



Media Release

4 December 2017

Youth strategy proposes more funding to meet future needs

More than \$88,000 for new initiatives and programs to help meet the current and emerging needs of local youth will be considered by Cockburn Council in future budgets.

The Council has adopted the City of Cockburn Youth Services Strategy 2017-2022, affirming its ongoing commitment to work with young people to help them reach their potential by providing quality events, programs and facilities.

Some new initiatives that may receive funding include exploring possible use of the Henderson motorcycle facility for trail bike use, upgrading acoustics at the youth centre hall to enable events that require sound such as film screenings, and development of library services specifically for youth aged 10-24.

While developing the strategy, the City's Youth Services team spoke with 316 young people, 36 parents and caregivers, representatives from 30 organisations and 53 City staff members.

Areas identified for further development include providing transport to local events, building better relationships with local schools, implementation of the Cockburn RYDE (Regional Youth Driver Education) program, an interactive online forum to seek opinion and give feedback, and continuing the Council's in-house Aboriginal Employment Strategy.

A review of the City's 2011 youth strategy identified some gaps in youth services and facilities including hosting separate counsellors for drug and alcohol, sexual health and financial issues, plus establishment of a support or social group for local LGBTIQ youth at the Cockburn centre.

During the Strategy's preparation, young people said their main concerns were the cost of things and a lack of money to do the things they wanted to do, boredom and a lack of things to do, transport and difficulty getting around, drugs and alcohol, not knowing what services were available, feeling unsafe in certain places and situations, employment, and feeling valued as a part of the community.



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There are 22,052 young people aged 10-24 living in the City of Cockburn, which is 19 per cent of the population. This will increase by about 3,130 residents (or 14 per cent) by 2022.

The City's previous Strategy had several successes including expanding youth development and outreach services, recreation facilities and partnerships and a stronger connection with the Youth Advisory Committee.

The City of Cockburn Youth Services Strategy 2017-2022 is available on the City's website at: https://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/getattachment/78485c13-d3c1-49a2-90d4-d79177a159cc/ecm_6889590_v1_youth-services-strategy-2017-2022-pdf.aspx

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For more information contact:
Media and Communications Officer
City of Cockburn
T: 08 9411 3551
E: media@cockburn.wa.gov.au