

CITY OF
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN

Youth Plan Background and Needs Report

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Summary of key findings

This report provides the background data and evidence base to inform the development of the City of Canterbury-Bankstown's first Youth Plan.

The purpose of the Youth Plan is to guide Council in its work with young people, the community, services and other stakeholders to meet the needs of local young people and build a youth-friendly city.

The objectives of the Youth Plan are to:

- Understand the current situation and identify the needs of Canterbury-Bankstown's young people including for services, facilities and programs, and
- Build upon existing initiatives and identify opportunities to work collaboratively across Council and with young people, local services and other stakeholders to address identified needs and work towards a youth-friendly city.

Who are Canterbury-Bankstown's young people?

There are over 65,000 young people in Canterbury-Bankstown - 17% of the total population. This is forecast to increase by around 4,000 young people in the 4 years of this plan. In total, there is forecast to be over 77,000 young people living in Canterbury-Bankstown in 2036.

Young people in Canterbury-Bankstown have many strengths and contribute to their community in a range of ways including as members of local community, cultural, creative and sporting groups, as volunteers and as workers. Young people here are highly culturally diverse, open-minded and supportive of each other, focusing on what unites and connects them. They have enormous talent, great ideas and a broad range of skills. They are resilient and bounce back quickly in face of challenges. They are optimistic and excited about the future, and the future of their City.

There are also many young people in Canterbury-Bankstown facing challenges that affect their ability to reach their full potential, including but not limited to income inequality, unemployment, poor health and mental health, stresses at school at home and at school, language and cultural barriers, income inequality, unemployment and housing insecurity.

What are the strategic influences?

A strengths based approach empowers and builds upon the strengths within children, young people, families and communities. This includes overcoming stereotypes of disadvantage in Western Sydney.

The City of Canterbury-Bankstown Community Strategic Plan identifies becoming a 'Child Friendly City' as a key city transformation to achieve the vision of Canterbury-Bankstown as "thriving, dynamic and real".

Planning at the national, State, regional and local level identifies priorities for young people including:

- Health and wellbeing, including mental health
- Engaging in community life and decisions affecting young people
- Education and employment
- Safety, including online
- Innovation and cost-effective approaches to delivering better outcomes including through prevention and early intervention

What do we already have and do?

Across all its work, Council delivers services and programs, facilities, infrastructure and advocacy that support outcomes for young people. There is a well developed and connected youth services sector in Canterbury-Bankstown and many facilities available for young people. Young people have access to youth services and community services providing programs for young people, as well as youth-specific community centres. Young people are users of facilities including parks, library and knowledge centres, leisure and aquatic centres and sports and recreation facilities. Canterbury-Bankstown is rich with cultural and creative capital, and young people are core participants and creators. Council's Library and Knowledge Centres provide access to technology and there is free WiFi in public places through Canterbury-Bankstown. There are also some employment services and a limited number of social enterprises focused on young people.

What did young people and the community say?

Across community engagement activities, services and young people said that:

- Some of the things that make Canterbury-Bankstown a good place to live for young people are parks, Library and Knowledge Centres, recreation facilities and a strong sense of community.
- Young people in Canterbury-Bankstown have many strengths and contribute to their community in a range of ways including as members of local community, cultural, creative and sporting groups, as volunteers and as workers. Services said that young people in Canterbury-Bankstown are highly culturally diverse, open-minded, talented, skilled, resilient, optimistic and supportive of each other
- Some of the main issues for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown are mental health, drug and alcohol use and abuse, bullying and peer pressure, education, employment, racism and discrimination and feeling safe in public places, including for women.
- Popular ideas for new and improved programs and services include support in finding a job, study skills programs, mental health support, money skills programs, information around education and career pathways.
- Popular ideas for new and improved spaces and places include places with free WiFi, sports fields and courts, outdoor fitness equipment, spaces for women and girls and parks.

- The best ways to let young people know what's going on in the area is via social media (Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat) or through school.
- Other identified issues include stigma around young people from Canterbury-Bankstown ("people think that they can't do well so they don't try"); intergenerational conflict (e.g. around education and career pathways, different cultural values); rising cost of living and housing leading young people to move out of the area; need for a cultural change around volunteering; need for more understanding, knowledge and acceptance around LGBTQI+ issues and support for gender diverse and diverse sexuality young people.

Identified needs

Table 14 describes the identified needs in detail. A summary of the identified needs is provided below:

Services and programs

- Coordination, promotion and support for existing services to reach more young people with fewer resources as the population grows
- Delivering affordable programs and services in public spaces and community facilities across Canterbury-Bankstown, from parks and library and knowledge centres to schools and pop up events
- Celebrating the stories of local young people, including creative and cultural participation, academic achievements, sporting excellence and so on

Civic participation

- Meaningful and engaging opportunities for all young people to be involved in decision making, including co-design of youth spaces and services and around sustainability issues
- Supporting volunteering

Inclusion and

- Supporting young people with disability and young carers
- Creating a more inclusive environment and supporting LGBTI young people
- Building a better understanding of issues affecting young people including domestic violence and homelessness

Affordability

- Access to facilities, programs, activities and transport options that are affordable for young people

Youth friendly places and spaces

- Welcoming public places for young people throughout the city including the public domain in town centres, access to technology in public space, youth recreation areas, and youth-friendly new housing
- Safety in public spaces including addressing safety for women such as catcalling, and improving relationships with police

Health and wellbeing

- Improved health and wellbeing outcomes, including alcohol and other drug use and healthy living

- Education about healthy relationships
- Improved youth mental health outcomes including promoting services, addressing stigma and empowering young people to seek help

Education and employment

- Supporting students' success and wellbeing throughout their studies
- Supporting young people to access employment including work experience and help with applications
- Information about life after school, including options for early school leavers and information about tertiary education and careers
- Education for the future, including financial literacy and technology skills such as coding

Cultural diversity

- Supporting young people to manage intergenerational relationships and family cultural expectations
- Addressing racism and discrimination and celebrating the diversity of young people in Canterbury-Bankstown
- Supporting recently arrived young people including students, refugees and people seeking asylum

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The City of Canterbury Bankstown (Canterbury-Bankstown) is a rapidly growing and changing local government area (LGA), located between 8 and 23 kilometres south-west of the Sydney CBD. It is the largest LGA by population in New South Wales and is projected to grow by around 140,000 new residents over the next twenty years. It is home to a socially, economically and culturally diverse community, with 40% of residents born overseas and 60% speaking a language other than English at home. Canterbury-Bankstown is home to around 59,117 young people aged 12 to 24, making up 17% of the total population.

City of Canterbury Bankstown (Council) engaged Cred Consulting to work collaboratively with Council, local young people and services to develop a 4-year Youth Plan (2019-2023) that will guide Council in delivering great services that meet the diverse needs of Canterbury-Bankstown's young people. This will be Council's first Youth Plan since amalgamation in 2016. It will replace the former Bankstown and Canterbury City Council Youth Plans, which are out of date.

1.2. Purpose and objectives

This report provides the background data and evidence base to inform the development of the City of Canterbury-Bankstown's first Youth Plan.

The purpose of the Youth Plan is to guide Council in its work with young people, the community, services and other stakeholders to meet the needs of local young people and build a youth-friendly city.

The objectives of the Youth Plan are to:

- Understand the current situation and identify the needs of Canterbury-Bankstown's young people including for services, facilities and programs, and
- Build upon existing initiatives and identify opportunities to work collaboratively across Council and with young people, local services and other stakeholders to address identified needs and work towards a youth-friendly city.

1.3. Approach

The Youth Plan will be developed in collaboration with the community, including the Youth Summit which was held in 2018, and two stages of community engagement. The first stage (December 2018 to February 2019) focused on information gathering, whereas the second stage (February/March 2019) will focus on developing strategies and actions for the Plan.

The Youth Plan will be based on a rights-based, youth-friendly city framework.

Becoming a 'Child Friendly City' is a key focus of the Canterbury Bankstown ten-year Community Strategic Plan: CBCity 2028. Youth-friendly cities are committed to improving the lives of young people by realising their rights as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In practice, a youth-friendly city is a city in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of young people are an integral part of public policies, programs and decisions. It is a city where young people:

- Are protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- Experience quality, inclusive and participatory education and skills development
- Participate in family, cultural, city/community and social life
- Live in a safe, secure and clean environment with access to green spaces
- Meet friends and have places to enjoy themselves
- Have a good start in life and grow up healthy and cared for
- Have access to quality social services
- Have a fair chance in life regardless of their ethnic origin, sexuality, religion, income, gender or ability
- Meet friends and have places to enjoy themselves, and
- Express their opinions and influence decisions that affect them.

1.4. Methodology

The methodology to complete this background report included:

- Community profile of young people living in Canterbury-Bankstown and forecast future population
- Strategic context analysis of national, state, regional and local planning and policy for young people
- Audit, mapping and benchmarking of local and major regional youth and community facilities
- Audit and mapping of local youth services
- Analysis of findings from community engagement with young people, general community and youth services
- Identification of the needs of young people in Canterbury-Bankstown, and
- Review of best practice planning, service and public space responses to identified needs.

2. Canterbury Bankstown's young people

This chapter provides a profile of young people aged 12 to 24 years living in Canterbury-Bankstown. Unless otherwise referenced, 2016 census data has been sourced from Profile.id. Throughout this report, comparisons are made to Greater Sydney. See Appendix 1 for detailed demographics.

Young people in Canterbury-Bankstown have many strengths and contribute to their community in a range of ways including as members of local community, cultural, creative and sporting groups, as volunteers and as workers. Our young people are highly culturally diverse, open-minded and supportive of each other, focusing on what unites and connects them. They have enormous talent, great ideas and a broad range of skills. They are resilient and bounce back quickly in face of challenges. They are optimistic and excited about the future, and the future of their City.

There are also many young people in Canterbury-Bankstown facing challenges that affect their ability to reach their full potential, including but not limited to stresses at school at home and at school, mental health issues, language and cultural barriers, and housing insecurity. While this chapter outlines a number of these challenges, young people in Canterbury-Bankstown do not wish to be characterised by their challenges alone but rather acknowledged for their strengths and contributions.

2.1. Population of young people

There are nearly 60,000 young people in Canterbury-Bankstown - 17% of the total population

In 2019, the population of young people in Canterbury-Bankstown is forecast to be around 65,000 people (65,211 people). In 2016, there were 59,117 young people aged 12 to 24 years living in Canterbury-Bankstown, representing 17.2% of the total population. This is a similar proportion compared to Greater Sydney at 16.5%.

There are 25,698 people aged 12 to 17 (7.4% of the population) and 33,419 people aged 18 to 24 (9.7% of the population).

As shown in Table 1, the population of young people increased by 3,979 people or 7%, between 2011 and 2016. This was a slightly higher rate than Greater Sydney (6.3%).

The areas with the highest number of young people are:

- Greenacre - Mount Lewis - Chullora (4,821 young people; 20%)
- Campsie - Clemton Park (4,229 young people; 16%)
- Punchbowl (3,962 young people; 20%), and
- Yagoona (3,251 young people; 18%).

The areas with the highest proportion of young people are:

- Greenacre - Mount Lewis - Chullora (20%, 4,821 young people)
- Sefton (20%, 5,767 young people)
- Punchbowl (20%, 3,963 young people), and
- Condell Park - Bankstown Aerodrome (20%, 2,224 young people).

Table 1 Canterbury-Bankstown's population of young people (ABS Census 2016, Profile.id)

Age groups	2016		2011		Change 2011 - 2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Aged 12 to 17 years	25,698	7.4	25,113	7.9	585	+2%
Aged 18 to 24 years	33,419	9.7	30,025	9.4	3,394	+11%
Total aged 12 to 24 years	59,117	17.1	55,138	17.2	3,979	+7%

A high proportion of families including single parent families

Canterbury-Bankstown is home to a much higher proportion of couples with children (40%) and one parent families (13%) compared to 35% and 10% respectively in Greater Sydney.

Significant population growth forecast for young people

Canterbury-Bankstown is growing rapidly. As shown in Table 2, the number of young people aged 12 to 24 living in Canterbury-Bankstown is forecast to increase from 2016 by 7,002 people (11.2%) to 2023, and by 15,045 people (24%) to 2036. In total, there is forecast to be 77,391 young people living in Canterbury-Bankstown in 2036.

With significant forecast population growth across Canterbury-Bankstown, young people will come to represent a slightly lower proportion of the total population (from 17.2% in 2016 to 16.7% in 2036).

The suburbs with the highest forecast growth of young people by 2023 are:

- Bankstown CBD (+1,962 young people, 63%)
- Canterbury (+909 young people, 75%)
- Belmore (+821 young people, 38%), and
- Lakemba (+731 young people, 26%).

Table 2 Forecast growth of young people in Canterbury-Bankstown (Forecast.id)

Age groups	2016		2023		2036		Change 2016 - 2036	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Aged 12 to 17 years	26,245	7.3	30,395	7.5	33,973	7.3	+7,728	29%
Aged 18 to 24 years	36,101	10.0	38,952	9.6	43,418	9.4	+7,317	20%
Total 12 to 24 years	62,346	17	69,347	17.0	77,391	17	+15,045	24%
Total population Canterbury-Bankstown LGA	361,554	-	407,352	-	463,311	-	+101,757	+28%

2.2. Housing and households

Rapidly changing dwelling types including increasing high density dwellings

43% of dwellings in Canterbury-Bankstown are medium or high density, slightly lower compared to 44% in Greater Sydney. However, the number of high density dwellings increased by 38% between 2011 and 2016. This is a much higher growth rate compared to Greater Sydney at 23%.

In 2016, the population density in Canterbury-Bankstown was 31 people per hectare, which is much higher than Greater Sydney (4 persons per hectare). The most densely populated suburbs were:

- Lakemba (78 persons per hectare)
- Bankstown CBD (77 persons per hectare), and
- Wiley Park (75 persons per hectare).

Housing insecurity, including high proportions of households renting social housing, households experience rental and housing stress, and high rates of homelessness

Canterbury-Bankstown has a very high proportion of households renting social housing (8%) compared to 5% in Greater Sydney.

Canterbury-Bankstown has a much higher proportion of households experiencing rental stress (39%) compared to 26% in Greater Sydney. This refers to households in the lowest 40% of incomes, who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on rent. Canterbury-Bankstown also has a high proportion of households experiencing housing stress (19% compared to 12% in Greater Sydney).

The suburbs experiencing the highest percentage of housing stress in 2016 were:

- Lakemba (32%)
- Bankstown CBD (30%)
- Villawood (29%), and
- Wiley Park (29%).

Canterbury-Bankstown has high rates of homelessness. In 2016, there were approximately 2,344 people experiencing homelessness living in Canterbury-Bankstown, an increase of 1,082 people (+80%) since 2011.

There is limited information available on the number of young people experiencing homeless in Canterbury-Bankstown. However, data from the ABS Census obtained via Mission Australia estimates the number of homeless young people at around 600.

Low proportion of households with an internet connection

76% of households in Canterbury-Bankstown have an internet connection, much lower compared to Greater Sydney at 81%. Council supports access to internet through the provision of free Wifi at community facilities including all Library and Knowledge Centres and in a number of public places throughout Canterbury-Bankstown.

