



# Youth Plan 2014-2018

Yarriambiack Shire Council

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## Contents

Overview .....	2
What's a Youth Plan all about? .....	2
What's in the plan?.....	2
Introduction .....	3
Development of the Youth Plan .....	3
Policy context .....	4
Yarriambiack Shire Council .....	5
Shire and community profile .....	5
Community and Stakeholder Consultation .....	6
Summary of themes from Community and Stakeholder Consultations .....	6
Thank you to the Youth Reference Group.....	7
Youth Action Plan .....	8

## Tables

Table 1: Youth Population .....	5
Table 2: The number of young people aged 12-24 years who are employed or unemployed .....	5

## Overview

### What's a Youth Plan all about?

The aim of a Youth Plan is to provide a strategic direction for the development and coordination of youth services and infrastructure.

### What's in the plan?

The plan includes priorities for Yarriambiack Shire Council. These priorities have emerged from consultation with the community, service providers and stakeholders. The plan also includes strategies in response to addressing the four key priority areas.

#### Priority Area 1. Encouraging Youth Engagement

**Strategy 1.1:** Establish a Youth Community Engagement Officer role within Council

**Strategy 1.2:** Support Youth Leadership

**Strategy 1.3:** Support Community Development initiatives for young people

#### Priority Area 2. Developing Youth Leadership

**Strategy 2.1:** Establish a Yarriambiack Youth Council

**Strategy 2.2:** Explore establishment of a Yarriambiack FReeZA Committee

#### Priority Area 3. Supporting Youth Health and Wellbeing

**Strategy 3.1:** Advocate for health and wellbeing services for young people

**Strategy 3.2:** Facilitate access to a range of health and wellbeing programs

#### Priority Area 4. Advocating for Disadvantaged Youth

**Strategy 4.1:** Facilitating programs for Disadvantaged Young People

## Introduction

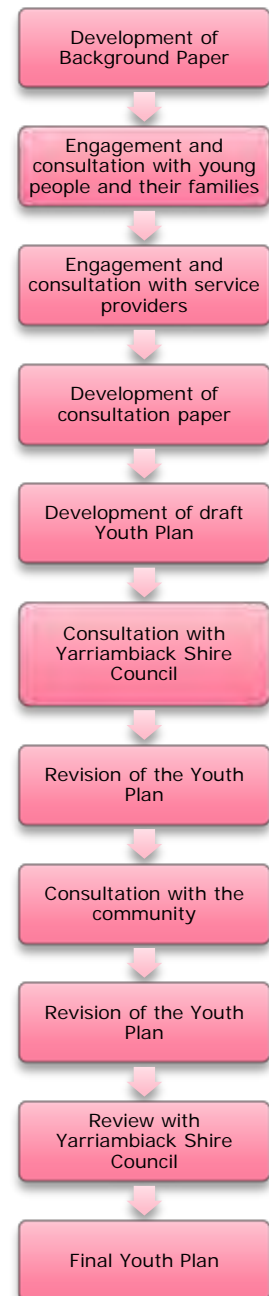
In late 2013, Yarriambiack Shire Council started a process to develop a new Youth Plan. The aim of the Youth Plan is to provide a strategic direction for the development and coordination of youth services and infrastructure in Yarriambiack Shire Council for the period 2014 - 2018.

"In consultation with our community Yarriambiack Shire Council will provide a viable, sustainable and vibrant future" –Yarriambiack Shire Council Vision

### Development of the Youth Plan

The Youth Plan was developed after consultation with young people and a number of key stakeholders within Yarriambiack Shire Council. Other data was also sourced from several locations: The data sources are summarised below:

1. Current population data by age group (ABS Census data 2011)
2. Population projections by age group (Victoria in Future 2012)
3. Department of Transport Planning and Local Infrastructure (2011)
4. Public Health Information Development Unit (2011)
5. DEECD Adolescent Community Profiles (2010)
6. On Track Survey (2013)
7. VicHealth Indicators Survey (2011)
8. Alcohol-related harms and use across Victoria LGAs (2010)



## Policy context

The Victorian Government has established the Office of Youth within the Department of Human Services. The Office for Youth is responsible for policy advice, research and strategic planning relating to government policies, programs and service delivery for young Victorians aged 12 to 25. It is also responsible for providing opportunities and channels for young people's opinions to be considered by government. The Government's commitment to achieving better outcomes for young Victorians is reflected in its **Engage, Involve, Create** Youth Statement.

The Office for Youth has oversight of several related programs, including:

- Local Government Youth Inclusion Grants
- Advance Schools Program
- Rock Eisteddfod Challenge
- FReeZA
- National Youth Week
- Youth Parliament
- Youth Action Strategy

(Source: Office for Youth website, March 2014)

## What this means for Yarriambiack Shire Council

Yarriambiack Youth workers have historically had a focus on supporting individual youth who were, or at risk of being, in crisis. This work has been very valuable and highly regarded, and it has provided a significant contribution to some youth across the Shire.

