Fun and innovation
9. Evaluation and feedback
10. Embed young people's views in Community Strategic Planning

The Strategy will be an organisational wide strategy and will acknowledge that Council's and community's resources are limited, especially taking into account the existing funding challenges.

The City will define the City's role under each strategy which may include:

- Deliver – the City of Albany has a clear delivery role (providing infrastructure etc.);
- Advocate – some areas identified as priorities fall outside of the City's jurisdiction, however the City has a role in advocating to the responsible decision makers for change and improvements; and
- Partner –The City does not wish to duplicate existing youth support services, nor compete with our non-government organisations for funding however there are opportunities for the City to partner with these organisations to achieve positive outcomes for young people either as a lead agency or as a supporting partner.

The Strategy will aim to achieve the best outcomes for young people and the wider community while making the best use of available resources.

We invite agencies to contribute by completing this short survey.

Organisation Name: Albany Police

Contact Name: Damien Smith

Contact Telephone: 98929300

1. What does your organisation see as the City of Albany's role in building a youth friendly community?

> Building infrastructure for youth friendly activities.
>
> Program funding via the grant systems.
>
> Event planning with targeted demographics.

2. Public Spaces, buildings and natural environments
   a) On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the youth-friendliness of Albany's public spaces, buildings and natural environment.

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	**Good**	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

   b) What improvements if any can be made to Albany's public spaces, buildings and natural environments to make them more youth friendly?

Increase access to youth drop in centres.

Designated motor cross track? A suggestion by Jon MacMillan.

3. Communication and information
   a) On a scale of 1 to 5, rate how well the City of Albany provides information and communicates with young people?

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	**Average**	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

   b) What improvements, if any can be made to the way the City of Albany provides information and communicates with young people?

Direct liaison between the council and key stakeholders / schools.

4. Respect and Inclusion
   a) On a scale of 1 to 5, how much are young people in Albany respected, included and valued by the wider community?

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	**Average**	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

   b) What improvements can be made if any about the way young people in Albany are respected, valued and included in community life?

Increased employment opportunities for the youth in general, including at risk youth.

125

5. Transport and Housing
   a) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the ease with which young people can move around the City by driving, cycling, walking or by public transport?

5	4	3	**2**	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	**Poor**	Very poor	Don't know

   b) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the availability and provision of housing options for young people in Albany

5	4	**3**	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	**Average**	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

   c) What improvements if any can be made to transport and housing for young people in Albany?

   > Poor access to public transport. (Outside of school bus services)
   >
   > Improved cycle ways required.
   >
   > Not a huge issue in regards to juveniles living on the street in Albany.

6. Leisure, recreation and social life
   a) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the provision of leisure, recreational and social opportunities for young people within Albany

5	**4**	3	2	1	0
Excellent	**Good**	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

   b) What improvements, if any can be made to leisure, recreational and social activities, events and pursuits in Albany to make them more youth friendly?

   > Very good access to sport related activities in Albany.
   >
   > Limited social activities.
   >
   > Access to healthy activities such as mountain bike riding, swimming and fishing is good.

7. Community support and health services
   a) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the availability and accessibility of community, health and social services to support young people in Albany

5	4	**3**	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	**Average**	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

   b) What improvements, if any can be made to community support and health services for young people in Albany?

   > Good medical facilities for the youth.
   >
   > It is considered the services provided in relation to juvenile mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation is poor.

8. Education, training and employment
   a) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the availability and accessibility of education, training and employment opportunities in Albany for young people.

5	**4**	3	2	1	0
Excellent	**Good**	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

   b) What improvements if any can be made to the available education, training and employment opportunities in Albany for young people?

   >

9. Civic participation and volunteering
   a) On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the available opportunities for young people to volunteer and/or participate in Council decision making.

5	**4**	3	2	1	0
Excellent	**Good**	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

   b) What improvements if any can be made to increase opportunities for young people to volunteer and/or participate in Council decision making?

   > Good opportunities for the youth to volunteer in Albany.
   >
   > Limited direct access to council.

10. Taking in to account the above, how youth friendly do you think Albany is overall? (please tick one)

5	4	**3**	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	**Average**	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

11. Do you see a role for your organisation to work with the City of Albany to develop a more youth friendlier Albany? Please provide details below:

Good access to sporting and natural environment type activities, however there is limited access to other services / activities.

Thank you for your time – if you have any additional feedback you wish to provide, please contact the Senior Community Development Officer on 9841 9294.
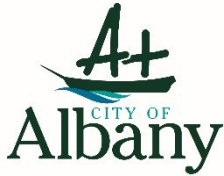
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14. A diversity of young people
15. Ownership by young people
16. A holistic approach when consulting young people
17. A flexible approach to consulting young people
18. Fun and innovation
19. Evaluation and feedback
20. Embed young people's views in Community Strategic Planning

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The Strategy will aim to achieve the best outcomes for young people and the wider community while making the best use of available resources.

We invite agencies to contribute by completing this short survey.

Organisation Name: _Disability Services Commission_

Contact Name: __Nikolai Emery__

Contact Telephone: ___9845 5702_

12. What does your organisation see as the City of Albany's role in building a youth friendly community?

> Promoting youth involvement (all abilities) in both youth specific but also general community events so that young people are valued within the community.
>
> Developing community facilities and events which promote best use of the natural beauty and social diversity of the Albany area to create a vibrant community where young people want to reside.

13. Public Spaces, buildings and natural environments
    c) On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the youth-friendliness of Albany's public spaces, buildings and natural environment.

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    d) What improvements if any can be made to Albany's public spaces, buildings and natural environments to make them more youth friendly?

> Recent facility improvements have created more usable and welcoming spaces for large gatherings to occur. Physical access remains a challenge particular in older parts of the city and where public events occur over multiple sites in the city.

14. Communication and information
    c) On a scale of 1 to 5, rate how well the City of Albany provides information and communicates with young people?

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    d) What improvements, if any can be made to the way the City of Albany provides information and communicates with young people?

> The city's communication even through social media does not resonate with young people. This may not be about re-branding the City's corporate image specifically for young people rather that other avenues are utilised such as schools and other organisations who can promote messages to young people locally.

15. Respect and Inclusion
    c) On a scale of 1 to 5, how much are young people in Albany respected, included and valued by the wider community?

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    d) What improvements can be made if any about the way young people in Albany are respected, valued and included in community life?

> No assessment given. This varies depending on circumstances.
>
> With respect to young people with disabilities the Albany community is generally welcoming of those who wish to participate in ways that others expect. However, when young people with disabilities have challenges understanding the social norms and expected behaviour the reception they receive can be negative and counterproductive. There is a ned for greater publice awareness of the needs of people with disabilities.

16. Transport and Housing

d) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the ease with which young people can move around the City by driving, cycling, walking or by public transport?

5	4	**3**	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	**Average**	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

e) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the availability and provision of housing options for young people in Albany

5	4	**3**	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	**Average**	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

f) What improvements if any can be made to transport and housing for young people in Albany?

Transport – interconnectedness of pathways is improving.

Public transport – The City's role here is unclear however, if young people are not able to access private transport the public transport provision remains inadequate.

Affordable housing options continue to challenge many young people's independence. Those young people with disabilities are severely limited in choice and affordability of housing and would greatly benefit from additional availability of low cost rental housing.

17. Leisure, recreation and social life

c) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the provision of leisure, recreational and social opportunities for young people within Albany

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

d) What improvements, if any can be made to leisure, recreational and social activities, events and pursuits in Albany to make them more youth friendly?

This has much improved and continues to improve with all of the investment in local infrastructure and coordination of recreational facilities. Also, the greater use of the town square in particular gives a focus to community events and makes it easy for young people to get involved regardless of abilities.

18. Community support and health services

    c) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the availability and accessibility of community, health and social services to support young people in Albany

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    d) What improvements, if any can be made to community support and health services for young people in Albany?

> Albany is well resourced in this area as a major regional centre. Outlying communities do not necessarily benefit from this and can benefit from outreach services.

19. Education, training and employment

    c) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the availability and accessibility of education, training and employment opportunities in Albany for young people.

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    d) What improvements if any can be made to the available education, training and employment opportunities in Albany for young people?

> Access to education and training is good but employment prospects for young people continues to be a challenge. Also, opportunities for young people with disabilities to engage in training are limited outside a narrow band of options and employment prospects are further limited for those young people with disabilities. Greater employer awareness and support to employ young people with disabilities would assist in shifting perceptions to one of ability rather than disability.

20. Civic participation and volunteering

    c) On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the available opportunities for young people to volunteer and/or participate in Council decision making.

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    d) What improvements if any can be made to increase opportunities for young people to volunteer and/or participate in Council decision making?

> Better promotion of how young people can become involved. This usually requires facilitation of their involvement in civic activities and may be best served by the City partnering with youth specific and educational institutions who can facilitate youth involvement.

21. Taking in to account the above, how youth friendly do you think Albany is overall? (please tick one)

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

22. Do you see a role for your organisation to work with the City of Albany to develop a more youth friendlier Albany? Please provide details below:

The Commission currently participates via the City's disability access and inclusion committee and this would be the best avenue for ongoing involvement with the City.

Thank you for your time – if you have any additional feedback you wish to provide, please contact the Senior Community Development Officer on 9841 9294.
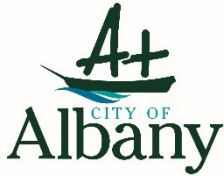
Youth Friendly Albany
External Stakeholder Survey

The City of Albany is in the process of drafting the City's first Youth Strategy which will prioritise and guide the City of Albany's involvement in creating a more youth friendly community.

The key principles of a youth friendly community as defined by the Department of Local Government and Communities include:

21. Local Government Support
22. Partnerships in the Community
23. Relationships built with young people
24. A diversity of young people
25. Ownership by young people
26. A holistic approach when consulting young people
27. A flexible approach to consulting young people
28. Fun and innovation
29. Evaluation and feedback
30. Embed young people's views in Community Strategic Planning

The Strategy will be an organisational wide strategy and will acknowledge that Council's and community's resources are limited, especially taking into account the existing funding challenges.

The City will define the City's role under each strategy which may include:

- Deliver – the City of Albany has a clear delivery role (providing infrastructure etc.);
- Advocate – some areas identified as priorities fall outside of the City's jurisdiction, however the City has a role in advocating to the responsible decision makers for change and improvements; and
- Partner –The City does not wish to duplicate existing youth support services, nor compete with our non-government organisations for funding however there are opportunities for the City to partner with these organisations to achieve positive outcomes for young people either as a lead agency or as a supporting partner.

The Strategy will aim to achieve the best outcomes for young people and the wider community while making the best use of available resources.

We invite agencies to contribute by completing this short survey.

Organisation Name: _____Palmerston_____

Contact Name: _____Linda Warren_____

Contact Telephone: _____9892 2100_____

23. What does your organisation see as the City of Albany's role in building a youth friendly community?

> Being a source of linkage between stakeholders, facilitating information sharing

24. Public Spaces, buildings and natural environments
    e) On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the youth-friendliness of Albany's public spaces, buildings and natural environment.

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    f) What improvements if any can be made to Albany's public spaces, buildings and natural environments to make them more youth friendly?

> Variety of seating and good lighting in places where we want young people to hang out eg. visible public spaces like the town square, maybe peace park? Wifi in these places

25. Communication and information
    e) On a scale of 1 to 5, rate how well the City of Albany provides information and communicates with young people?

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    f) What improvements, if any can be made to the way the City of Albany provides information and communicates with young people?

> I don't know enough to make an informed comment on this one

26. Respect and Inclusion
    e) On a scale of 1 to 5, how much are young people in Albany respected, included and valued by the wider community?

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    f) What improvements can be made if any about the way young people in Albany are respected, valued and included in community life?

> Could be as simple as those posters on the old Commonwealth bank showing teenagers in Albany. A variety of teenagers of different ethnicities

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27. Transport and Housing

    g) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the ease with which young people can move around the City by driving, cycling, walking or by public transport?

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    h) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the availability and provision of housing options for young people in Albany

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    i) What improvements if any can be made to transport and housing for young people in Albany?

> This is really a state government issue. Possibly assistance in filing in rental housing applications or assisting young people to identify relevant referees
>
> Ensuring ongoing support for Young House is very important

28. Leisure, recreation and social life

    e) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the provision of leisure, recreational and social opportunities for young people within Albany

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

    f) What improvements, if any can be made to leisure, recreational and social activities, events and pursuits in Albany to make them more youth friendly?

> Some young people have difficulty joining recreation activities like sports if their family have limited financial resources. Having pick-up services would be great for some young people. Maybe promote arts/cultural events to young people a bit more. A youth friendly film fest with tickets through schools could be fun…

29. Community support and health services
    e) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the availability and accessibility of community, health and social services to support young people in Albany

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

(4 highlighted)

    f) What improvements, if any can be made to community support and health services for young people in Albany?

> Headspace is a huge asset to Albany's youth, any support they need should be given strong consideration
>
> Obviously as a Palmerston employee I feel Palmerston's youth programs could be expanded through increased funding as we currently can't rapidly respond to the number of young people seeking counselling due to waitlisting

30. Education, training and employment
    e) On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the availability and accessibility of education, training and employment opportunities in Albany for young people.

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

(3 highlighted)

    f) What improvements if any can be made to the available education, training and employment opportunities in Albany for young people?

> Employment opportunities can be improved – maybe assistance to employers to encourage and support taking on inexperienced staff
>
> Who you know is important in Albany for young people seeking employment therefore there are disadvantaged youth who will struggle more in the employment market here

31. Civic participation and volunteering
    e) On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the available opportunities for young people to volunteer and/or participate in Council decision making.

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

(2 highlighted)

    f) What improvements if any can be made to increase opportunities for young people to volunteer and/or participate in Council decision making?

> I think there is a lack of knowledge that all people's views are valued in council. It would need to be addressed at both adult and youth levels so that parents, teachers and employers made young people aware of their opportunities to participate in Council

32. Taking in to account the above, how youth friendly do you think Albany is overall? (please tick one)

5	4	3	2	1	0
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

33. Do you see a role for your organisation to work with the City of Albany to develop a more youth friendlier Albany? Please provide details below:

Yes, though I'm not certain of how this could work specifically. I'd be more than happy to be contacted by Community Development staff

Thank you for your time – if you have any additional feedback you wish to provide, please contact the Senior Community Development Officer on 9841 9294.

Literature Review- Youth Friendly Albany Strategy

1. Introduction

This review is to support the findings of the consultation and research used for the development of the City of Albany Youth Friendly Albany Strategy. The Youth Strategy will guide the work of the City of Albany's role and key actions in the youth sector going forward. It will also guide the work of the City's Youth Development Officer which is part-funded by Rio Tinto.

1.1 Approach to developing the Strategy

The City of Albany used the eight themes provided by the Department of the Local Government and Communities Youth Friendly Strategy to provide a framework to the consultation.

The themes included:
- Civic Participation and Volunteering;
- Education, training and employment
- Community support and health services;
- Leisure, recreation and social life;
- Transport and housing;
- Respect and inclusion;
- Community and information;
- Public spaces, buildings and natural environment.

1.2 Key result areas

The consultation resulted in the collection of qualitative data which was able to be grouped into themes. Four areas came through as being priorities for young people in Albany including:

1. Youth engagement & inclusion;
2. Youth spaces and places;
3. Employment, education and training; and
4. Events and social opportunities.

Research was then conducted focusing on these priorities, using the ideas put forward at the consultation as a basis for strategies going forward.

1.3 Purpose of the Literature Review

The purpose of the literature review is to identify new ideas and support proposed strategies that are effective to address the priorities identified through the consultation. A review of what other communities in Western Australia, within Australia and internationally have proposed to drive change locally was considered along with evidence based research in this field.

The concept of 'Youth Friendly Communities' has been adapted from UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Framework which was developed to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, 2004).

1.4 Method

This section describes the broad approach to the conduct of the literature review, including scope, search engines, search terms, and preliminary analysis.

1.4.1 Scope of the literature Review

The literature for the review was limited to resources freely available on the internet and, due to the significant literature specific to Australia, was then limited to research/documents produced in Australia over the last five years. The rationale for focusing on Australia was, the identified strategies would more likely be able to be applied in the local context. However, some international sources were included due to their relevance to Youth Friendly Communities.

Time horizon
The search was confined to research and reports completed in the last five years, that is material published after January 2012. The rationale for limiting the time was that there is a constant evolution in social policy, economic conditions and use of technology. There are however some documents that fall outside of these dates, but have been included in the scope as they were considered fundamental documents in this instance.

1.4.2 Search Engines

Relevant material was identified through a desktop review of white and grey literature and included research papers, journal articles, local government youth strategies and other reports available on the internet.

PROQUEST and Australian Policy Online were the main databases searched to identify relevant academic literature as many articles found through Google Scholar are not freely available for download.

Grey literature was sourced from:
- Reviewing other local government 'Youth Strategies'
- A scan of WA and Australian government department websites dedicated to young people;
- A search using Google.com search engine using key terms to identify working papers, reports and white papers.

1.4.3 Preliminary Analysis

Abstracts of articles identified via the literature search were reviewed for relevance and potential papers/reports/ strategies identified for inclusion in the literature review.

Papers/reports/strategies were deemed relevant if they:
- Had been published in the last five years;
- Relevance to the subject area;

1.5 Structure of the Review

The literature review sets out for each of the priority themes identified in the consultation:
- A definition for the term – 'Child Friendly Communities'
- Summary of the key finding in relation to Child Friendly Communities
- Definition of key themes identified through the consultation
- Summary of the key findings for each theme

2. Child Friendly Communities

2.1 Definition

The majority of work relating to the 'Child Friendly Communities' is linked back to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, 2004). The term 'Child' in this instant refers to persons aged 0 to 18. Within Australia, from the age of 12 – 25, a person is considered 'youth', which is the age group the Youth Friendly Strategy is aimed at.

Until recently there has been a growing focus on 'youth participation' across all sectors of government in Australia. The trend continues at all levels but the national level where they have defunded key youth participation mechanisms like the youth roundtable.

What is a Youth Friendly Community? The Department of Local Government and Communities dictated through the funding made available for this project the ten guiding principles and eight themes to guide the consultation process. While there is no literature or reports provided by the Department to support their approach, it aligns with the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Framework (2004) which provides a process for implementing the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child from a National perspective into a local government perspective.

Child Friendly Cities guarantees the rights of children across twelve areas ranging from the ability to influence decisions about their City, be provided a safe environment free from pollution, exploitation, violence, abuse; basic needs (safe water, sanitation, food, shelter, education, shelter); participation in social and cultural events and to be an equal citizen in their community with access to every service regardless of race, religion, income, gender or ability. It also identifies four key principles of non-discrimination; best interests of children; every child's right to life and maximum development; listening to children and respecting their views.

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth revisits this concept and defines it as a community that ensures there are enough resources allocated to children and families; provides space for children to be listened to and influence decisions, recognises children in adult systems (policy and law); makes changes to adult systems to allow children to be included; has children's interests on everyone's agenda; looks at how community life can be made more welcoming; building child friendly communities is a local, national and international activity (ARACY, 2006). It also identifies eight themes to a youth friendly community which are drawn from the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child.

In comparison the Department of Local Government and Communities defines a youth-friendly community as one:
> 'where young people are treated with respect and where they feel safe, welcome and included. It is a community that encourages and recognises the participation and contributions of young people, supports youth development and provides youth-friendly services, facilities and programs'. (DLGC, 2015).

2.2 Summary of Key Findings

The concept of a 'Child Friendly Community' is based on the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child which has been in place since 1989 and the concept of 'Child Friendly Cities' was launched in 1996 it seems to have only recently taken on a wide scale adoption in Australia with South Australia being part of a pilot project with UNICEF Australia and funding being made in WA for Youth Friendly Communities.

South Australia have adopted six Child Friendly South Australia goals including
1. Active participation

2. Safety
3. Health
4. Education
5. Belonging
6. Play and leisure

(Department for Education and Child Development, 2016).

These tie in very closely with the priorities identified through the consultation for the Youth Friendly Albany Strategy.

While health and safety are not explicit in the Youth Friendly Albany priority areas, they are embedded in 'Youth Spaces and Places' and 'Events and social opportunities. A youth space or event will never be youth friendly unless young people feel 'safe' in that environment. Likewise with health, increasing the number of activities and events for young people aims to build social connection and improve mental health outcomes, based on the 'act belong commit' model (Santini et al, 2017). Young people will be encouraged to use active transport as a means of moving to/from events, and healthy catering will be encouraged as per strategies in the City of Albany Public Health Plan.

3. Youth engagement and inclusion

3.1 Definition

Youth participation and youth engagement are often used interchangeably in policy, research and documents. Department of Local Government and Communities defines participation as 'giving [young people] opportunities to be involved in decision-making and delivering services and programs", and engagement as 'a wider scope of activities that empower young people by involving them in their communities' and incorporates activities provided to young people in community settings (DLGC, 2016).

'Youth Engagement' often refers to participation of young people in education, training and community life, however in this instance it refers to a commitment to listening to, understanding and collaborating with young people in decision making processes (Young & Well, 2016).

Inclusion refers to having a 'strong sense of being included' and a large barrier to youth participating and engaging is the sense of being excluded, or feeling like their opinion and views are not valued. The feeling of exclusion is heightened for young people who are of a different race, or cultural background who feel discriminated against. This also extends to young people who identify as LGQTBI, or have a disability.

Volunteering is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as "the provision of unpaid help willingly undertaken in the form of time, service or skills, to an organisation or group" (ABS, 2011). However Walsh and Black note the definition excludes unpaid work for a family business, student placement and 'informal' volunteering that occurs outside of a non-profit organisation (2015).

3.2 Summary of key findings

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines participation as a fundamental right in itself which is reflected in the Child Friendly Cities Framework (UNICEF, 2004). The most well-known theoretical model is Roger Hart's ladder of Youth Participation (Hart, 1992).

Young people who feel engaged and who have opportunities to participate experience a better quality of life and contribute to building better communities. Long term, young people who are

valued and feel connected have better health and mental health as adults. (ARACY, 2014) Young people aged 12-25 make up 16.7% of the Albany population, yet they only make up 12% of voters (ABS, 2011).

The 'NEST', national plan for child and youth well-being developed by the Australian Research Alliance for children and Youth identifies 'participating' as a key goal towards achieving their vision where 'All young people are loved and safe, have material basics, are healthy, are learning and participating and have a positive sense of identity and culture' (ARACY, 2014)

There needs to be a mix of formal (youth advisory groups, roundtables etc.) as well as informal approaches (online, project specific) to provide young people with a wide number of opportunities to have their say (Bell et al, 2008). This would also enable young people from minority groups the ability to provide their views in a safer and more anonymous environment.

The perception from participants in the consultation was that their views and opinions were not valued, and they wanted to have more of a say in their community. Significant work will need to be done in this space so not only do young people feel comfortable expressing their views, but they also feel that their views are valued.

Volunteering is often seen by young people as a way to gain experience. This is reflected in a LinkedIn survey which found 41% of hiring managers internationally considered volunteer work as important as experience gained through paid employment, whereas one in five hiring managers employed people because of their work experience (in Black, Walsh, 2015).

4. Youth spaces and places

4.1 Definition

Youth spaces and places refers to any place or space young people use or frequent. This extends to local businesses, service providers, leisure and recreational sites, public open space, library etc.

The identity of place is closely linked to the sense of 'belonging' and being part of a community.

4.2 Summary of key findings

The users or potential users of a space are the 'experts'. The move towards 'place-making' when designing public space places 'community' as the users at the heart. Chawla argues that children and young people often have a higher level of expertise and knowledge about local environments because they utilise more of the physical spaces than adults in different ways (in ARACY, 2016).

How they can connect in the youth spaces and places is also of importance. The ability to connect online rather than just in the physical sense has grown exponentially in recent years. The advent of Facebook, Snapchat, Vine and the multitude of other 'apps' available means that young people of today are connected in more ways than past generations. The Australian Communications and Media Authority found 81% of young people aged 12-17 identified social media as their main reason for going online (ACMA, 2011). It also provides a space they can socialise and explore their identities without adult supervision (Swist et al, 2015). It is also seen to be a mechanism for connection and expression and has been identified as critical to a sense of belonging for those who experience exclusion or discrimination (Swist et al 2015). While there is substantive literature on the impact of social media, and the growing uptake of smart phones for 'messaging apps', quite often it seems to be out of date by the time it comes available.

Duggan, found half of smartphone owners aged 18-29 use messaging apps which when connected to Wi-Fi did not use any data (Duggan, 2015).

The provision of free Wi-Fi came through very strong in the consultation as being very important for young people in how 'friendly' a space is.

Participants were able to identify a number of places in Albany that they identified as being 'youth friendly'. The places generally had free Wi-Fi, welcoming staff and had places they can 'chill'. Parks and reserves were also very popular, however they identified the lack of shelter in the cooler months an ongoing issue.

5. Employment, education and training

5.1 Definitions

Employment can refer to paid (working for a wage) and unpaid employment (work experience, placements etc.).

'Underemployment' refers to those who work part time, or casual but want more hours (Brotherhood of St Laurence, 2017)

5.2 Summary of key findings

There has been no change to the rate of youth unemployment since 1985 (FYA, 2016) and remains high since the Global Financial Crisis (Brotherhood of St Laurence, 2017). Nationally, underemployment of young people at 13.5% is at its highest since this data has been collected. Young people are more likely to be engaged in casual or part time jobs compared to fifteen years ago (Brotherhood of St Laurence, 2017; FYA, 2016).

In 2011, 10.8% of Albany's young people aged 15-24 years were unemployed compared to 9.5% in regional WA and 10.0% for Western Australia. In comparison, the unemployment rate for the whole of the City of Albany was only 4.9%, compared to 4.4% for regional WA and 4.7% for Western Australia (ABS, 2011).

The current generation of young people are 1.6 times more likely to complete Year 12 than their parents, and 1.7 times more likely to attend university yet are paying more than double the costs for higher education. (FYA, 2016). Those who do graduate university or vocational education are finding their job or field of study was not relevant or not important in their work (FYA, 2016).

The advent of social enterprises are having a much greater impact on unemployment than other strategies (government grants, subsidies etc).(UK) In America, REDF have released a study showing social enterprise businesses provide a cost effective way to provide employment opportunities to those who face barriers to finding employment (Princeton et al, 2015).

Respondents advised the cost of higher education and the limited range of courses available made it difficult to pursue study without having to move from Albany. Full time work was difficult to find and most worked in part time or casual roles.

6. Events and social opportunities

6.1 Definitions

Events refer to any planned community gathering or social occasion.

Social opportunities could refer to a workshop, activity, consultation, anything which provides young people with opportunity to connect.

6.2 Summary of Key Findings

The Mission Australia annual youth survey results show an increasing number of young people nationally identify mental health as a concern (Bailey et al, 2016). While this wasn't reflected in the consultation feedback, many of the suggestions and ideas link back to building social connections between young people.

Young people who feel engaged and who have opportunities to participate experience a better quality of life and contribute to building better communities. This is potentially due to role social capital and social cohesion in creating resilience in young people. Long term, young people who are valued and feel connected have better health and mental health as adults. (ARACY, 2014)

The "Act Belong-Commit' Program promotes people keeping active physically, socially spiritually and mentally to improve and maintain their mental health and provides evidence that the more social interactions an individual has the greater ability to cope with trauma and stress that affect mental health. Being involved with groups fulfils the innate need to belong (Santini et al, 2017)

Feedback from participants was that there were very few events targeting their age group, and they were often only 'one off' events. Limited disposable income limited their choice of recreational activities (movies etc) so they identified a need for more regular activities that are affordable.

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Submissions – Youth Friendly Albany Strategy

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (Formerly Department of Sport and Recreation)

Good Afternoon

Sport and Recreation Great Southern, a division of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, has reviewed the below Youth Friendly Albany Strategy, and would like to provide feedback.

Sport and Recreation can contribute and provide support in the following ways;

1.2.1 – Through the Give2Sport project, encourage youth and assist sport and recreation clubs to take on youth as committee members.

1.3.1 – As above

1.4.1 – Provide an actual learning opportunity through youth engagement as junior sports reporters. The "Between the lines" junior sport reporter scheme was delivered a number of years ago enabling young people to contribute to their local newspapers, their articles covering sport and recreation activities. This could be expanded to include the social media platforms (blogs, etc.), and could involve a local journalist who went through the Scheme, providing guidance.

2.3.2 & 3 – Continue to advocate and provide support to increase dual access connectivity and public transport options, connecting young people with sporting and recreation options.

3.3.1 – An opportunity for the Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence (GS-CORE) to connect through the recreation space, provide knowledge of available recreation options and training and education opportunities.

4.1.1 – Knowledge of free accessible recreation options

4.2.1 – As above

4.4.1 – Advocate for interschool sporting activities direction with Sporting Department teachers

Sport and Recreation would be happy to meet and discuss further our ability to assist with the Youth Friendly Albany Strategy.

headspace Albany

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback on the City Youth Strategy.

headspace Albany provides mental and general health support to young people aged 12 -25 and their families. The service has been established in Albany for close to 10 years, and since inception has had an established Youth Advisory/Reference Group which informs our practice and that young people are at the centre of all work that we do to support them.

headspace Albany supported over 500 individual young people last financial year, which is close to 10% of the youth population of the city according to the data provided in the Youth Strategic Plan.

We would encourage the City to consider both how it engages with young people, and also that another key component of the strategy should consider how to more effectively partner with and tap into young people being supported by youth agencies such as headspace Albany and Albany Youth Support Association. There is considerable expertise available to the city in how to more effectively engage with young people through collaborative ventures. The feedback we receive from young people is that the City doesn't offer much in the way of opportunities for young people and doesn't engage particularly authentically, and we look forward to the strategy changing this, and that this engagement move beyond tokenistic to one of genuine engagement so that young people are not only heard, but also given a platform to influence the City for the better of young people.

Through partnerships based on genuine collaboration, young people stand to benefit much from the strategy. We would like the City ot consider in delivering activities for young people that engaging with young people through specialist youth services may in fact increase the engagement of the city, and the sense of connectedness for young people. A recent example of this it the City promoting the visit of the current UN youth ambassador, yet only providing one opportunity to engage with the Ambassador at a City supported youth event, and actively discouraging attempts by headspace to engage with the Ambassador to provide further opportunities on the visit to Albany to engage with different youth populations.

We look forward to seeing, and assisting with the city in increasing engagement with, and opportunities for the young people of Albany

Collated by Youth Advisory Council Member

Great Southern g, ashs and some uni students
- strategy well encapsulates the areas that need help in youth
-happy to hear things are happening

Engagement and inclusion
- people want to hear more from the yacs
- not able to go into restaurants even at lunch time due to licensing - being made feel bad about this
- not being openly discriminated like we (the millennials) were in the Albany advertiser article

Yacs
- awesome opportunity
- people impressed that it is running, gets funded and exists
- direct line to the council

Volunteering should be a valued thing in youth as a lack of money in most cases can be limiting with other costly activities
- everyone given 24 hours a day to do things with
- valuing volunteers and being very flexible with the hours they do

Jobs and training
- can we have sample resumes of what businesses would ideally like to see of a person who hasn't ever had a job
- work experience through school should be encouraged
- small business run by youths need to be showcased/ given the opportunity to be showcased
- what is the best thing to fill the spaces on a first time resume

Events
- markets
- promoting the YACs page
- the Yacs maybe meeting at other times?
- can the YACs come talk at some schools and things

Places and spaces
- feeling like things are our own
- undercover skate park
- outdoor cinema at Middleton beach off surf club - fun outdoor thing
- drive in cinema awesome + more events should be hosted there
- not just about making new spaces it's a lot about making the spaces that we already have more youth friendly

Thanks

Other Submissions

Just after reading the draft for the 'Youth Friendly Albany Strategy' I was just wondering when will there be a new motor cross track for Albany? It has been 10 years since the last one closed down. As someone who is part of the Albany youth I feel this is a necessary outlet for a lot Albany youth that aren't into your mainstream sport. Also as an education assistant I see motor cross as an outlet for a lot of students who don't feel they fit into mainstream team sports and need an outlet to challenge themselves. (Female, age unknown)

Looks good to me. (Male, aged 15)