The suburbs with the highest percentage of households without an internet connection were

- Villawood (43%)
- Riverwood (37%)
- Chester Hill (28%), and
- Belmore (27%).

2.3. Cultural diversity

A large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, however a low proportion

The proportion of people identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is lower in Canterbury-Bankstown than Greater Sydney (0.7% compared to 1.5%). However, this equates to a large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 2,548 people.

High cultural diversity, including a high proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home

Overall, Canterbury-Bankstown has a much higher proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home (60%), compared to Greater Sydney (36%).

In 2016, the most common languages spoken at home were:

- Arabic (17%)
- Chinese languages (Mandarin: 5%, and Cantonese: 4%)
- Vietnamese (7%), and
- Greek (5%).

The fastest growing language groups in Canterbury-Bankstown between 2011 and 2016 were:

- Mandarin (+5,362; +45%)
- Vietnamese (+3,224; +15%)

- Bengali (+2,917; +51%)
- Urdu (+2,868; +77%)
- Arabic (+2,867; +5%), and
- Nepali (+1,605; +111%).

Suburbs with the highest percentage of people speaking a language other than English at home, and the most common languages in those suburbs, were:

- Lakemba (78% - Bengali, Arabic, Urdu)
- Wiley Park (76% - Arabic, Bengali, Urdu)
- Campsie - Clemton Park (75% - Mandarin, Cantonese, Nepali), and
- Bankstown (excluding CBD) (74% - Vietnamese, Arabic)

Both established populations of people born overseas, and people recently arrived in Australia

In 2016, Canterbury-Bankstown had a much higher proportion of people born overseas (44%) compared to Greater Sydney (36.7%). The largest migrant groups living in Canterbury-Bankstown were born in:

- Lebanon (6%)
- Vietnam (6%), and
- China (5%).

Suburbs with the highest percentage of people born overseas were:

- Campsie - Clemton Park (64%)
- Lakemba (62%)
- Wiley Park (59%), and
- Bankstown CBD (57%)

26,755 people living in Canterbury-Bankstown in 2016 arrived in Australia within the 5 years prior. This represents 18% of population of people who were born overseas, a slightly lower proportion compared to Greater Sydney at 21%. This is 8% of the total population of Canterbury-Bankstown, similar to 8% of Greater Sydney.

The suburbs with the highest number of people who recently arrived in Australia are:

- Campsie - Clemton Park (4,431 people; 17% of total population)
- Lakemba (3,516 people; 21%), and
- Bankstown CBD (2,962 people; 16%).

Recently arrived refugees and people seeking asylum, as well as people from refugee backgrounds

Canterbury-Bankstown has long been a settlement area for refugees and asylum seekers including young people. In 2008, Bankstown Council was the first Council to officially sign the Refugee Council of Australia's Refugee Charter. In 2018 over 260 people settled in Canterbury-Bankstown under the

Humanitarian Migration Program. Other residents from refugee backgrounds may have arrived in Australia many decades ago.

2.4. Employment and income

Relatively low median household income and a high proportion of low income households

The median household income in Canterbury-Bankstown is \$1,296, low compared to Greater Sydney (\$1,745). Canterbury-Bankstown also has a higher proportion of low income households (21% earning less than \$650) and a lower proportion of high income households (18.2% earning more than \$2,500).

In 2016, the suburbs with the lowest median household incomes were:

- Villawood (\$658)
- Riverwood (\$741)
- Lakemba (\$1,005), and
- Bankstown CBD (\$1,015)

Relatively high levels of disadvantage

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA Index), a measure of social disadvantage in Australia, places Canterbury-Bankstown in the top five areas of social disadvantage in Sydney. The index is derived from attributes that reflect disadvantage such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. A higher score means a lower level of disadvantage, while a low score indicates a higher level of disadvantage.

With a SEIFA index score of 935, Canterbury-Bankstown is relatively more disadvantaged compared to Greater Sydney (1,018). The suburbs with the highest levels of disadvantage are:

- Villawood (669.4)
- Riverwood (799)
- Lakemba (851), and
- Bankstown CBD (871).

High youth unemployment

Canterbury-Bankstown experiences much higher rates of youth unemployment (16%) compared to Greater Sydney at 13%.

The suburbs with the highest number of unemployed young people were:

- Campsie - Clemtown Park (337; 18%)
- Greenacre - Mount Lewis - Chullora (281; 16%), and
- Punchbowl (279; 19%).

The suburbs with the highest proportion of unemployed young people were:

- Villawood (27%; 57)
- Lakemba (23%; 235), and
- Riverwood (23%; 89).

A high proportion of disengaged young people not employed or in education

At 10%, Canterbury-Bankstown has a higher proportion of disengaged young people (aged 15 to 24 years) not employed or in education compared to Greater Sydney (8%).

The suburbs with the highest number of disengaged young people were:

- Greenacre - Mount Lewis - Chullora (396; 11%)
- Punchbowl (370; 12%), and
- Bankstown CBD (337; 15%).

The suburbs with the highest proportion of disengaged young people were:

- Villawood (21%; 122)
- Lakemba (15%; 319), and
- Wiley Park (15%; 203).

Lower rates of formal volunteering, however high rates of unpaid carers

Census data shows that overall, a much lower proportion of people aged 15 years and older in Canterbury-Bankstown volunteer their time (12%), compared to Greater Sydney (17%). However, Canterbury-Bankstown has a higher proportion of residents providing unpaid care either to family members or others (12%), compared to 11% for Greater Sydney.

Anecdotal insights from Council staff indicate that there are a large number of young people aged under 25 in Canterbury-Bankstown who help care for a relative and/or friend. The responsibility of caring for a loved one at a young age can impact on their education, social life, job prospects and overall wellbeing, and can lead to disengagement from their community. This can be compounded for young people who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or are newly arrived.

2.5. Education and learning

A large population of students attending secondary school, TAFE and University

In total, there are 50,218 students attending secondary school, TAFE or University in Canterbury-Bankstown (15% of the population).

As shown in Table 3, in 2016, 23,473 young people in Canterbury-Bankstown (7%) were attending secondary school, a similar proportion to Greater Sydney (6.3%).

There were also 7,153 TAFE students (2.1% of the population, similar to Greater Sydney at 1.9%) and 19,595 university students (5.7%, similar to Greater Sydney at 6.1%).

Table 3 Education institution attending (Profile.id)

Type of institution	#	%	Greater Sydney %
Secondary school (total)	23,473	6.8	6.3
Secondary - Government	13,994	4.0	3.4
Secondary - Catholic	6,095	1.8	1.7
Secondary - Independent	3,384	1.0	1.2
TAFE	7,153	2.1	1.9
University	19,595	5.7	6.1
Not attending	232,809	67.2	68.3

Low but increasing educational attainment

The Canterbury-Bankstown area has lower educational attainment than Greater Sydney. Overall, 33.5% of the population has below year 11 schooling compared with 28.6% in Greater Sydney.

However, the proportion of people with below year 11 schooling is reducing, from 35.7% in 2011 to 33.5% in 2016. This is a similar reduction to Greater Sydney (31.2% in 2011 and 28.6% in 2016).

The suburbs with the highest proportion of people with below Year 11 schooling were:

- Milperra (46%)
- Bass Hill - Lansdowne (42%)
- Chester Hill (42%)
- Georges Hall (40%)

2.6. Health and wellbeing

A high proportion of people needing assistance due to disability, including young people

In 2016, 23,119 people or 7% of the Canterbury-Bankstown population reported needing assistance with day to day activities due to disability, a higher proportion compared to Greater Sydney (5%).

In addition, there are a slightly higher proportion of unpaid carers living in Canterbury-Bankstown (12%) compared to Greater Sydney (11%).

A high proportion of overweight and obese people

While there is no definitive data available around the levels of obesity amongst young people at the LGA level, national trends indicate increasing numbers. According to data from the Australian Institute of

Health and Welfare, one in four (26%) Australian children and young people aged 2 – 17 years were overweight or obese in 2014-2015¹.

According to data from Health Tracker (2017), rates of obesity range across Canterbury-Bankstown, with higher rates in the “Belmore – Belfield / Canterbury (south) – Campsie” area (9.1 persons per 100 persons) and lower rates in the “Canterbury (north) – Ashbury” area (6.4 persons per 100 persons), compared to 7.7 persons per 100 persons in Greater Sydney².

A high proportion of people with “no or low exercise in the previous week”

According to data from Health Tracker (2017), rates of people who indicated “no or low exercise in the previous week” were high across the area, with 73 persons per 100 persons in the “Belmore – Belfield / Canterbury (south) – Campsie” area and 67 persons per 100 persons in the “Canterbury (north) – Ashbury” area, compared to Greater Sydney (66 persons per 100 persons)³.

Lower alcohol use, however higher inhalant use and smoking rates amongst young people compared to Greater Sydney

Research from the NSW Department of Health indicates that, in 2017, secondary school students aged 12 to 17 years in the Southern Western LHD were much less likely to report having ever drunk alcohol (62%), compared to the average of Metropolitan LHDs (55%)⁴.

Secondary school aged students were more likely to have ever used inhalants to get high (22%) and less likely to have ever used cannabis (9%), compared to 18% and 13.6% respectively in NSW⁵.

Secondary school aged students were more likely to currently be smokers (6%) compared to NSW (5%)⁶.

Slightly higher teenage birth rates

Research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare from 2013 – 2015 (prior to amalgamation), shows that former Canterbury and Bankstown LGAS have higher teenage birth rates (8.1 and 7.7 births per 1,000 women aged younger than 20 years) compared to all metro areas in Australia (7.5 births per

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *A Picture of Overweight and Obesity in Australia*, 2017.

² Australia’s Health Tracker by Area. Co-developed by the Australian Health Policy Collaboration at Victoria University and the Public Health Information and Development Unit at Torrens University. <http://www.atlasesaustralia.com.au/ahpc/aust-health-tracker-area.html>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ NSW Department of Health. HealthStats NSW: Alcohol drinking in secondary school students by Local Health District group and year, 2017.

⁵ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. AIHW Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs data tables, 2017.

⁶ NSW Department of Health. HealthStats NSW: Current smoking in secondary school students by Local Health District group and year, 2017.

1,000 women aged younger than 20 years)⁷. By comparison, the City of Campbelltown has one of the highest teenage birth rates in the country (18.6 births per 1,000 women aged younger than 20).

A lower rate of reported domestic violence incidents, however a large number

A large number of domestic violence incidents take place in Canterbury-Bankstown each year (1,131 incidents between October 2017-September 2018), impacting on families and young people that live in the area and indicating a need for services to address the needs of domestic violence victims.

However, it should be noted that, considering the high population of Canterbury-Bankstown, this is a relatively low rate at 313 incidents per 100,000 population compared to 376 incidents per 100,000 in NSW (Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research).

2.7. Key findings

- In 2016, there were 59,117 young people aged 12 to 24 years living in Canterbury-Bankstown, representing 17% of the total population. The population of young people is forecast to grow significantly by 24% (15,045 young people) to 2036.
- Young people in Canterbury-Bankstown have many strengths and contribute to the area in a range of ways including as members of local community groups, as volunteers and as workers. Consultation with youth workers indicated that young people in the area are highly resilient, optimistic, open-minded and supportive of each other.
- The Canterbury-Bankstown community is highly culturally and linguistically diverse, with a much higher proportion of residents born overseas and people speaking a language other than English at home compared to Greater Sydney. The most common languages are Arabic, Chinese languages and Vietnamese. There is a large population of recently arrived people including refugees and people seeking asylum; as well as established cultural communities.
- Canterbury-Bankstown is an increasingly densely populated area, with changing housing types from single dwellings to more high density living, including families and young people living in apartments. Canterbury-Bankstown experiences low access to internet connection at home.
- Canterbury-Bankstown and Greater Sydney face increasing housing prices and cost of living. Canterbury-Bankstown has a much higher proportion of households experiencing housing stress and rental stress compared to Greater Sydney. Youth homelessness is an ongoing issue in the area.
- Many young people in Canterbury-Bankstown are students, at school, TAFE or university. There is high proportion of youth unemployment and youth disengagement. While there is less formal volunteering than in other areas, there is also (anecdotally) high rates of young carers.

⁷ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) summarised in *Teenage mothers in Australia, 2015*.

- Less young people in Canterbury-Bankstown drink alcohol than in other areas, however young people face some poor health outcomes including disability, sedentary lifestyles and smoking. Some young people also experience domestic violence.

3. Policy and planning context

This chapter summarises national, State, regional and local strategies and policies that influence outcomes for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown. This helps to identify priorities and opportunities for collaboration between different levels of government. Where possible, the Youth Plan should align with these strategic directions

3.1. Council's role

Across all its work, Council delivers (either directly or indirectly) services and programs, facilities, infrastructure and advocacy that support outcomes for young people. Council is also an employer of young people and provides work experience and volunteering opportunities. Council also directly delivers a range of services for young people specifically, including (but not limited to) the provision of Youth Centres, school holiday activities, the Talent Advancement Program (TAP), the Bus to Beach program, Twilight sports, and Twilight Plus, educational workshops, recreation activities and Youth Week activities.

Council also has a Youth Reference Group, which aims to represent the needs of young people in the local area by providing advice and recommendations to Council in relation to local youth issues and needs.

Council convenes the Canterbury-Bankstown Workers with Youth Network (CBWWYN), which works in partnership to help young people achieve positive outcomes for themselves and the local community.

3.2. National strategic context

The Australian Government provides Headspace centres. There is no Office of Youth.

Headspace centres

Headspace offers support for those aged 12 to 25 years old on a range of issues including depression, anxiety, stress, alcohol and drug use, sexuality, sexual health, personal or family relationship issues and bullying. Headspace is funded by the Australian Government (through the Department of Health and Ageing) under the Youth Mental Health Initiative. The Commonwealth Government funding allows for existence of the headspace site, including rent, infrastructure and some salaried staff. The model relies on accessing other Federally-funded programs, to enable the fulfilment of co-located GPs and allied health professionals for example who are self funded through their billings against the MBS.

National Strategy for Young Australians, 2010

The National Strategy for Young Australians outlines the following vision: “The Australian Government’s vision is for all young people to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and to have the opportunities and skills they need to learn, work, engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them.”

To achieve this vision, the Strategy focuses on eight priorities for supporting young people to succeed and build lives of their own choosing:

1. Improving the health and wellbeing of all young people.
2. Equipping young Australians to shape their own futures through education.
3. Supporting young Australians within their families.
4. Empowering young Australians to take part and be active in their communities.
5. Equipping young Australians with the skills and personal networks they need to gain, and be successful in, employment.
6. Enabling young Australians to participate confidently and safely online.
7. Strengthening early intervention with young Australians to help prevent any problems getting worse and to help young people get their lives back on track.
8. Establishing clear cut legal consequences for behaviours that endanger the safety of others

3.3. NSW strategic context

NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2016-2019, Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People

The goal of the Strategic Plan for Children and Young People is for children and young people in NSW to be safe, connected, respected, healthy and well, with opportunities to thrive and have their voice heard in their communities. Included in the Plan are six guiding principles that will inform implementation of the Plan, including:

- **Innovation** - The Plan will seek to encourage innovation through sharing and fostering policy and service innovations, knowledge and best practice examples to support effective service delivery for children and young people.
- **Localisation** - The Plan will support localisation through empowering children and young people to participate in local decision making processes and connecting them to opportunities to participate in a range of activities in their communities, both on and offline.
- **Collaboration** - The Plan was developed using co-design principles and its successful implementation and monitoring will require ongoing collaboration among all those with a stake in the outcomes.
- **Prevention** - The Plan is an opportunity to identify cost-effective ways of delivering better outcomes for children and young people through prevention measures.

- **Transitions** - Transitions refers to stages in children and young people's development and important life changes. These include: physical, social and emotional changes and times in life such as entering school, moving from school to further education and employment, and leaving home and out-of-home-care, and
- **Addressing Disadvantage** - Current thinking emphasises the importance of a strengths based approach that empowers and builds upon the strengths within children, young people, families and communities. Specialised approaches are needed to support those with multiple and complex needs to ensure that trauma and disadvantage is not repeated throughout their life.

NSW Youth Health Framework 2017-2024, NSW Health

The NSW Youth Health Framework outlines the following vision: "Young people in NSW are healthy, safe and well," and includes the following goals and actions:

- Goal 1. The health system responds to the needs of young people, including targeted responses for vulnerable young people
 - Young people's health needs are assessed in a holistic way and vulnerable young people are identified.
 - Young people's health needs are responded to; they receive quality healthcare and are supported to make informed decisions.
 - Vulnerable young people have their safety, health and wellbeing addressed and receive coordinated and integrated care
- Goal 2. Health services are accessible and young people are engaged and respected
 - Young people are supported to access and navigate health services.
 - Young people are respected and have a positive experience when using health services.
 - Young people are engaged and have a voice in health service design, delivery and improvement
- Goal 3. Young people are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing
 - Young people are supported to make informed choices about their health and wellbeing by youth-specific health promotion, education and early intervention
 - Young people with chronic illness or disability receive effective care and are supported to manage their care and be as independent as possible.

3.4. Regional strategic context

Young People in Greater Western Sydney: Beyond Stereotypes, Youth Action

This report by Youth Action highlights that: "Greater Western Sydney is home to 470,000 young people - many of whom have been negatively impacted by stereotypes and inaccurate depictions of the region. This report gathers the real life experiences of young people in the region and challenges these stereotypes." The results demonstrate the successes of Greater Western Sydney, and highlights four main elements that make it thrive:

- People in Western Sydney are welcoming and accepting
- Western Sydney is a connected, supportive, friendly community
- Western Sydney celebrates cultural diversity, and
- Young people love the uniqueness of Western Sydney.

The report highlights that Western Sydney is not a cultural wasteland as it is often portrayed, but is vibrant and loved, and showcases the best of Australian society.

3.5. Local strategic context

CBCity 2028 Community Strategic Plan

The Youth Plan will sit within the framework of Council's ten-year Community Strategic Plan: CBCity 2028. CBCity 2028 outlines a vision for Canterbury-Bankstown as "thriving, dynamic and real." It includes a focus on seven "destinations," including:

- Safe and strong - A proud inclusive community that unites, celebrates and cares
- Clean and green - A clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas
- Prosperous and innovative - A smart and evolving city with exciting opportunities for investment and creativity
- Moving and integrated - An accessible city with great local destinations and many options to get there
- Healthy and active - A motivated city that nurtures healthy minds and bodies
- Liveable and distinctive - a well designed, attractive city which preserves the identity and character of local villages, and
- Leading and engaged - A well-governed city with brave and future focussed leaders who listen.

The Plan identifies becoming a 'Child Friendly City' as a key city transformation to achieve these destinations.

Former Bankstown City Council's Youth Plan, 2014 – 2018

The Former Bankstown City Council's Youth Plan outlined five key priorities to support young people to succeed and build their own future, including:

1. Encourage and facilitate active participation by young people in decision making processes for Council, non- government organisations and their community
2. Improve access to a range of government and non-government community services and facilities for young people
3. Support the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of young people
4. Support the development of opportunities that assist young people achieve their educational, training and employment goals, and

5. Encourage and enable young people to engage in positive artistic, cultural and recreational activities.

Former City of Canterbury Youth Action Plan, 2015-2017

The Former City of Canterbury Council's Youth Action Plan identified four themes, including:

- Core Services and Programs – Continue to deliver core services and programs in partnership with youth services and other partners to provide young people with the opportunity to engage with and participate in their local communities.
- New initiatives – Implement new initiatives as either stand-alone initiatives or incorporated into current programs as described above
- Access to information – Improve access to information about services, programs and activities available for young people in the City of Canterbury
- Disengaged young people – Explore employment, education and training initiatives that address the needs of disengaged young people.

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan, 2016 – 2019 (Former Canterbury Council)

The City of Canterbury Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan sets out the priority areas and strategies to be used for crime prevention in the former Canterbury Council area for 2016–2019. The Plan includes a strong focus on young people in Canterbury, outlining the following strategies:

- Strengthening partnerships with local youth organisations to support late night activities
- Increasing access to recreational spaces
- Workplace experience/ mentoring opportunities, and
- Extend the Youth Outreach Program.

The Smart CBCity Roadmap, 2018

“What does a Smart City mean for CBCity? Using technology infrastructure, community engagement and connectivity to evolve our City and make real improvements.”

Council is committed to using technology and data to improve the lives of residents, workers and visitors in Canterbury-Bankstown by becoming a “smart city.” As identified in Council's *Smart Cities Roadmap*, technology infrastructure, paired with meaningful community engagement, can help to “deliver more responsive and effective services and facilitate resilient and informed decision making” to address big challenges facing the Canterbury-Bankstown community.

Young people in particular can benefit from “smarter” cities, including through increased access to technology and increased opportunities to develop skills that will be crucial to the jobs of the future including entrepreneurship, innovation and information technology.

Council has identified a number of potential projects in support of the Smart CBCity Roadmap, with some benefiting children and young people including CCTV to deter double parking in school zones, and augmented reality technology to enhance use of and engagement with open space.

Playgrounds and Play Spaces Strategic Plan

The City of Canterbury Bankstown has developed the *Playgrounds and Play Spaces Strategic Plan* (The Plan) to guide the future provision, development and management of playgrounds and play spaces over the next 10 years. The Vision is to achieve *quality, diverse and accessible play experiences that are fun and close to home*, including:

- An equitable spread of play spaces across District and Local Catchment areas
- Quality play experiences through unique and high quality play spaces (including play space destinations), and
- Diverse play opportunities that cater for different age groups and levels of ability.

The Plan is based on six strategies, including one around broadening the scope of a number of playgrounds, including opportunities for older children (e.g. more challenging play, skate and BMX parks, etc) and all abilities play spaces to support children with a disability.

Draft Leisure and Aquatics Strategic Plan, 2019

Council's vision for the Leisure and Aquatics Strategic Plan is "To renew and revitalise our leisure and aquatic services and facilities to enhance our community's health and well-being and contribute to our unique identity and locations." The Plan identified the following priority considerations:

- Health and wellbeing
- Density and growth
- Sustainability
- Multipurpose and shared
- Partnerships with educational institutions
- Demographics and needs based
- Accessible and inclusive
- Networked and integrated, and
- Value for money.

There are currently six leisure and aquatic facilities across Canterbury-Bankstown, located in Birrong, Canterbury, Greenacre, Revesby, Roselands and Villawood. Council proposes to operate five leisure and aquatic facilities in the future that better meet the needs of the growing and changing community and service a broader catchment. The Plan also proposes a potential splash park outdoor water feature for Roberts Park.

Draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Action Plan, 2018

The Draft Reconciliation Action Plan outlines the following vision: "The City of Canterbury Bankstown values its culturally diverse community and is committed to extending the process of reconciliation in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities."

Draft Belmore Sports and Recreation Precinct Masterplan, 2018

The City of Canterbury Bankstown is currently putting together a 20-year visionary masterplan, to transform Belmore Sports and Recreation Precinct. The Plan includes ideas for making the most of spaces around the sports field, including active edges with basketball, skate and walking loops within the fenced area of Redfern Park.

Draft Ewen Park Improvement Plan, 2018

The draft Ewen Park Improvement Plan introduces: A new design for the Lang Road bridge over the Cooks River; a revised design for gathering and sharing open spaces in the Park with upgrades for active and passive play; and a design concept and location for the proposed community meeting facility. The Plan includes areas for "youth play" although this is at this point undefined.

Draft Social Infrastructure Strategy, 2019

The forthcoming draft Social Infrastructure Strategy will include an analysis of community facilities and the youth spaces they provide.

3.6. Key findings

- Across all its work, Council delivers services and programs, facilities, infrastructure and advocacy that support outcomes for young people.
- Current thinking emphasises the importance of a strengths based approach that empowers and builds upon the strengths within children, young people, families and communities. This includes overcoming stereotypes of disadvantage in Western Sydney.
- Priorities identified in national, State and regional planning for young people include:
 - Health and wellbeing, including mental health
 - Engaging in community life and decisions affecting young people
 - Education and employment
 - Safety, including online
 - Innovation and cost-effective approaches to delivering better outcomes including through prevention and early intervention
- The Community Strategic Plan identifies becoming a 'Child Friendly City' as a key city transformation to achieve the vision of Canterbury-Bankstown as "thriving, dynamic and real".
- The Smart CBCity Roadmap identifies that Council is committed to using technology and data to improve the lives of residents, workers and visitors in Canterbury-Bankstown by becoming a "smart city."
- Council's planning for open space and recreation facilities will impact on young people as users of these spaces. The Playgrounds and Play Spaces Strategic Plan highlights the need to increase the scope of play spaces including spaces for older children and teenagers, including all abilities and skate, BMX, challenge activities, outdoor courts etc.

4. What do we have?

This section provides an audit, mapping and benchmarking of local and major regional youth and community facilities and youth services in Canterbury-Bankstown.

4.1. Services

Services were audited through Council's existing knowledge and online searches including review of service provider's web pages.

As shown in Figure 1 there are currently 31 services providing programs and services for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown. These include:

- 13 youth-specific services:
 - Bankstown Youth Development Service
 - Bankstown PCYC
 - Barnardos Australia
 - Belmore Youth Resource Centre
 - Belmore PCYC
 - Canterbury Bankstown Youth Service (Mission Australia)
 - Fusion Sydney South Youth Services
 - headspace Bankstown
 - Humanity Matters Street Youth Services
 - Roundabout Youth Centre (located at Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre)
 - The Corner Youth Health Service
 - Youthblock Youth Health Service, and
 - Youth off the Streets.
- 1 youth refuge:
 - Nick Kearns Youth Refuge (Mission Australia)
- 24 community services offering programs and services for young people:
 - Anglicare, Reconnect
 - Bankstown Community Resource Group
 - Bankstown Women's Health Centre
 - BaptistCare Relationship Services
 - Breakthru People Solutions

- Canterbury City Community Centre
 - Canterbury Earlwood Caring Association
 - CatholicCare
 - Coolaburoo Neighbourhood Centre
 - Creating Chances
 - Creating Links
 - Disability Services Australia
 - Enhance Health Services
 - Greenacre Community Centre
 - Horizon Theatre Company Ltd
 - Human Appeal Australia Community Care
 - Indian Squad Women's Association (ISWA)
 - Islamic Women's Association Australia (IWAA)
 - Jannawi Family Centre
 - Koorana Child and Family Services
 - Lebanese Muslim Association (Thrive)
 - Macedonian Australian Welfare Association (MAWA)
 - Metro Assist
 - Mission Australia
 - Muslim Womens Association
 - PCYC Bankstown
 - PCYC Belmore
 - Riverwood Community Centre
 - Recreation Sports and Aquatics Club Bankstown
 - SSI Ability Links
 - Villawood Food for Life, and
 - Woodville Alliance.
- 34 education services:
 - 32 secondary or K-12 schools
 - 1 university (Western Sydney University Bankstown Campus), and
 - 1 TAFE (Bankstown College).

Services are also provided by State and Federal Government agencies, including the NSW Police, NSW Department of Industry South Sydney West Area Health Service (SSWAHS), Office of Sport, Department of

Education and Communities, Family Planning NSW, Department of Human Services, and Family and Community Services.

There are a number of services not located in Canterbury-Bankstown but servicing the catchment, including but not limited to:

- Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre
- Marrickville Legal Centre - Youth Legal Service
- Marrickville Youth and Family Counselling Services - Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand
- MTC Australia
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network
- South West Child, Adolescent and Family Services (CAFS inc)
- South West Sydney Family Referral Service
- Stretch-A-Family
- Sweatshop Western Sydney Literacy Movement
- Vietnamese Community in Australia NSW
- Youth Action - Western Sydney, and
- YWCA Australia Homelessness Service.

In addition, there are a number of programs targeted at young people in Canterbury-Bankstown but are not run by a service located in the LGA (listed above):

- Carers NSW Young Carer Program
- Karitane - Talking Realities Young Parent Program, and
- Women's Justice Network.

Respondents indicated that they have visited or participated in the following clubs, programs, groups or events in Canterbury-Bankstown:

- Sports clubs (51 respondents, 48%)
- Youth programs (e.g. school holiday activities, drop in centres, twilight sports) (30 respondents, 28%)
- Religious youth groups (25 respondents, 24%)
- Youth services (e.g. Riverwood Community Centre, Roundabout Youth Centre, Youth Off the Streets, etc) (25 respondents, 24%), and
- Volunteering groups (21 respondents, 20%).

Workers with Youth Network

Canterbury-Bankstown Workers with Youth Network is a forum committed to working on youth issues across the City of Canterbury Bankstown. It aims as a professional forum are to advocate on behalf of young people and support workers, and provide opportunities for networking, partnerships, consultation, training and planning within the youth sector. The Network is committed to access and equity, social justice and cultural diversity to guide their work for implementing positive change within the youth sector. The network is open to all youth services and youth related organisations across the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area.

4.2. Facilities and spaces

There are a number of youth-specific facilities and spaces within Canterbury-Bankstown, including:

- 9 youth spaces
 - Belmore Youth Resource Centre (co-located youth service and youth space)
 - Humanity Matters (co-located youth service and youth space)
 - headspace Bankstown (co-located youth mental health service and youth drop-in space)
 - Bill Lovelee Youth Centre (hall for hire)
 - Roundabout Youth Centre (co-located youth service and youth drop-in space in separate building at Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre)
 - Riverwood Community Centre (co-located youth service and youth drop-in space)
 - Greenacre Community Centre (co-located youth service and youth drop-in space)
 - Youth off the streets office (dedicated youth drop in space).

Survey respondents indicated that they visit the following places in Canterbury-Bankstown most often:

- Parks (123 respondents, 75%)
- Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre (78 respondents, 48%)
- Leisure and Aquatic Centres (75 respondents, 46%)
- Sports and recreation facilities (71 respondents, 43%), and
- Campsie Library (60 respondents, 37%).

In addition, there are a range of non-youth specific community and recreation facilities and public places likely to be popular with young people: These include:

- 5 skate parks
 - Carysfield Park skate park
 - Amour Park skate park
 - Roberts Park skate park
 - Goondah Reserve skate park, and
 - Riverwood skate park.
- 5 Leisure and Aquatic centres
 - Birrong Leisure and Aquatic Centre
 - Canterbury Leisure and Aquatic Centre
 - Max Parker Leisure and Aquatic Centre
 - Roselands Leisure and Aquatic Centre, and
 - Wran Leisure and Aquatic Centre.
- 9 Library and Knowledge centres
 - Riverwood Library and Knowledge Centre
 - Campsie Library and Knowledge Centre
 - Lakemba Library and Knowledge Centre
 - Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre
 - Earlwood Library and Knowledge Centre
 - Chester Hill Library and Knowledge Centre
 - Greenacre Library and Knowledge Centre
 - Padstow Library and Knowledge Centre, and
 - Panania Library and Knowledge Centre.
- Other facilities include:
 - Bankstown Arts Centre
 - Morris lemma Indoor Sports Centre
 - Bankstown PCYC
 - Belmore PCYC
 - Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink
 - The Crest Sporting Complex
 - Dunc Gray Velodrome, and
 - Canterbury Velodrome.

4.3. Employment

There are a number of employment services with programs for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown. Employment services in the Working With Youth Network include:

- Afford Employment (Australian Foundation for Disability)
- Creating Brighter Career Connections
- Wesley ParentsNext, and
- Navitas English.

Social enterprise offering training and employment for young people

There is at least one social enterprises in Canterbury-Bankstown that provide training and development for young people:

- Kick Start Café is located in Riverwood and is an initiative of the PAYCE Foundation. This social enterprise offers paid training to disadvantaged young people, referred by Riverwood Community Centre. Participants leave the program with a Certificate III in hospitality, barista accreditation and RSA and RCG, as well as work experience and support to find future employment opportunities.

Co-working spaces

There are currently no co-working spaces available within Canterbury-Bankstown.

4.4. Access to technology

Access to technology is a priority for young people in order to stay connected to each other and for learning and education purposes and supports the development of digital and technology skills that will be essential in the future work place.

Library and Knowledge Centres

Council primarily supports access to technology at Library and Knowledge Centres, including through the provision of public access computers and free WiFi at all centres.

WiFi in public places

In addition, Council offers access to free WiFi in other facilities and public places throughout Canterbury-Bankstown:

- Bankstown Arts Centre
- Bankstown City Plaza
- Paul Keating Park
- Memorial Oval
- Saigon Place
- Canterbury Leisure and Aquatic Centre

- Lakemba Community Centre
- Campsie Customer Service Centre, and
- Belmore Youth Resource Centre.

4.5. Arts and culture programs

Canterbury-Bankstown is known for its innovative community and youth arts and cultural programs and services. Community engagement, including for the development of the Cultural Plan, indicated that the community is proud of the area's strong creative and cultural capital.

Many arts and culture programs in Canterbury-Bankstown are delivered by the Bankstown Youth Development Service, which is located at Bankstown Arts Centre, with recent programs for young people including:

- **R.E.S.P.E.C.T.** - The RESPECT project focuses on educating boys and young men about the nature and causes of Domestic Violence and how they can lend their voices and lives to being active agents in preventing it.
- **Stories of strength** - Funded through Multicultural NSW COMPACT program, Stories of Strength involves training cohorts of young local high school students in professionally interviewing at a level friends, family and neighbours who have a story of strength to tell. These stories are then showcased through various on-line and local platforms such exhibitions at local shopping centres and libraries.
- **4elements Music Project** - 4Elements Music Project is the brain child of Vyvienne Abla and aims to use HipHop, and its ability to engage young people and assist in breaking down barriers. The project involves workshops, a festival and professional development. Through HipHop, these young people are able to share express their value to the community.

Other key arts and culture programs for young people include:

- **Talent Advancement Program (TAP)** - The Talent Advancement Program identifies, nurtures and promotes young vocalists from within local schools in Canterbury-Bankstown. Launched in 2002 by Council, the program is supported by the NSW Department of Education. Throughout the year, students in the program take part in a series of workshops where experienced coaches and mentors help them develop and strengthen their stage abilities, performance and vocal techniques. The program also provides the opportunity for vocalists to perform at a range of festivals and events giving them the much needed confidence to advance in the world of performing arts.
- **Bankstown Poetry Slam** - Bankstown Poetry Slam is a community platform which empowers people to express themselves through spoken word poetry. Heralding in over 300 people each month, BPS has featured renowned local and international artists including Rupi Kaur, Rudy Fransisco, Luka Lesson, Candy Royalle and Omar Musa. BPS also runs workshops, performances and programs at high schools and other events.

- **Youth Awards – Creative / Performing Arts** - The Canterbury-Bankstown Youth Awards are open to all young people aged 12-18 years who live, work, or study in the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area, and seek to recognise the achievements of young people and the valuable contribution they make to the local community. The Youth Awards include a Creative / Performing Arts category.
- **Youth Week Competitions – Writing** - In 2018, a decade of the youth week creative writing competition was celebrated with the publication of the anthology *Bent not broken: 10 years of creative writing from Canterbury-Bankstown*. The publication, produced by Sweatshop - a partnership between the University's Writing and Society Research Centre and Westwords, a Western Sydney Literary Development Organisation - in partnership with the City of Canterbury-Bankstown and Create NSW, presents a generation of award-winning stories from the backyards of South-Western Sydney.

4.6. Youth services provided by the police

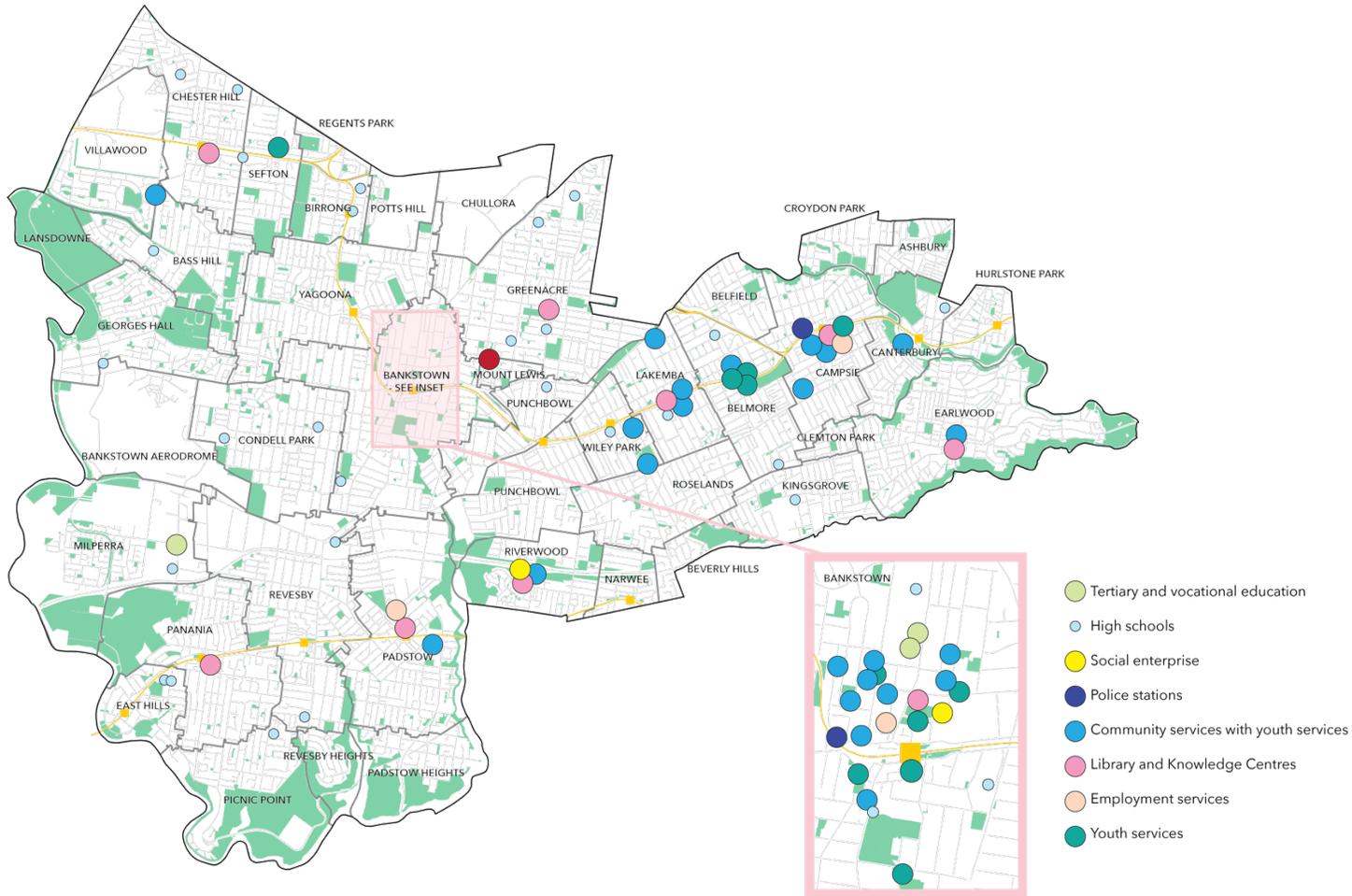
NSW Police in Canterbury-Bankstown employs several youth liaison officers and partners with Council, community organisations, sports groups and the Bankstown and Belmore PCYCs to deliver programs for young people, including at-risk young people, including around road safety, domestic violence, and recreation activities.

4.7. Distribution of services and facilities

Figures 1 and 2 show the distribution of youth services and spaces across the LGA. This shows that:

- In the west of the LGA, services are clustered in Bankstown Town Centre with limited services provided in other suburbs. Services are more evenly distributed in the east of the LGA. While the co-location of services is ideal for collaboration, and location in the town centre increases access to more young people, there may be a need for service delivery in other services such as through pop up services or providing services in the many facilities in this area of the LGA.
- There are no youth recreation areas/skate parks in the east of the LGA.
- Library and Knowledge Centres are well distributed across the LGA, however there is limited access to free Wifi in public space in the west of the LGA, outside the Bankstown Town Centre.

Figure 1 Youth services in Canterbury-Bankstown



4.8. Key findings

- There are a range of services for young people available in Canterbury-Bankstown, including 13 youth-specific services, 20 community services offering programs for young people, 1 refuge and 4 education services. Community engagement indicated that the following types of programs and services are popular with young people: sports clubs, youth programs, religious youth groups, youth services and volunteering groups.
- There are a range of youth-specific facilities and spaces available for young people within Canterbury-Bankstown, including 9 youth spaces and 5 youth recreation areas (skate parks).
- Young people also use facilities in Canterbury-Bankstown that are not youth-specific. Community engagement indicated that the following spaces are also popular with young people: parks, library and knowledge centres, leisure and aquatic centres and sports and recreation facilities.
- There are three employment services with programs for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown. There is one social enterprise offering training and employment for young people. However, there are no co-working spaces.
- Council's Library and Knowledge Centres provide access to technology, and Council also provides free WiFi in public places throughout Canterbury-Bankstown.

5. Community and stakeholder engagement findings

This section provides an overview of findings from community engagement completed previously, and engagement activities undertaken specifically for the purposes of developing the Youth Plan.

5.1. Overview of engagement activities

Table 4 provides an overview of engagement activities completed specifically for the purposes of developing the Youth Plan.

The Youth Plan will be developed in collaboration with the community, including the Youth Summit which was held in 2018, and two stages of community engagement. The first stage (December 2018 to February 2019) focused on information gathering and is summarised in this section.

The second stage of engagement (February/March 2019) will focus on developing strategies and actions for the Plan.

Table 4 Overview of engagement activities (Stage 1)

Engagement Activity	Description	Details
Online survey	Available online via Council's Have Your Say Page between 4 December 2018 and 9 February.	193 respondents of which 170 aged under 25
Pop-ups and intercept surveys	Campsie Library Monday 10 December 2018, 3.30-5.30pm	
	Bankstown Train Station Tuesday 11 December 2018, 3.30-5.30pm	
	Paul Keating Park Tuesday 11 December 2018, 6-7.30pm	
	Riverwood Community Centre Thursday 20 December, 5.30-7.30pm	
	Roselands Swimming Pool 20 December 2018	

Engagement Activity	Description	Details
	Youth Off The Streets (Youth Initiative Team Workshop) 6 February 2019	
	Lunar New Year, Saigon Place Bankstown 2 February 2019	
	Australia Day, Belmore Sports Grounds 26 January 2019	
Focus groups	Youth Reference Group	Approximately 8 participants
Youth Services Interagency	Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre	Approximately 30 participants

5.2. What did young people and other community members tell us

5.2.1. Online survey findings

In total, 193 people completed the online survey, of which 170 were aged under 25 years and 23 were aged 25 years or over. However, not every question was compulsory, and a lower number of people may have answered individual questions. This is noted in each table.

See Appendix 1 for detailed data tables and outcomes of online survey.

Respondent overview

- The majority of respondents aged under 25 years identified as female (52.5%) with 46.8% male and 1 person identifying as gender neutral.
- Respondents were most likely to live in Bankstown (10%), Riverwood (8%), Campsie (6%) or Punchbowl (6%). *Note that 34% of respondents did not respond to this question.*
- Respondents aged under 25 years speaking a language other than English at home were most likely to speak Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin and Cantonese.
- 30% of respondents were aged 15 - 17 years, 31% were aged 12 - 14 years and 34% were aged 18 to 24. A further 6% were aged 10 or 11 years old.
- The majority of respondents aged under 25 are currently living with family or carers (94%).

- The majority of respondents aged under 25 are currently studying in school (57%), with 16% studying in university and 1% studying in TAFE.
- 7% of respondents aged under 25 are currently working casually, with 5% working full time and 4% working part time. 9% are neither studying or working.
- 23 respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, 12 respondents identified as LGBTI, 4 respondents identified as a person with disability and 2 respondents identified as a young parent.

What makes Canterbury-Bankstown a good place to live?

Young people identified a range of things that they think make Canterbury-Bankstown a good place to live, including:

- Parks (36 comments)

“The parks bring people together”

“There are lots of parks in the area”

- Library and knowledge centres (29 comments)

“There are plenty of locations suitable for young people like Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre”

- Strong sense of community (25 comments)

“It's very kindly, I feel comfortable and relaxed”

“Friendly, helpful, you are welcome here”

- Opportunities for sports and recreation (22 comments)

“Canterbury-Bankstown has a range of activities for young people to get physically involved and have fun for example ice skating, local parks, swimming – this is all important for our physical health and wellbeing”

- Shopping centres, including as places to hang out with friends (20 comments)

“Lots of shops and places to hang out”

- Things to do and activities for young people (17 comments)
- Strong cultural diversity (15 comments)
- Community and youth facilities (14 comments)
- Places to hang out (14 comments)
- Youth services (14 comments)
- Sense of safety (13 comments)
- Good schools and tutoring opportunities (10 comments).

What could be improved?

Young people identified a range of things that they think could make Canterbury-Bankstown a better place to live, including:

- More activities and things to do for young people (25 comments)

I would include more activities and events for young people to meet new people as well as grow a stronger bond as a community.

There aren't any opportunities for musical theatre or sports, dance for my age 16. I love to do it but there is nowhere to do it with my age except Parramatta.

More social events to allow people to make more friends and get out and socialise, and even events encouraging people to showcase their talents in front of friends and family

- More sports and recreation facilities, including full basketball courts and outdoor exercise equipment (25 comments)

I would like to have more full basketball courts

Better facilities in smaller suburbs in terms of libraries, sport areas (like basketball courts, soccer fields etc) and more locations in smaller suburbs for young people to go to, should they need support or advice.

Outdoor exercise equipment so people don't have to pay for the gym

- Increased sense of safety (22 comments)

More people to patrol the area for drugs

Lots of weirdos that come up to you, old men - everywhere. Especially in Bankstown, they beep at you.

Stop the brawls and fights in the area.

Safer streets at night using brighter or more street lights.

- More youth-specific spaces, including places to hang out and relax, have fun, exercise and study (13 comments)

More space for individuals and groups to hang out in. Parks are well accessible but are often unclean and don't have table/bench combinations. Providing more space for studying and fun would be a great improvement.

More places to hang out which are relatively cheap or free of charge. A safe place which is open later (eg 11pm) that has games or activities such as ping pong, basketball court, tennis, board games.

- Free Wifi in public places (13 comments)

Free Wifi everywhere – more phone chargers in the park (Anzac park) – phone charger bikes that charge your phone when you cycle like in Darling Harbour

- More affordable facilities and activities (11 comments)

Maybe a bit more variety of things to do on a cheaper budget or free, with the cost of living this is the main reason why young people can't do things as their families can't afford it.

Main issues for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown

Young people think that the main issues for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown are:

- Mental health (69 respondents, 41%)
- Drug and Alcohol Use and Abuse (66 respondents, 39%)
- Bullying and peer pressure (65 respondents, 39%)
- Education (62 respondents, 37%)
- Employment (59 respondents, 35%)
- Racism and Discrimination (57 respondents, 34%), and
- Feeling safe in public places (53 respondents, 32%).

Table 5 Main issues for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown (168 responses)

Issues	#	%
Mental Health	69	41%
Drug and Alcohol Use and Abuse	66	39%
Bullying and peer pressure	65	39%
Education	62	37%
Employment	59	35%
Racism and Discrimination	57	34%
Feeling safe in public places	53	32%
Things for young people to do (e.g. sports, events etc)	33	20%
Homelessness	31	18%
Youth friendly public places and spaces	30	18%
Public transport and getting around	27	16%
Involving young people in Council's decision making	27	16%
Domestic violence	23	14%
Financial independence	21	13%
Physical health	19	11%
Sexual health	12	7%
Other	11	7%
Support for young parents	8	5%
Walking and cycling	8	5%

Letting young people know what's going on

Young people think the best ways to let young people know what's going on in Canterbury-Bankstown are via:

- Social media (Facebook 108 respondents, 65%; Instagram 107 respondents, 64%; Snapchat 76 respondents, 46%; Other social media 44 respondents, 27%)
- Through school (76 respondents, 46%)
- Posters and flyers (61 respondents, 37%), and
- Email (55 respondents, 33%).

Table 6 What's the best way to let young people know what's going on in Canterbury-Bankstown? (166 responses)

Communication channel	#	%
Facebook	108	65%
Instagram	107	64%
Snapchat	76	46%
Through school	76	46%
Posters, flyers	61	37%
Email	55	33%
Other social media	44	27%
Community and youth centres	39	23%
Through friends	38	23%
Text/sms	33	20%
Local groups (sporting groups, community groups)	30	18%
Newspaper	26	16%
Through parents/carers	24	14%
Council website	20	12%
Other organisation's websites	11	7%
Other (please specify)	10	6%

Young people visit a range of places and facilities in Canterbury-Bankstown

Respondents indicated that they visit the following places in Canterbury-Bankstown most often:

- Parks (123 respondents, 75%)
- Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre (78 respondents, 48%)
- Leisure and Aquatic Centres (75 respondents, 46%)
- Sports and recreation facilities (71 respondents, 43%), and
- Campsie Library (60 respondents, 37%).

Table 7 Do you ever visit any of the following [places] in Canterbury-Bankstown? (164 responses)

Place	#	%
Parks	123	75%
Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre	78	48%
Leisure and Aquatic Centres (e.g. Roselands, Wran, Birrong, Canterbury, Max Parker or Greenacre)	75	46%
Sports and recreation facilities (e.g. sports centres, fields, courts, stadiums, ice rink)	71	43%
Campsie Library	60	37%
Other libraries (Panania, Padstow, Chester Hill, Greenacre, Lakemba, Riverwood, Earlwood)	38	23%
Morris lemma Indoor Sports Centre	37	23%
Skate parks	27	16%
Bankstown Arts Centre	27	16%
Riverwood Community Centre	26	16%
Belmore Youth Resource Centre	20	12%
Other	11	7%

Young people participate in a range of clubs, programs, groups and events in Canterbury-Bankstown

Respondents indicated that they have visited or participated in the following clubs, programs, groups or events in Canterbury-Bankstown:

- Sports clubs (51 respondents, 48%)
- Youth programs (e.g. school holiday activities, drop in centres, twilight sports) (30 respondents, 28%)
- Religious youth groups (25 respondents, 24%)
- Youth services (e.g. Riverwood Community Centre, Roundabout Youth Centre, Youth Off the Streets, etc) (25 respondents, 24%), and
- Volunteering groups (21 respondents, 20%).

Table 8 Do you ever visit or participate in any clubs, programs, groups or events in Canterbury-Bankstown? (106 responses)

Club, program, groups or events	#	%
Sports clubs	51	48%
Youth programs (e.g. school holiday activities, drop in centres, twilight sports)	30	28%
Religious youth groups	25	24%
Youth services (e.g. Riverwood Community Centre, Roundabout Youth Centre, Youth Off the Streets, etc)	25	24%
Volunteering groups	21	20%
Cultural activities (e.g. Bankstown Poetry Slam)	14	13%
Youth representative groups (e.g. Headspace Youth reference Group, Youth Off the Streets Youth Initiatives Team, Canterbury Bankstown Youth reference Group, etc.)	12	11%
Others	9	8%

Places or facilities

Respondents think the following types of places or facilities would make Canterbury-Bankstown a better place for young people:

- Places with free Wi-Fi (86 respondents, 53%)
- Sports fields and courts (71 respondents, 44%)
- Outdoor fitness equipment (66 respondents, 41%)
- Spaces for women and girls (60 respondents, 37%), and
- Parks (56 respondents, 35%).

Table 9 Are there any types of places or facilities that you think would make Canterbury-Bankstown a better place for young people? (162 responses)

Places or facilities	#	%
Places with free Wi-Fi	86	53%
Sports fields and courts	71	44%
Outdoor fitness equipment	66	41%
Spaces for women and girls	60	37%
Parks	56	35%
Places to practice music	46	28%
Youth centres	45	28%
Library/technology space	43	27%
Youth recreation spaces / skate parks	38	23%
Public places to hang out	36	22%
Creative arts and maker spaces	31	19%
Performance spaces	28	17%
Other	18	11%

Programs or services

Respondents think the following types of programs or services would make Canterbury-Bankstown a better place for young people:

- Support in finding a job (work experience, job search, training and mentoring programs (110 respondents, 68%)
- Study skills programs (83 respondents, 51%)
- Mental health support (73 respondents, 45%)
- Money skills help (70 respondents, 43%)
- Sport, recreation and fitness activities (61 respondents, 38%), and
- Things to do after school and on the weekends (61 respondents, 38%).

Table 10 Are there any types of programs or services that you think would make Canterbury-Bankstown a better place for young people? (162 responses)

Question 14	#	%
Support in finding a job (Work experience, job search, training and mentoring programs)	110	68%
Study skills programs	83	51%
Mental health support	73	45%
Money skills help	70	43%
Sport, recreation and fitness activities	61	38%
Things to do after school and on the weekends	61	38%
Support for new migrants and culturally and linguistically diverse young people	51	31%
Support for vulnerable young people (eg young people experiencing homelessness)	48	30%
Grants for young people	37	23%
Help with transport	37	23%
Cultural/arts/creative activities	30	19%
Other	20	12%

5.2.2. Pop up findings

Pop up engagement activities and intercept surveys were delivered at:

- Campsie Library, Monday 10 December (3.30-5.30pm)
- Bankstown Train Station, Tuesday 11 December (3.30-5.30pm)
- Paul Keating Park during Bankstown Outreach - Youth off the Streets event, Tuesday 11 December (6-7.30pm)

In addition, intercept surveys were delivered at Riverwood Community Centre during youth drop-in hours on Thursday 20 December (5.30-7.30pm).

Young people were asked to participate in a short dotmocracy activity in addition to, or instead of, completing the survey. Approximately 60 young people participated in the pop up activity.

Participants were each given three stickers and asked to vote for the top three places or facilities and programs or services that would make Canterbury-Bankstown a better place for young people.

Places or facilities

As shown in Table 11, the top places or facilities were:

- Places with free WiFi



- Sports courts and sports fields, and



- Outdoor fitness and equipment.



Table 11 Places or facilities

Places or facilities	#
Places with free wifi	23
Sports courts and sports fields	22
Outdoor fitness and equipment	19
Youth centres	18
Public spaces to hang out	18
Spaces for women and girls	14
Library spaces/technology spaces	13
Parks	13
Places to practice music	11
Youth recreation spaces/skate parks	9
Performance spaces	7
Creative arts and maker spaces	7
TOTAL	174

Programs or services

As shown in Table 12, the top programs or services were:

- Support in finding a job (work experience, job search, training and mentoring programs)
- Money skills and help
- Study skills programs, and
- Mental health support.

Table 12 Programs and services

Programs and services	TOTAL
Support in finding a job (work experience, job search, training and mentoring programs)	16
Money skills and help	13
Study skills programs	10
Mental health support	10
Support for vulnerable young people (e.g. young people experiencing homelessness)	8
Sport, recreation, fitness and activities	8
Cultural/ arts/ creative activities	6
Grants for young people	6
Things to do after school and on the weekends	5
Help with transport	3

Programs and services	TOTAL
Support for new migrants and culturally and linguistically diverse young people	1
TOTAL	86

5.2.3. Focus group findings

Youth Reference Group

A focus group was held with Council's Youth Reference Group on 20 December 2018 from 6-7pm. The Youth Reference Group aims to represent the needs of young people in the local area by providing advice and recommendations to Council in relation to local youth issues and needs.

Young people identified that strengths of young people in Canterbury-Bankstown include volunteering, strong sense of community facilitated by range of activities for young people, and high cultural diversity which means people are more well rounded, tolerant and open minded to people from different cultures and backgrounds.

Young people identified a range of challenges for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown, including:

- Need for cultural change around volunteering (e.g. it's not "cool" to volunteer, format is too much like school)
- Need for more services and knowledge around how to get mental health support (including in schools). There is stigma around mental health.
- High levels of disengagement from school leads to other things like poor mental health
- Stigma around Bankstown - people think that they can't do well so they don't try
- There is a need for more understanding, knowledge and acceptance around LGBTI+ issues, including through education in schools. Some cultural backgrounds / religions / generations are less accepting which can impact on mental health.
- There is a need for specific support for gender diverse and diverse sexuality young people.
- There is a perception that Bankstown isn't safe for young women in some places such as Paul Keating Park, places without lights and the chess area. ("I avoid going to the toilets in the chess area if there's lots of men there.") One girl indicated you often get catcalled in your school uniform by older guys (20s and 30s).
- Some of the benefits of high cultural diversity include less discrimination and bullying, however some of the challenges are bullying and intergenerational conflict.
- Education and learning
 - There is a (perception that there is a) lack of good schools in the area.
 - Young people think there will be more online learning and apps in the future
 - There's a mindset that "school isn't for me"

- There is a need for schools to cater to needs of different abilities - education can be unfair and tutoring can create a bigger gap.
- English education is poor and people don't see the point.
- People have low expectations around tertiary education, in part due to a lack of role models.
- There is low understanding of job prospects in emerging industries and a need for more information (e.g. people think IT is just sitting at a computer all day; some don't want to disappoint their parents who want them to be a doctor)
- Need for more activities that are open to anyone regardless of background. Twilight sports are great because they're universal - you don't have to speak English to participate.
- There is low understanding and lack of education around financial skills in schools. Need for education around how to read a bill, how to manage our money when you get a job, how interest works (if you save for this long you'll have this much)
- House prices is a challenge for young people, with people moving out of the community. However not all cultures see it as bad to stay at home with your parents.
- Youth friendly public places
 - There are more and more youth friendly places, but still not enough. People hang out in the libraries, basketball courts, Saigon Place, shopping centres.
 - If there's nowhere to go it can lead to crime, don't develop a sense of community
 - People choose places that are/have affordability, good food, location - you can get there without a car, If it looks modern eg the new library, A lot of other young people there, friends, people that I know
 - Ideas: Allow music to be played loudly; Dancing spaces like near the International Convention Centre - attracts people to dance, take photos; It's better to have places that are specific to young people rather than for everyone, otherwise it "kills the vibe" and feels like it has the same rules as everywhere else; Community centres run outdoor events in public spaces
 - Feel safer if there are no cops around: Police come up to people for no reason, they don't like big groups of people, even if you're not doing anything.

5.2.5. Findings from previous consultation with young people

Canterbury Bankstown Youth Summit 2018

In June 2018, the City of Canterbury Bankstown in partnership with a number of local youth services, coordinated a Youth Summit to encourage young people to join the conversation and address real issues facing youth in Canterbury Bankstown. The Youth Summit was attended by 115 young people from local high schools.

Issues and concerns

Students came up with a large number of issues and concerns, including:

- High expectations from themselves or their parents to perform well in school cause pressure, anxiety and stress
- Struggling to find identity, particularly in large families with multiple siblings
- Anxiety and concerns around future ambitions, further education and employment
- Concern over balancing commitments (study, work, friends, family) and better managing their time
- Cultural and religious acceptance, including racism and discrimination
- Family conflict and generation gap (including around cultural values)
- Poor public transport
- Slow internet speed in public Wi-Fi areas
- Stigma relating to seeing a counsellor
- Stigma relating to the LGBTIQ community
- Finding and sustaining romantic relationships.

Young people offered a variety of suggestions for how these issues and concerns could be alleviated:

- In regards to mental health and wellbeing, students acknowledged that young people played a key role in pursuing their own happiness and building their resilience.
- Young people suggested services could play a key role in creating opportunities to build a sense of belonging and connection with the community, with proposals including youth groups, providing a good network of supports and delivering a range of extracurricular activities after school.
- Free, compulsory counselling within schools in order to remove stigma and encourage open discussions around mental health.
- Students argued that schools, teachers and parents could place less emphasis on exam results, while focusing more on providing advice around alternative education pathways and career planning.
- More relevant life skill classes were also suggested, such as time management, planning and healthy adolescent relationships.

General suggestions for improvements for youth issues also included providing more affordable transport options, more community events which encouraged and raised awareness of cultural diversity and having access to role models who could share their stories or struggles and success.

Youth facilities and services

Key findings with regard to youth facilities and services include:

- Young people defined youth facilities as facilities that provided a safe space and services catered to young people including support, access to free information and resources, and activities.
- Most young people associated youth facilities, or more particularly youth services, as being for those more disadvantaged young people in need of help.
- There was a mixed response when asked if young people preferred a youth specific facility, or something which integrated with other user groups. For example, students argued that facilities specifically targeting youth were good because the activities and programs would be focused at youth only, making them more relevant and bringing together young people of similar age groups. On the other hand, if facilities were open to all user groups, there could be a broader range of activities and opportunities which could take advantage of the inclusion of different users, i.e. parents sharing their skills and knowledge, or older people acting as mentors, etc.
- Young people felt that the purpose of youth services were to:
 - Empower young people to follow their dreams and express themselves,
 - Create a safe, positive space for young people to connect with likeminded individuals, and
 - Provide access to various resources.
 - Many students further believed these services should aim to help young people learn life skills such as time management, but also learn social skills by encouraging interaction with others, community involvement and showcasing talent.

Specific programs young people would like to see provided by youth services included: counselling, free tutoring, study spaces and homework help, computer hubs including access to free Wi-Fi and printing, gaming/ movie rooms, meditation rooms, fitness classes, and training, such as first aid. They also thought it would be good for services to be close to public transport, and have access to open spaces where students could hang out in the garden or play sports.

Community Engagement for Creative CBCity Strategy

In relation to young people, the community said they love:

- Bankstown Poetry Slam attended by 300 people every month, noting that the thoughts of the young give hope for the future.
- Bankstown and Campsie libraries, their upgrades to IT and children's and student's areas, and the sense of community connection the libraries give.
- Bankstown Youth Development Services programs such as the Respect Program and performances by young people.

In relation to young people, the community said that they would like to see the following changes:

- More opportunities for young people in visual arts, music, dance and theatre, paid performances for young people, and centres to stay open later.
- Development of cultural tourism, highlighting what is unique and 'interesting' to attract visitors, residents, students and potential entrepreneurs and investors.

Community engagement findings from Koori Youth Forum 2018, Bankstown Youth Development Service

The Koori Youth Forum is an event involving local Aboriginal students (Year 3 -12) who are invited to the Bankstown Arts Centre to participate in a range of arts and cultural activities. These activities include visual arts, dance, music, hip-hop, sculpture and weaving workshops - all facilitated by professional Indigenous artists. Students also engage in discussions about issues that are important to them and identify their needs and interest that will direct future Indigenous Arts projects in Bankstown.

Cultural Plan Background Report, 2018

Priority themes from community engagement include a focus on young people, with the community indicating they would like to see:

- More opportunities for young people in visual arts, music, dance, theatre
- Centres to stay open longer
- Paid performances for young people in the arts
- More low cost creative workshops for kids
- Mentorships for young people
- Intergenerational projects
- Arts excursions for young people, and
- Working with schools who are being starved of creativity.

Priority themes from stakeholder engagement include a focus on young people, with stakeholders noting that:

- Young people hate the stereotype/stigma that Canterbury Bankstown has, they are proud of their community. Need more inclusiveness, address the negative. Create good stories, feel connected.
- Canterbury-Bankstown is overrepresented in domestic violence at times, with Respect Program in schools focusing on this issue via arts practice
- Belmore Youth Resource Centre has drop in centre and good facilities. Opportunities for more programs around culturally diverse cooking and food; DJing, street art, manga, reverse garbage art.
- The Youth Sector comprises 20 different agencies and conducts events aiming to connect young people with services.

- Biannual Youth Summit provides forum for young people to express what they want to happen, then events are organised in response. While there is often poor turn-out for these events (which have included talent shows, concerts, writing comps), there is often a high number of volunteers.
- It can be challenging to get young Indigenous people involved
- Opportunity for collaboration between Youth services and arts/culture specialists in Council
- Young people develop skills, and then nothing happens with them, such as FBi radio skills program, which were developed for "Stories of Strength". [opportunity to include follow up or 'next steps' into project aims and evaluation].

5.3. What did services tell us

5.3.1. Youth interagency workshop

Approximately 25 people representing a broad range of youth services active in the Canterbury-Bankstown area participated in a workshop to inform the development of the City of Canterbury Bankstown Council's Youth Plan on Wednesday 5 December at the Bankstown Knowledge and Learning Centre. The aim of this workshop was to consult with youth services on key strengths, challenges, needs and opportunities for young people in our changing urban environment.

Prior to attending the interagency, members were asked to complete a brief online survey (22 respondents). Respondents identified that they think the main challenges for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown are:

- Mental and physical health (13 respondents, 59%)
- Employment (11 respondents, 50%)
- Education (10 respondents, 45%)
- Drug and alcohol use (10 respondents, 45%)
- Bullying (8 respondents, 36%)
- Things for young people to do (e.g. sports, events, arts & culture) (7 respondents, 32%)
- Financial independence (6 respondents, 27%)
- Youth friendly public places and spaces (5 respondents, 23%), and
- Feeling safe in public places (5 respondents, 23%).

Activity 1: Strengths and challenges for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown

During the first activity, participants discussed the various strengths of young people in Canterbury-Bankstown, as well as some key challenges they face. Results are shown in Table 1.

Table 13 Key strengths and challenges for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown

Strengths	Challenges
<p>Young people are social (2 groups)</p> <p>Young people are tech savvy and know how to get information (2 groups)</p> <p>Young people are culturally aware and multicultural (2 groups)</p> <p>Young people are united and connected (2 groups)</p> <p>Young people are resilient and bounce back in face of challenges (including migrant / refugee young people) (2 comments)</p> <p>Young people are involved in the community</p> <p>Young people are family oriented</p> <p>Young people have a lot of energy and are excited about life and the future. They are mostly optimistic.</p> <p>Young people are creative</p> <p>Young people are funny and have a good sense of humor</p> <p>Young people are supportive of each other</p> <p>Young people are independent (in part through use of technology)</p> <p>Young people are trusting of each other</p> <p>Young people are openminded</p> <p>Young people are determined to achieve their dreams</p>	<p>Intergenerational and cultural pressures and conflict (3 groups)</p> <p>Use of technology and gaming on mobile phones, computer, consoles can impact on sleep, relationships and life skills (3 groups)</p> <p>High expectations to perform well at school including around HSC (from parents, society and to get a job) (2 groups)</p> <p>Some young people come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds which can impact across generations (2 groups)</p> <p>Financial challenges (2 groups)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some people skip school to contribute to their family income. - Some can't afford to have computers at home - Some can't go to school because they can't afford uniforms <p>Lack of acknowledgement of disability of parents (cultural lack of knowledge)</p> <p>Stigma around young people in the media and at school (including around boys hanging around in groups)</p> <p>School leaving age confuses the process</p> <p>Cyberbullying and catfishing</p> <p>Some don't know how to access services in the area and have a poor perception of services (including police)</p> <p>Drugs and alcohol use and abuse</p> <p>Lack of safe places to hang out in Canterbury-Bankstown</p>

Strengths	Challenges
	<p>Mental health (anxiety, depression) impacts on their social life</p> <p>Language barriers</p> <p>Lack of support from family</p> <p>Stereotypes around Canterbury-Bankstown being a “bad” area impact young people - they are either proud of their area or limit themselves based on these stereotypes. It can be difficult to break these stereotypes. It involved getting outside your comfort zone.</p> <p>Discrimination based on gender, culture, geography</p> <p>It can be difficult to support young people from culturally diverse backgrounds to leave negative relationships</p> <p>Some young people have caring responsibilities (e.g. translation or caring for grandparents)</p>

Activity 2: Trends impacting young people in Canterbury-Bankstown

During the second activity, participants discussed how social trends (e.g. living in high density, living in a digital age, affordability) might impact young people in the Canterbury-Bankstown area over the next three years, with a focus on identifying opportunities and challenges that may arise in the changing urban environment. Table 2 provides an overview of the selected trends and discussions.

Table 2 Trends impacting young people in Canterbury-Bankstown

Group 1	<p>Trend 1: Youth Friendly Public places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants identified that there are currently not enough safe public places for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown to hang out. They think this will continue to be an issue in light of increasing population of young people. - Services think this is priority because “kids rebel because they’re bored.” - Participants would like to see more youth-friendly public places in Canterbury-Bankstown, including comfortable seating areas that are free, active and social, with free WiFi, phone chargers and lighting to increase use and safety at night. - Participants think that skate parks work well for young people in general but questioned whether this would be a priority for young people in
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Canterbury-Bankstown. They suggested basketball courts / multipurpose courts collocated with social areas to gather instead.

Trend 2: Affordability and financial skills

- Participants identified that the young people they work with have very limited financial skills (e.g. don't know how to budget or do taxes) due to a lack of education at home and in school. They think this issue will continue to be a challenge over the next three years.
- Participants identified a need for more education around financial literacy, including mandatory "life skills" classes in high school, and
- Participants identified that Canterbury-Bankstown is becoming an increasingly expensive place for young people to live, including cost of housing and cost of living. While most felt this will become increasingly challenging, others were optimistic about increasing mixed-tenure developments with affordable living opportunities in the area.

Trend 3: Healthy cities

- Participants identified that this will be a key priority for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown into the coming years, considering rising obesity, more sedentary lifestyles, rising cost of fresh food and increasing pressure on open space and active transport networks in the city.
- Participants identified increasing use of technology (e.g. gaming and social media) as a key contributor to sedentary lifestyles as well as social isolation
- Participants identified that there is a need to support and educate young people and families to make healthy choices around food, which can be challenging when fast food is the cheapest and easiest option, particularly for low income households.
- Participants identified opportunities to make the built environment more supportive of active lifestyles, including outdoor exercise equipment and cycling.

Trend 4: Living in high density

- Participants identified that Canterbury-Bankstown is facing increasing population density and high density dwellings
- Benefits could be increasing mixed-use and mixed-tenure developments that allow for diverse community, more distributed and accessible services; increasing affordability
- Challenges could be high rise schools which may impact on health and wellbeing (i.e. less time outdoors); and families living in apartments that do not meet their needs.

Group 2	<p>Trend 1: Changing nature of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants identified that there is increasing focus in the job market on IT skills, and that young people can leverage this because they are ambitious and are well-equipped to think creatively about work and employment. - Participants identified that challenges include decreased job stability and more anxiety and worrying due to increased flex working; challenge to enter the job market. - Participants identified that some young people have unreasonably high expectations of what they can / will do. - Participants identified a need for soft and hard infrastructure to support young entrepreneurs; and resources and support systems to allow young people to start their own businesses. <p>Trend 2: Living in a digital age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants identified that increased easy access to fast and free WiFi / internet will mean services need to use social media to reach out more effectively. - Participants identified that technology can support young people to be more connected - Challenges include online bullying; online shopping addiction; a lack of face-to-face connections; negative mental health impacts and self esteem issues due to social media; a lack of boundaries around social media particularly when they first get a smart phone. <p>Trend 3: Creativity and culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants said that creativity and culture provide opportunities to have authentic discussions about mental health, family etc; express themselves etc. - Creativity can bring awareness and break stereotypes giving young people their own voice to tell their own stories - Participants identified a need for spaces that become known (like Street Uni in Bankstown); and for services using media more effectively. Graffiti walls are an opportunity as well.
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Group 3	<p>Trend 1: Affordability and financial skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants identified that affordability (housing, cost of living, school, food) will continue to be a challenge for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown to 2022, with people moving away because they can't afford to live here. This will also mean that large families will be living together as young people can't afford to move out. - Participants indicated that there is a need to educate parents and build awareness about budgeting through services. However, doing so means addressing the stigma around accessing services. - This will need to be addressed through financial help around going back to school (e.g. back to school bonus); better funding and youth specific housing. <p>Trend 2: Living in High Density</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants identified that Canterbury-Bankstown is an increasingly dense place, with benefits of this to 2022 including more affordable housing, more integrated spaces (roof tops, pools, playground, BBQ areas), and improved access to services. - Participants identified challenges of living in high density including isolation, mental health, obesity, limited access to sunlight, children using technology more, less green spaces, lack of parking. - Participants identified a need for more affordable housing, more awareness of services, child care services and community consultation with developers of buildings / apartments <p>Trend 3: Gender, relationships and sexuality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants think that young people in Canterbury-Bankstown find it difficult to express themselves at home and that the city is behind the rest of Sydney in terms of LGBTI+ acceptance. They think it will not be much better by 2022. - However, there is increasing awareness of gender issues, with benefits including that support groups can be made available and that young people themselves are more accepting of each other - Participants identified challenges including that parents won't change their opinion, schools don't do enough to promote acceptance and backlash from the community. - Opportunities to address this issue include campaigning from Council rather than schools (e.g. acknowledgement of mardi gras) and increasing awareness.
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5.3.2. Findings from previous consultation with services

Council consultation with services in 2018 with regards to social planning for young people identified a range of issues and opportunities for strategies and partnerships to address them, including:

- Training and employment
- Domestic violence
- Newly arrived
- Relationship with police
- Disengagement from school and work (including due to poor relationships with teachers, family breakdown, mental health, language barriers)
- Lack of funding for schools/services
- Young people vulnerable to extremism
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Use of technology may impact on physical and mental health and facilitates cyber bullying
- Lack of support for families, including single parent households
- Mental health (anxiety, bullying, social isolation, poor self-esteem)
- Lack of things to do
- Reckless driving
- Lack of opportunities for ATSI young people to learn their culture and language
- Young people with a disability have few out of hours activities and school holiday activities
- Sexual health / lack of sex education
- Accessing services (e.g. young people are not aware of local services / services are not welcoming)
- Homelessness (e.g. due to family breakdown and high rates of couch surfing), and
- Financial hardships for young people (e.g. also impacts on education and food security).

5.4. Key findings

Across community engagement activities, services and young people said that:

- Some of the things that make Canterbury-Bankstown a good place to live for young people are parks, Library and Knowledge Centres, recreation facilities and a strong sense of community.
- Young people in Canterbury-Bankstown have many strengths and contribute to their community in a range of ways including as members of local community, cultural, creative and sporting groups, as volunteers and as workers. Services said that young people in Canterbury-Bankstown are highly culturally diverse, open-minded, talented, skilled, resilient, optimistic and supportive of each other

- Some of the main issues for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown are mental health, drug and alcohol use and abuse, bullying and peer pressure, education, employment, racism and discrimination and feeling safe in public places, including for women.
- Popular ideas for new and improved programs and services include support in finding a job, study skills programs, mental health support, money skills programs, information around education and career pathways.
- Popular ideas for new and improved spaces and places include places with free WiFi, sports fields and courts, outdoor fitness equipment, spaces for women and girls and parks.
- The best ways to let young people know what's going on in the area is via social media (Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat) or through school.
- Other identified issues include stigma around young people from Canterbury-Bankstown ("people think that they can't do well so they don't try"); intergenerational conflict (e.g. around education and career pathways, different cultural values); rising cost of living and housing leading young people to move out of the area; need for a cultural change around volunteering; need for more understanding, knowledge and acceptance around LGBTQI+ issues and support for gender diverse and diverse sexuality young people.

6. Identified needs

This section summarises the findings of sections 2-5 of this report and identifies needs for young people in the area grouped by theme.

Key considerations

Across all the themes, there were some common priorities that emerged from the background research which should be considered in all planning for young people and youth services in Canterbury-Bankstown.

- **Strengths based approach** - Young people in Canterbury-Bankstown have many strengths and contribute to their communities in a range of ways. Effective youth service delivery in the LGA will seek to understand, celebrate, develop and leverage these strengths and empower young people. Young people should not be characterised by their challenges alone but rather acknowledged for their strengths and contributions. This includes celebrating local young people and the community; and overcoming stereotypes of disadvantage in Western Sydney.
- **Smart cities** - Council is committed to using technology and data to improve the lives of residents, workers and visitors in Canterbury-Bankstown by becoming a “smart city”. Where smart city initiatives are developed with young people in mind, they can support many outcomes such as access to technology for learning and education, improving safety, creating new opportunities for civic engagement and new ways to deliver services. Smart cities can support young people to develop skills for the jobs of the future including entrepreneurship, innovation and information technology. In consultation, young people said they see an increased role for use of technology in service delivery, including online education, tutoring and mental health support. Balancing the benefits of smart cities with the risks - such as online bullying, healthy lifestyles, smart phone addiction and the impact of social media on mental health - will be important.
- **Approaches to service delivery** - There is a well-developed and connected youth services sector in Canterbury-Bankstown. As the population grows, there will be increased need for youth services and spaces and with this a need for service delivery approaches that reach more young people with fewer resources. Young people had many ideas for service delivery approaches. In particular, young people identified the important

power of role models. Where young people see others like them attending university, it makes this path seem more achievable. When health information is shared by someone from a similar (i.e. Western Sydney) background, it is more readily taken on board. Young people and services think there is an expanded role for program and service delivery through schools (i.e. services coming to them in the places where they already are) as well as opportunities for learning from older generations.

- **Safety** – Young people want to feel safe and comfortable at home, at school and in public spaces in Canterbury-Bankstown. Bullying is a growing concern and can include racism and discrimination. Poor relationships with police meant that some young people don't feel safe in public spaces while women and girls experience harassment including cat calling. Feeling unsafe can affect young people's use of public space, access to services, health and wellbeing and participation in education and employment.

Table 14 Identified needs

THEME	NEED
<p>SERVICES AND PROGRAMS</p> <p>Council plays an important coordination, facilitation and advocacy role to support local services, and there is a well-developed and connected youth services sector in Canterbury-Bankstown.</p> <p>With a growing population, there will be increasing demand for youth services, programs and activities. Innovative approaches to improve outcomes and reach more young people - with less resources - will be increasingly important.</p> <p>Services can also play a role in promoting the strengths and successes of local young people.</p>	<p>Coordination and support for existing services to expand service delivery and foster innovative approaches that reach more young people with fewer resources.</p>
	<p>Promotion of existing youth services.</p>
	<p>Youth services delivered by Council for example through library and knowledge centres, in parks and at leisure and aquatic centres.</p>
	<p>Access to services and facilities including extended opening hours, delivery in places that young people visit, delivery through schools, online services and access in smaller suburbs in particular in the west of the LGA.</p>
	<p>Free or affordable programming and events for young people in community facilities, public spaces, parks and private facilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social and recreation activities including that build cross-cultural connections ▪ Creative and cultural activities

THEME	NEED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved promotion of existing programs and events. <p>Celebrating the stories of local young people, including creative and cultural participation, academic achievements, sporting excellence etc.</p>
<p>YOUTH FRIENDLY PLACES AND SPACES</p> <p>Young people play many roles in the city, as residents, students, workers, visitors and consumers. To support young people in the city there is a need for spaces where young people feel safe and welcome, including for women and girls.</p> <p>As our population grows and lifestyles change with increasing high density living, youth friendly public space will become increasingly important as a place away from home for relaxation, socialisation and study.</p> <p>Young people identified the strength of the community as one of the great things about living in Canterbury-Bankstown. Spaces that help to create community are important, as well as addressing housing affordability to support young people to remain living in the area.</p>	<p>Youth-friendly public places throughout the city, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public domain throughout town centres that is welcoming to young people, for example with comfortable seating and shade particularly in areas with a lot of private seating and well-maintained (e.g. cafes) ▪ Access to technology integrated throughout town centres for example charging stations and power outlets and free Wi-Fi areas ▪ Elements designed specifically for young people’s use such as outdoor study areas, areas with seating for large groups or skatable elements ▪ Youth recreation areas with skating spaces, multipurpose courts, outdoor fitness stations, seating, shading and integrated technology located close to transport and shops <p>Welcoming spaces for women and girls including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing street harassment/cat calling ▪ Safety in public places ▪ Women-specific places and spaces ▪ Education of boys and young men. <p>Improved relationships between young people and police including:</p>

THEME	NEED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognising the right of young people to remain in public spaces, and that often this includes large groups of young people <p>Youth-friendly housing including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth-friendly design of high density dwellings ▪ Affordable housing to support young people to remain living in the area
<p>HEALTH AND WELLBEING</p> <p>Young people in Canterbury-Bankstown make many healthy choices, with low rates of alcohol use and many young people participating in sport. However there are opportunities to work with health services to address obesity, sedentary lifestyles, alcohol and other drug use including inhalants, and education about healthy relationships.</p> <p>Emotional wellbeing is a high priority challenge for young people in Canterbury-Bankstown. Many young people experience poor emotional wellbeing from stigma, pressure, anxiety and stress related to education, employment, family conflict, bullying, racism, discrimination including on the basis of sexuality, and relationships.</p>	<p>Improved health outcomes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthy living and physical exercise ▪ Alcohol and other drug use, including inhalants and smoking ▪ Safe use of technology including smart phones <p>Education about healthy relationships including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sex education ▪ Romantic relationships ▪ Relationships with parents. <p>Improved youth emotional wellbeing outcomes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing mental health stigma and increasing understanding of emotional wellbeing ▪ Promoting youth emotional wellbeing services and empowering young people to seek help ▪ Empowering parents to support young people experiencing poor emotional wellbeing ▪ Addressing bullying and cyberbullying. <p>Support for young parents, including teenage parents and parents aged 20 to 24 years.</p>

THEME	NEED
<p>EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>Many young people in Canterbury-Bankstown have high aspirations for education and employment. Young people focused on education see opportunities for more support to achieve their goals, while also recognising that study-related pressure and stress can contribute to poor mental health.</p> <p>Young people are looking to the future, and see a role for services in financial education and other life skills, as well as support in looking for employment. There is a desire for more information about life after school, including understanding the process of leaving school early and tertiary education and career opportunities.</p>	<p>Support for students' success and wellbeing including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of study skills programs and places to study (e.g. libraries and outdoor spaces with access to Wi-Fi and technology, extended hours) ▪ Improved wellbeing and stress management during intense periods such as the HSC
	<p>Information about life after school including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better understanding of the process of leaving school early and support in the transition to work ▪ Information about education and career pathways for young people and their parents, including support with university and TAFE applications, role models/mentorship for people who are the first in their family to go to university or TAFE, and education about other options that aren't university or TAFE
	<p>"Life skills" education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support to develop financial literacy and other life skills such as drivers' education
	<p>Support accessing employment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work experience programs and traineeships ▪ Social enterprise and job readiness programs ▪ Help with job searches and applications ▪ Co-working spaces
	<p>Preparing for the jobs of the future including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of tech resources in libraries such as computers and free Wifi ▪ Training in skills such as coding

THEME	NEED
<p>CULTURAL DIVERSITY</p> <p>The cultural diversity of the Canterbury-Bankstown community is recognised by young people as one of its great strengths. Young people here are welcoming and accepting of other cultures and religions.</p> <p>Some challenges young people may experience include family conflict where cultural expectations differ, as well as racism and discrimination. Residents in Canterbury-Bankstown include international students, young workers and refugees who may need extra support.</p>	Celebration of the diversity of young people in Canterbury-Bankstown and the strength that this brings to the community.
	Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in Canterbury-Bankstown.
	Support for young people to manage intergenerational relationships and family cultural expectations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young people who translate for their parents ▪ Cultural expectations around education and careers
	Addressing racism and discrimination and promoting cross-cultural connections including to address bullying.
	Support for recently arrived young people including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International students and young workers ▪ Refugees and people seeking asylum
<p>CIVIC PARTICIPATION</p> <p>Young people in Canterbury-Bankstown are proud of where they come from and are optimistic about the future of their area. Building young people's capacity to participate in the decisions that affect them will lead to better outcomes. Some young people are highly engaged, and reaching and reflecting the diversity of young people in decision making is important.</p>	Meaningful and engaging opportunities for young people to be involved in Council decision-making, including extending engagement to hard-to-reach groups
	Co-design of youth spaces and services with young people including new recreation facilities and open space
	Better understanding of barriers to volunteering and preferred opportunities for participation.
<p>INCLUSION</p>	Support for young people with disability and young carers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusive and accessible youth spaces, activities and programs

THEME	NEED
<p>Some young people in Canterbury-Bankstown are particularly vulnerable. It is important that access to facilities, services and programs in Canterbury-Bankstown is equitable and inclusive of all young people. Council can support this through direct service delivery, coordination of services and advocacy and promotion - role modelling acceptance and inclusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support for young carers
	<p>Creating a more inclusive environment and supporting LGBTI young people including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeted support for LGBTI young people for example peer support, activism/advocacy opportunities and mentorship ▪ Public recognition and acceptance of LGBTI young people for example through Council events, local media, celebration of LGBTI people
	<p>Build understanding of youth homelessness in the LGA and opportunities to address this issue</p>
	<p>Build understanding of domestic violence in the LGA and opportunities to address this issue</p>
<p>AFFORDABILITY</p> <p>Cost can be a barrier for young people in participating in programs and activities, accessing employment, education and support services, and getting around, particularly for those from more disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Moreover, there is a need to support young people to continue to live in the area, with the rising cost of living and housing</p>	<p>Affordable public transport to support access to recreation, learning and employment opportunities.</p>
	<p>Affordable and free programs, activities and events.</p>

6.1. Consultation with services and Council staff on identified needs

During phase 2 of consultation (March 2019), three workshops were held with services, Council staff and Council's Youth Reference Group to truth-test the needs identified through background research and phase 1 of consultation.

The workshops took place on:

- Services, 10am-12pm, Wednesday 27 February 2019, Bankstown Sports Club
- Council staff, 10am-12pm, Monday 4 March 2019, Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre, and
- Youth Reference Group, 6-7pm, Monday 4 March 2019, Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre.

Key findings: truth-testing identified needs

While participants agreed with the vast majority of the identified needs, they identified a number of missing needs and suggested a number of changes to the phrasing of the needs. Please note that changes have already been made to the table 14 at chapter 6.

Just one participant disagreed with an identified need around the provision of free Wi-Fi in public places, noting that exposure to technology and the internet can have negative consequences for young children.

Participants across workshops identified a number of missing needs, including:

- The needs of young parents, including teenage parents and young parents aged 20 to 24
- The needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- Addressing bullying and cyber-bullying, and
- Homework support for older young people.

Some suggested changes to the phrasing of needs include:

- Participants suggested that the term "mental health" be substituted for a more empowering word, or a word with less stigma attached, such as emotional wellbeing or personal development
- Participants suggested changing the need around women and girl friendly places and spaces to include a need for the (early intervention) education of boys and men
- Participants noted that the need for more awareness around education pathways is important for TAFE, not just university
- Many participants agreed that affordable activities are a priority for young people in the LGA, and would like to see these activities be "free or affordable"
- Participants suggested splitting out the theme "Inclusion and Affordability" to be two separate themes.

Other comments include:

- Participants would like to see more programs (including around mental health, sport and recreation and “life skills”) being delivered in schools, more promotion of services taking place in schools and more opportunities for collaboration between schools and services
- Participants would like to see more use of social media to promote services, activities and programs
- Participants noted there is a need for mental health services that are affordable and available after school hours
- Participants would like to see the Youth Awards expanded
- Participants noted that it is a high priority that youth-friendly spaces and places in the LGA are well-maintained and suggested that they be monitored as well to ensure that other community members do not feel unsafe. One participant suggested provision of more intergenerational spaces
- Participants would like to see activities be programmed in consultation with young people
- Participants suggested providing more outdoor exercise equipment and trialling reduced rates or coupons for young people to make recreational activities more accessible (swimming, bowling and rock climbing were noted as expensive activities)
- A number of services noted a need for activities targeting people with disabilities and young carers
- Participants suggested opportunities to improve the relationship between young people and police, including more social activities and school programs in which they can meet and interact in a positive way.
- Some participants noted that promotion of existing programs is a priority, with many affordable programs and activities already being offered.

In addition, while the background report indicated that there is no definitive data on youth homelessness within the LGA, Mission Australia has provided this information and the identified needs have been amended accordingly.

Key findings: Solutions to identified needs

In small groups, participants were asked to develop solutions, or strategies and actions, to address an identified need. An overview of solutions is shown in Table 15.

Services developed solutions responding to the following identified needs:

- Mental Health (2 groups)
- Youth friendly public places (2 groups)
- Domestic violence (1 group), and
- Affordable programming (1 group).

Council staff developed solutions responding to the following identified needs:

- Promotion of existing youth services and programs (1 group)

- Youth friendly places and spaces (1 group)
- Supporting LGBTIQ+ young people (1 group), and
- Transport connections (1 group).

The Youth Reference Group developed solutions responding to the following identified needs:

- Civic engagement (1 group)
- Youth friendly places and spaces (1 group), and
- Mental health (1 group).

The most common identified needs for which solutions were developed were youth friendly places (addressed across all workshops) and mental health (addressed at two out of three workshops).

Table 15 Developing solutions to identified needs

Workshop	Identified need	Solution (high level overview)
Services workshop	Mental health (2 groups)	Education for parents, teachers and young people about mental health in schools and systematic connection into schools for youth mental health programs
		Rebranding mental health to combat current stigma through health ambassadors and role models, working within schools, with services and Council
	Youth friendly public places and spaces (2 groups)	Provision of more drop-in, youth specific places available after hours and on the weekend
		Extended hours (and resources to do so) at existing youth service spaces to be available after hours and on the weekend
Domestic violence	Organise DV conference inviting local high schools twice a year for different age groups to increase awareness of DV support and legalities	
Affordable programming	Ensure affordability of programs, activities and transport to support participation by young people. Also improve promotion of existing activities.	
Council staff workshop	Promotion of existing youth services and programs	Develop a yearly calendar promoting existing youth activities, this could be updated online on Council's website. Coordinate a quarterly meet up to collaboratively coordinate joint youth programs / services. Form an internal action group across teams which meets regularly to discuss youth program delivery.

Workshop	Identified need	Solution (high level overview)
	Transport connections	Connecting young people to services and activities throughout the LGA by providing accessible and affordable public transport, bike lanes.
	Youth friendly places and spaces	Involve young people in codesign of new proposed facilities and in program development. Provision of multi-purpose spaces (i.e. Yagoona Community facility)
	Support for LGBTIQ+ young people	No details provided.
Youth Reference Group	Civic engagement	Building a culture of volunteering and civic engagement through promotion and media campaigns, including around sustainability and environment.
	Youth friendly places and spaces	Create more youth friendly spaces with activities (e.g. skate park, outdoor fitness areas, basketball courts) as well as places to hang out and catch up with friends (i.e. cafes and restaurants). Ensure public spaces have free Wi-Fi, charging ports, water stations, shade, comfortable seating and open spaces. This will increase a sense of safety.
	Mental health	Provision of more information about mental health services in the LGA, for example through fact sheets and on Council's website. Create a mental health "marketplace" or hub.

Council staff also participated in an activity to identify desired outcomes relating to the identified needs. These are shown in Table 16.

Table 16 Identifying desired outcomes responding to identified needs

Theme	By 2023, we will...
Services and programs	be collaborative across council and with the community to ensure young people have access to a diverse range of programs and services
Youth friendly places and spaces	be a city with positively activated public spaces where all residents feel safe and welcome
	Have clear synergy between council departments

Theme	By 2023, we will...
Health and wellbeing	be a city that is understanding & supportive of a holistic approach to health and wellbeing. This will include active partnerships with key stakeholders such as health and education.
	A place where young people want to live /work/study
Education and employment	be a city that has the infrastructure and training to support a job ready workforce. Be a city that supports, advocates and links the necessary infrastructure and training to lead to sustainable career opportunities.
	Actively promoting healthy lifestyles for young people
Cultural diversity	be a leading city that celebrates, showcases and embraces the cultural diversity of its community.
	Addressing the already identified gaps in education and basic literacy. Supported in education and employment. Our young people are work ready.
Civic participation	a city that actively engages & celebrates with youth in its decision making processes.
Inclusion and affordability	be a city with proud CBCity citizens. Be actively participating in decision making. Be digitally literate. Have access to free wifi. Have affordable living for young people

7. Best practice in planning for young people

This section provides a number of best practice case studies responding to identified needs, including:

- Youth friendly public places and spaces
- Education and employment
- Access to technology and smart cities
- Gender equity
- Cross-cultural connections
- Recreation
- Culture and creativity
- Homelessness.

7.1. Youth friendly public places and spaces

Placemaking: Centenary Square, Parramatta

The design, activities and administration of Centenary Square provides a best practice example of inclusion of a range of marginalised groups in a positive and welcoming environment, including young people. In particular, the table tennis tables are a focus for social interaction between different age, income and cultural groups. The space can also be used for an extended period of time at low cost, with free seating and water refills. The public umbrellas and some of the seating in the Square are very similar to that in the privatised space (cafes) and so therefore inclusive and egalitarian.

Youth plazas and youth ownership: Geelong Youth Activity Area and Freemantle Esplanade Youth Plaza

The Geelong Youth Activity Area and Freemantle Esplanade Youth Plaza are best practice examples of youth spaces that cater to a range of users and uses and support creative pursuits and youth ownership.

Both spaces feature recreation elements such as skating, parkour, rock-climbing, slacklining, table tennis and basketball. There is seating, open-air performance spaces and stereo music, and youth events and workshops are regularly held at both sites. The Esplanade Youth Plaza also hosts a local community bicycle workshop.

Ping pong tables in the plaza were part of a community driven art workshop to give greater ownership of the tables and the space to locals, and prevent vandalism. In Geelong, a group of dedicated young people organise events at the plaza aimed at their peers. The Youth Activities Area Project Worker is

responsible for the calendar of events, and assists with access to the amenities on site and the application process to hold an event.

Recreation in leftover spaces: Taipei Metro dance mirrors

In Taipei, street dancing is a popular recreation activity and young people meet up in places where there are mirrors to dance together. This underground path between two subway stations, has been panelled with mirrors and groups of young people use the path to practice K-pop dance. The space has been designed with a dance floor finish and acoustics and includes free WiFi, seating and drinking fountains on site. By serving a dual purpose as a train station/underground passageway, and recreation space, the area is activated and entertaining for the passers-by. Underground spaces can be more than retail and paths and there are opportunities through development processes to work with communities to identify and claim spaces.

Legal education: Marrickville Legal Centre “Lawyer up” project

In 2018, Marrickville Legal Centre developed a pocket card to help young people know what to say and do when they have interactions with police. The card, which was distributed as part of a legal education program at Belmore Youth Resource Centre, gives young people tips like suggesting they film any interactions with police. The youth team from the City of Canterbury Bankstown was a partner in developing the material and approached a number of schools to ensure the material reached a large number of young people. The work was funded thanks to a grant from the City of Canterbury Bankstown.

7.2. Education and employment

Entrepreneurial spaces: Visible Ink, Brisbane City Council

<https://visibleink.org/>

Since 2005, Brisbane City Council has supported more than 50 youth-run enterprises, non-profit groups and community initiatives by providing services and facilities such as training, office space, networking and mentoring through the Visible Ink spaces. Council offers training to ensure a diversity of young people have the skills to manage their enterprise, but more importantly to connect with industry networks that support their personal and business growth. Access to free office space is provided at the Visible Ink Valley youth facility and includes access to technology, meeting space and a collaborative hub of peers that keeps people focused and accountable towards their goals. The program links with seniors who are involved as mentors and have been successful in particular fields.

Creative learning spaces: Whitlam Library in Cabramatta, Fairfield City Council

<https://fairfieldcityopenlibraries.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

Community facilities can provide spaces and resources to support young people in creative learning and skills development. Whitlam Library in Cabramatta offers a range of free and flexible creative spaces including a co-working space for start ups and entrepreneurs to develop their businesses, and various media rooms offering resources ranging from a green screen studio to sewing machines.

Social enterprise: Kickstart Café in Riverwood, PAYCE foundation

<https://www.paycefoundation.com.au/kickstart-cafe/>

Social enterprise businesses can support skills development for young people, for example by providing training and local jobs. Through the Payce Foundation, Payce funds the Kickstart Youth Café at the Riverwood Housing Estate which trains and employs local young people in hospitality. The café services the local community, but also the construction workers over the construction period. Payce will be rolling these cafes out in future developments based on the success of this project.

7.3. Access to technology and smart cities

Youth Hackathons: #InspireHacks, Toronto Youth Network

<https://medium.com/toronto-youth-network>

A hackathon is an event in which a large number of people meet to engage in collaborative computer programming with a focus on problem-solving. The Toronto Youth Network's *InspireHacks* events are aimed at young people and do not require previous coding knowledge as they are focused on designing a solution rather than creating the technical software. This allows young people from all backgrounds to participate and explore the dynamic world of problem solving by creating apps and websites. The events begin with a quick intro to UI and UX design, building capacity and encouraging young people to engage in developing solutions to the challenges facing their communities.

Minecraft for Urban Planning: Block by Block, UN-Habitat and Mojang (Sweden)

<https://mattersjournal.com/stories/2017/11/20/minecraft-for-urban-design>

Block by Block is a collaboration between UN-Habitat, the UN's agency for socially and environmental sustainable cities, and Mojang, a Swedish games studio and creator of popular world-building video game Minecraft. The program uses Minecraft to assist in citizen-led public space design, particularly with hard-to-read groups including young people. The program kicks off with a Minecraft expert building the public space, as it exists, in Minecraft. The community are then invited to collaborate and redesign the public space so that it meets their needs. When the program started it was with a view to get more young people involved in the consultation process, but, generally, the whole community gets excited. "Some projects we still focus on the youth, some we mix - which is nice. We have three or four people on a computer working collaboratively and it can be great to mix young and old people," says Pontus Westerberg, head of the program.

Mobile app for young people and services: YouthSource App, Northern Sydney Local Health District

<http://youthsource.com.au/>

YouthSource is a joint initiative of Northern Sydney Local Health District, the Department of Education and Communities, and North Sydney Council. The YouthSource website and App will provide a central access point for youth friendly services and events throughout the Northern Sydney Region. YouthSource was

created by young people for young people and those who work and live alongside them (i.e. parents, teachers, youth workers, professionals).

Mobile phone charging stations in public spaces: City Square in Belgrade, Serbia

<https://inhabitat.com/belgrade-students-design-solar-powered-cell-phone-charging-station/>

Access to mobile phone charging in public spaces supports the safety and comfort of young people in public places and can be particularly important for young people experiencing homelessness. The "Strawberry Tree" is a solar-powered public mobile phone charging station, designed and installed by students at the University of Belgrade for the City Square in Obrenovac. In addition to providing a solution to the problem of being stuck far from home with a drained device, the stations also provide a public resting place with a wrap-around bench.

7.4. Gender equity

Promoting inclusion for LGBTIQ+ communities: Inner West Council's Multicultural LGBTQIA+ Support Directory and Rainbow Roundtable

<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/community-well-being/lgbtiq>

Inner West Council works hard to promote inclusion for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) communities. Council has compiled a LGBTIQ Multicultural Support Directory, containing information related to religious groups, cultural groups and sporting groups that are specifically for LGBTQIA+ individuals, with the aim of providing assistance and social support across Sydney.

In 2017, Council organised the "Rainbow Roundtable" to engage with LGBTIQ residents, workers, students and visitors around specific requirements from service providers with the aim of continual improvement to service delivery and access to an appropriateness of local facilities. The event was produced in-house and the Operational Plan and Budget for 2017/2018 was \$10,500.

Supporting creative expression for female, transgender and non-binary young people: Information + Cultural Exchange

All Girl Electronic, organised by Information + Cultural Exchange (ICE), is a free electronic music production workshop program for female, transgender and non-binary youth from Western Sydney (aged 15 to 25). No experience is necessary - just an interest in learning how to produce electronic music. The program is an answer to the call for gender and cultural diversity within the areas of electronic music production and programming. Over 8 weeks young people are trained and mentored by some of Sydney's best producers, delving into Ableton Live and learning how to produce and perform your own tracks. Together participants learn how to compose with Ableton, an introduction to synths, production processes and performance. All Girl Electronic caters to those starting out as well as bedroom producers ready to begin collaborating.

7.5. Culture and creativity

Social enterprise: CuriousWorks social enterprise program, Western Sydney

CuriousWorks is a community arts and media organisation based in Western Sydney. Their Social Enterprise Program pairs experienced community artists and filmmakers with young, talented, aspiring trainee artists (Curious Creators) to deliver a range of professional community workshops, digital expertise and video production services to their clients. In the process, trainee artists get paid on-the-job training and develop professional skills, industry networks and employment pathways opportunities. The Social Enterprise Program also builds diversity in NSW creative industries and is a sustainable and independent income stream for CuriousWorks.

Supporting culturally and linguistically diverse creative expression: WestWords, Western Sydney

WestWords is dedicated to celebrating and championing the stories of the people, places and cultures that comprise the heart of Western Sydney. A guiding philosophy of WestWords is a belief in the power of literature and literacy (written, oral and visual), self-expression and creativity to change lives and the experience of communities. With a strategic focus on children and young people and through a comprehensive program of workshops, residencies, fellowships and support for writers, WestWords offers professional opportunities for the growth of distinctive voices.

7.6. Homelessness

Inner City Youth at Risk Project

The Inner City Youth at Risk Project (ICYAR) 2005-2014 improved immediate and long-term social, economic and health outcomes for young people in Kings Cross and surrounding areas, through the provision of brokerage and social housing packages for young people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The Project increased collaboration between existing services for young people, through integrated service models that minimise duplication, promote collaborative ventures and the pooling of resources. The service model was regarded by partner agencies as effective and efficient, and their sustained participation over the life of the project reflects this.

ICYAR's outreach activities involve sweeps to capture the characteristics and needs of at-risk young people who are present in inner city areas during the sweep period. The sweeps are based on an innovative model, which captures information and allows ICYAR to monitor trends and patterns of need in the community. This model embodies several elements of good practice in outreach and service integration such as:

- Meeting young people in their environment and forming trusting relationships
- Providing services or opportunities to connect to services, and
- Offering a variety of services in different formats.

7.7. Cross-cultural connections

Cultural connections: Gladstone Youth for Cultural Diversity, Gladstone

Gladstone Youth for Cultural Diversity group's mission is to raise cultural awareness and mutual understanding in Gladstone community by encouraging young people to get involved in matters of cultural diversity and by providing a supportive platform to spread positive messages about cultural differences.

7.8. Recreational activities

Savannah Pride, Blacktown

<http://savannahpride.com.au/>

Savannah Pride is a youth organisation dedicated to inspiring young people through basketball, education and mentoring. The organisation started in the South-Sudanese community in Blacktown and now attracts young people from all backgrounds across NSW. Much like the Savannah Tree, basketball has grown into something that brings all walks of life together: families, students, mentors, educators and outsiders.

Midnight Basketball

<https://www.midnightbasketball.org.au/>

Midnight Basketball is a high energy, fun and engaging community-run program aimed at 12-18 year olds that combines the benefits of team sport, education and civic participation to teach life skills and identify steps to education, training, employment and social inclusion. The program offers dinner, compulsory life skills workshops and tournament basketball games for young people on Friday or Saturday nights, including dinner and, from 7:30pm till midnight, followed by a bus safely home, providing a fun, safe and motivating high expectations environment. Midnight Basketball offers a positive and constructive diversionary activity away from negative and harmful activities such as crime, violence and drug and alcohol abuse, providing a safe place where young people can have fun, make social connections and build essential life skills.

Youth outreach event: Mondo, Westfield Penrith

Mondo was designed to provide local young people with a safe environment to hang out in on Thursday night, in order to minimise youth crimes and antisocial behaviour. It was developed as a partnership between Westfield and Youth Off The Streets, and continues with the support of Penrith City Council. The objective was to in time change the perception of customers about the safety of the centre and therefore encourage more shoppers to attend the centre during late night trading times in safe and comfortable surroundings. The program includes sporting activities, arts and crafts, music and dance workshops. Monthly "Young People & Mondo Stakeholders" meetings are held with representation from Penrith Council, Penrith Police Youth Liaison, Westfield, YOTS, PCYC, Joan Sutherland, Penrith Police Crime Prevention, Fusion Youth Services & Richmond Fellowship all in attendance.

Appendix

Table 17 Forecast growth population of young people (Forecast.id)

Age groups	2016		2026		2036		Change 2016 - 2036	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Aged 12 to 17 years	26,245	7.3	31,273	7.4	33,973	7.3	7,728	29%
Aged 18 to 24 years	36,101	10.0	40,370	9.5	43,418	9.4	7,317	20%
Total	62,346	17.2	71,643	16.9	77,391	16.7	62,346	24%

Table 18 Distribution of young people across Canterbury-Bankstown

Area	#	%
City of Canterbury Bankstown	59117	17.1
Greenacre - Mount Lewis - Chullora	4821	20.1
Campsie - Clemton Park	4229	16.2
Punchbowl	3962	19.6
Yagoona	3251	18.0
Bankstown CBD	2907	15.4
Padstow - Padstow Heights	2681	16.0
Earlwood	2672	15.1
Bankstown Balance	2617	19.8
Panania - East Hills	2607	16.7
Lakemba	2603	15.3
Revesby - Revesby Heights	2570	16.1
Chester Hill	2244	18.6
Condell Park - Bankstown Aerodrome	2224	19.5
Belmore	2008	15.8
Roselands	1922	16.7
Bass Hill - Lansdowne	1752	18.8
Wiley Park	1680	16.6
Georges Hall	1505	16.8

Canterbury	1174	16.2
Sefton	1143	19.8
Picnic Point	1004	16.5
Riverwood	983	15.5
Kingsgrove	867	14.0
Birrong - Regents Park - Potts Hill	846	18.1
Belfield	793	16.2
Narwee - Beverley Hills	761	14.5
Villawood	761	19.2
Milperra	673	17.2
Croydon Park (part)	642	14.4
Hurlstone Park	555	13.0
Ashbury	494	15.5