However, it is also recognised that there are other support systems for youth which are now available, e.g. counselling and welfare services, alcohol and drug services, mental health services and School Focused Youth Services delivered through the three health services within the Shire, Grampians Community Health and Wimmera Uniting Care. Previously, some of these positions were vacant, but are now being consistently filled, and with a focus towards targeting young people with higher and more complex needs. This has now created an opportunity to review the role and responsibility of Council in delivering and supporting programs for youth, including being able to focus on universal and preventative programs to engage and support all young people in the Shire.

This Youth Plan aims to include actions that are universal and preventative, with a focus on inclusion of all youth across the Shire. This Youth Plan is inclusive of all young people aged between 12 and 25 years, and includes students in schools as well as school leavers.

# Yarriambiack Shire Council

## Shire and community profile

### Selected Key Statistics (ABS Census data 2011)

**Table 1: Youth Population**

	% of total youth in each age group				% of youth compared to total population			
	Yarriambiack		Victoria		Yarriambiack		Victoria	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
12 years	105	10.5	65787	7.2	105	1.5	65787	1.2
13 years	74	7.4	65673	7.1	74	1.0	65673	1.2
14 years	115	11.5	66911	7.3	115	1.6	66911	1.2
15 years	109	10.9	67295	7.3	109	1.5	67295	1.3
16 years	110	11.0	69036	7.5	110	1.6	69036	1.3
17 years	95	9.5	69525	7.6	95	1.3	69525	1.3
18 years	74	7.4	69447	7.6	74	1.0	69447	1.3
19 years	67	6.7	70039	7.6	67	0.9	70039	1.3
20 years	54	5.4	73119	8.0	54	0.8	73119	1.4
21 years	55	5.5	75595	8.2	55	0.8	75595	1.4
22 years	55	5.5	75253	8.2	55	0.8	75253	1.4
23 years	45	4.5	75506	8.2	45	0.6	75506	1.4
24 years	44	4.4	75632	8.2	44	0.6	75632	1.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1002</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>918818</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1002</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>918818</b>	<b>17.2</b>

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2011

NOTE: Criteria for highlighting is >= to 3% difference

**Table 2: The number of young people aged 12-24 years who are employed or unemployed**

	Yarriambiack		Victoria	
	n	%	n	%
Employed, worked full-time	167	16.7	163033	17.7
Employed, worked part-time	136	13.6	187353	20.4
Employed, away from work	21	2.1	26415	2.9
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	24	2.4	22173	2.4
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	12	1.2	29480	3.2
Not in the labour force	311	31.0	258404	28.1
Not stated	33	3.3	33590	3.7
Not applicable	298	29.7	198370	21.6

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2011

NOTE: Criteria for highlighting is >= to 2.5% difference

## Community and Stakeholder Consultation

A community consultation process was undertaken during February and March 2014 to identify actions and priorities for the new Yarriambiack Youth Plan.

The consultation process involved individual interviews, focus groups and a youth survey that was available in both paper based and online versions. Fifty young people were directly involved in interviews/discussions through the Youth Bus or the Schools. In addition, there were a total of 161 survey responses from young people (as at March 8, 2014). Young people were primarily from the three major towns (Warracknabeal, Hopetoun and Murtoa) and some young people also represented the smaller towns, including Woomelang, Minyip and Rupanyup.

There were also 19 parents who provided input into the consultations that were linked with the Youth Bus.

In addition, there were 47 representatives from key stakeholders who were interviewed or involved in the focus groups (a total of 277 participants as of March 8, 2014). Results from the surveys were generally similar to findings from the interviews and focus groups. All of the results from the consultation process have been included in the Youth Background Paper.

The following themes were identified during the community consultation process.

### Summary of themes from Community and Stakeholder Consultations

- Strong support for a Council role that is for all youth in the Shire, and not only focused towards young people with significant disadvantage.
- Strong support for a Council role to facilitate a range of activities and events, with *Yarriambiack Has Talent* being named consistently as a specific highlight. Other suggestions included access to Nexus or FReeZA events and access to the Youth Bus.
- Support for youth leadership, particularly in Warracknabeal and Minyip/Murtoa. The focus of the leadership programs was identified to support activities and events that involve young people who may not engaged with sports activities.
- Support for a Youth Community Development/Engagement role which would facilitate coordination and collaboration between the local health services, Council and the schools. This role would facilitate a range of programs to engage families who have significant disadvantage e.g. generational disadvantage or families recently moved to towns.
- Specific concerns regarding the small number of highly disadvantaged young people. This group may also be disengaged from school or employment and may have additional health issues e.g. drugs, justice or supervision orders

### **Thank you to the Youth Reference Group**

The following people gave their time to the Youth Reference Group and provided oversight to the development of the Yarriambiack Youth Plan. We thank the following people for participation in this group:




- Jay Allanson (Community Youth Representative)
- Aiden Ciemcioch (Community Youth Representative)
- Sarah Hadzig (Community Youth Representative)
- Tenaya Zanker (Community Youth Representative)
- Gavin Blinman (Yarriambiack Shire Council)
- Kylie Landwehr (Dunmunkle Health Service)
- Ngareta Melgren (Rural Northwest Health)
- Casey Phelan (Warracknabeal Secondary College)
- Pip Watene (Rural Northwest Health)
- Kylie Zanker (Yarriambiack Shire Councillor)






Lynne Gleeson and Wendy Burke (Springtech Services) completed the work and drafted the Youth Plan under the guidance of this Youth Reference Group.













## Youth Action Plan




The following Youth Action Plan has been developed to outline the specific actions needed to support the implementation of each priority area.

	<b>High:</b> Implemented over the next 2 years
	<b>Medium:</b> Implemented over the next 2 to 4 years
	<b>Low:</b> Implemented over the next 5 years

Priority Area 1. Encouraging Youth Engagement		
<b>Strategy 1.1:</b> Establishment of a Youth Community Engagement Officer role within Council		
<b>Action(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Recruitment of a Youth Community Engagement Officer		Council
<b>Strategy 1.2:</b> Support Youth Leadership		
<b>Action(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Resource support for Youth Council and Yarriambiack FReeZA Committee		Council
<b>Strategy 1.3:</b> Support Community Development initiatives for all young people		
<b>Action(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Identify and recruit key stakeholders to support collaborative community development initiatives that are focused towards social inclusion of disadvantaged youth e.g. mentoring programs		Council Wimmera Sports Assembly
Advocate for young people to be able to access a range of employment and education opportunities e.g. access to transport, Youth Expos, Career Expos, University Open Days, access to Internet (NBN), youth employment opportunities, TAFE programs delivered through videoconferencing		Council WSMLLEN Schools
Facilitate access to grants to support youth initiatives e.g. support grant writing for sports infrastructure, sports events, Yarriambiack Celebrating Young People grants		Council

<b>Priority Area 2. Developing Youth Leadership</b>		
<b>Strategy 2.1: Establish a Yarriambiack Youth Council</b>		
<b>Action(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Engage support from key stakeholders in each of the 3 major towns to establish representative Youth Council		Council
Recruitment of Youth Council representatives for initial 1 year term		Council
Resource the Youth Council through the Youth Community Engagement Officer		Council
<b>Strategy 2.2: Explore establishment of a Yarriambiack FReeZA Committee</b>		
<b>Action(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Identify and recruit key stakeholders to support establishment of Yarriambiack FReeZA Committee		Council Horsham NEXUS WSMLLEN
Resource the Yarriambiack FReeZA Committee through the Youth Community Engagement Officer		Council

<b>Priority Area 3. Supporting Youth Health and Wellbeing</b>		
<b>Strategy 3.1: Advocate for health and wellbeing services for young people</b>		
<b>Action(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Advocate for young people to be able to access a range of outreach services e.g. visiting counselling and employment services, Centrelink, sexual assault services		Council Other service providers WNHLC*
Youth Community Engagement Officer to participate in relevant/ established youth networks e.g. WSMMLLEN, CANs, YacFAT, Wimmera Drug Action Task Force		Council WSMMLLEN
<b>Strategy 3.2: Facilitate access to a range of health and wellbeing programs</b>		
<b>Action(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Identify health and wellbeing needs for young people through regular consultation processes e.g. including schools, Youth Council, other stakeholders and service providers		Council Health Services Other service providers Schools
Facilitate information and resources that support access to services e.g. clear referral pathways, access to 'after hours' services (including pathways and protocols for significantly disadvantaged young people)		Council Health Services
Facilitate young people to be able to access a range of health and wellbeing programs delivered through a collaborative program that involves a range of service providers		Council Health Services Other service providers Schools

Priority Area 4. Advocating for Disadvantaged Youth		
Strategy 4.1: Facilitating programs for Disadvantaged Young People		
Action(s)	Timeframe	Resources
Facilitate mentoring programs across the Shire e.g. Mates Mentoring programs		Council WSMLLEN Wimmera Sports Assembly Schools
Explore opportunities for community based diversion model to support significantly disadvantaged young people		Council Vic Police WSMLLEN
Advocate for access to specific programs e.g. access to visiting Centrelink staff, sustainable rehabilitation (longer time periods), link with computer programs at other settings (satellite VCAL, Neighbourhood Houses)		Council Vic Police WSMLLEN Schools WNHLC* Grampians Medicare Local

\*Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre