

# Cumberland Council

## Youth Strategy 2017–2021

We want to know what you think

### How to use this document

This information is written in an easy to read way.

This document has been written by Cumberland Council. When you see the word 'we', it means Cumberland Council.

This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.

You can find the other document on our website at

**[www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say](http://www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say)**

You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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## About Council's Youth Strategy

In Cumberland 20% of people are youth – young people aged between 12 and 25.

We want Cumberland to be the best place for young people in New South Wales.

A strategy is a plan for how we will work together to achieve our goal.

Our Youth Strategy:

- gives us a clear direction for the next 4 years
- is for the whole community.

It will help us get better results for our young people.

There are already great things being done for young people in our community by many:

- organisations
- groups
- individuals.

Over the next 4 years, Council will focus on improving things for young people in 5 important areas:

1. Finding jobs
2. Learning and training support
3. Being healthy and happy
4. Feeling connected to their community and culture
5. Being safe

We talk about what we'll do in each area in our Action Plan.

You can read our Action Plan on page 13.

## Our approach

We want to make Cumberland a place where young people can:

- live
- learn
- work
- stay healthy
- be safe
- feel included.

There are some important ideas behind the way we do things.

We call them our guiding principles.

## **Guiding principles**

### **Respectful**

We will treat young people the same way we treat everyone else.

### **Youth-led**

We will:

- listen to what young people want and need
- include young people when we develop new
  - programs
  - facilities
  - services.

### **Affordable**

We will work to provide programs and services for young people that are free or don't cost very much.

### **Accessible**

We will work to make our programs, services and events:

- be in accessible locations
- take place at times which suit the community
- offer young people what they need when it comes to:
  - language
  - religion
  - culture
  - transport.

## **Responsive**

We will have ways to make sure we are doing the right things so we can meet the needs of young people.

## **Collaborative**

To get the best results for young people, we will work together with:

- families
- schools
- community groups
- service providers
- other levels of government.

## **Safe**

We will make sure anyone who works with young people has the right:

- skills
- training
- qualifications
- supervision.

We will offer young people safe spaces that are suitable for them.

## About young people in Cumberland

There are 39,027 young people in Cumberland.

We expect there will be 52,376 in 2036.

More than half of our young people were born in Australia.

41% of our young people were born in other countries.

Only 31% of our young people speak English as their first language.

11.5% of our young people don't:

- have a job
- go to school, uni or TAFE.

There are already some great facilities in Cumberland for young people to use:

- 5 swimming pools
- 1 skate park
- 47 parks with sports fields
- 1 indoor basketball centre
- 1 Police Citizens Youth Club.

## **What young people have told us**

We talked to more than 1,600 young people about ways we could make life in Cumberland better for them.

We also talked to:

- children aged 8–12 years
- service providers
- community groups
- parents and families
- faith-based groups
- youth centre staff
- schools
- our staff.

The things everyone told us helped to create this Youth Strategy.

## **What do children aged 8–12 years want?**

Children aged 8–12 years told us we should:

- clean up the environment – there is too much rubbish and too many spaces that are not looked after
- make community spaces bright and beautiful
- help people and families who are having a tough time
- have more fun and free community events and activities.



## **What do young people aged 13–18 years want?**

Young people aged 13–18 years told us we should:

- have more spaces in libraries and community centres where they can study, especially for HSC students at exam time
- get university students to mentor high school students with their studies
- have people and programs to support young people so they can cope with:
  - study
  - stress
  - mental health issues
- provide sport and recreation activities that are free or don't cost very much, including some that are just for girls
- offer support through their schools to help them to find work and jobs
- have more events that celebrate our diverse community.

## **What do young people aged 19–25 years want?**

Young people aged 19–25 years told us we should:

- try to change the negative things people believe about youth in Western Sydney
- provide more opportunities for them to find:
  - work experience
  - volunteer jobs
  - casual or part-time jobs

- support them more when they are looking for work and applying for jobs
- speak up for them about issues they face that are outside our control, such as needing more buses or trains in this area.

### **What do young people with disability want?**

Young people with disability told us we should:

- help them with transport so they can:
  - take part in the community
  - be more independent
- include accessible materials in our libraries, such as a Braille section
- provide sport and recreation activities:
  - that are free or don't cost very much
  - where they can feel included
- provide safe spaces and support for people who are bullied
- provide healthy food choices at
  - schools
  - youth programs
- provide mentoring programs where they can:
  - get support
  - make friends
- remove barriers that stop them from taking part in the community.

## **What do young people from diverse backgrounds want?**

Young people from diverse backgrounds told us we should:

- have spaces where they can meet
- support programs and events that teach young people in the community about different cultures
- support small community groups to offer programs for their own young people
- find better ways to promote events that celebrate culture and diversity
- support young people to find ways to solve issues they have with their parents and families
- teach people from different cultures about issues, such as:
  - mental health
  - domestic and family violence
- speak up for them so they can find and use education and language support
- provide study support after hours
- help them build better relationships with the Police
- support them while they try to learn English.

## **What do LGBTIQA+ young people want?**

LGBTIQA+ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Questioning, Asexual and more – young people told us we should:

- support them when they have problems with money
- support them more when they are looking for work and applying for jobs
- make the areas they use, such as youth centres and train stations:
  - safer
  - more accessible
- have spaces where they can meet and support each other
- provide sport and recreation activities that are free or don't cost very much
- offer more support programs about mental health
- teach service providers and organisations how they can get better at meeting the needs of LGBTIQA+ young people.

## **Our Action Plan**

Our Action Plan explains the things we think we should do.

### **Finding jobs**

The number of young people in Cumberland who can't find jobs is higher than in other places.

Our young people want to find jobs in Cumberland but they feel there aren't enough opportunities.

We want to support our young people to find good jobs.

We plan to:

- offer young people more ways to get:
  - training
  - work experience
  - job search support
  - work and jobs
- give young people opportunities to build their skills and get experience that will help them find jobs
- tell the State and Federal governments about the barriers our young people face when they're looking for jobs.

## **Learning and training support**

Learning and training support is really important for young people so they can:

- reach their full potential – become the best they can be
- achieve their goals.

There are important places where our young people get support for their education:

- at home – from their parents
- at school
- in the community – at places like our libraries
- through youth services
- TAFE
- university
- English language schools.

Our aim is for our young people to reach their potential by getting a good education.

We plan to:

- support young people to learn in places outside of school, such as libraries and community centres
- form partnerships with schools, unis and TAFEs to support young people
- support young people to stay in school or go on to further studies

- offer better support programs for:
  - homework and study
  - sharing information
  - supporting parents
  - life skills training
  - art and creative projects
  - new members of the community who don't know a lot of English yet
- give young people accessible spaces they can go to:
  - study
  - get the learning resources they need
- communicate better with:
  - young people
  - parents
  - schools.

## **Being healthy and happy**

Being healthy and happy includes:

- physical health – being active and healthy eating
- mental health
- sexual health
- spending time with friends
- art, cultural and creative activities.

Young people know healthy living builds their:

- self-confidence
- social contacts
- education
- job and work opportunities.

Our aim is to support the health and wellbeing of our young people so they can:

- relax
- play
- have good social lives
- find help when they need it.

We plan to:

- make it easier for young people to find and use:
  - health services and programs
  - sport and recreation activities



- provide arts and cultural programs and events that young people can take part in
- find people and groups in the community we can work together with to achieve our goals
- make sure our facilities are:
  - accessible
  - meet the needs of all young people
- get more young people to take part in sport and recreation programs by making them:
  - accessible
  - easier for people to afford
  - suitable for different cultures.

### **Feeling connected to their community and culture**

We know that our young people are proud to live in a community that is:

- multicultural
- diverse.

Most young people feel they belong in our community.

They want to be more involved in sharing and celebrating:

- local talent
- different cultures
- food.

Our aim is to build stronger connections between our young people and their community.

We want Cumberland to be a place where young people grow and succeed because we support their:

- cultures
- identities – who they are
- interests
- talents.

We plan to:

- offer more programs and events young people can take part in so they connect with their community
- help young people feel proud of their culture and identity
- make stronger connections between families and communities through activities led by young people
- find ways for young people to take part in council's decision-making
- make sure our young people are seen in a positive way
- include young people when we plan and run programs and events
- work out what support programs our young people need and provide them
- get our young people to lead a campaign that will help change the way people outside our community see them.

## Being safe

Many young people in our community told us we don't have enough:

- street lights
- footpaths
- safe public transport options.

Young people want more spaces where they can:

- feel safe
- get help or support if they need it
- study
- spend time with their friends.

Younger people said they would feel safer if there were more:

- cameras watching the streets
- police around.

Our aim is to make our young people feel safer in their community.

We plan to:

- build better relationships between:
  - young people
  - police
  - youth services
  - families
- help young people feel safe in our public spaces
- support safe driving on our streets and help young people understand the road rules
- make it easier for young people who are at risk to find and use the services they need

- provide transport so young people can get to Council's programs and events
- offer our young people programs they need about:
  - being safe
  - preventing crime.

## **Contact us**

For more information:

### **Phone**

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### **Writing to us**

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You can use the space on the next page to write down your ideas.

## Checking our progress

When the Strategy ends in 4 years, we will look at how well things went.

We will talk about:

- the progress we have made
- what we have achieved.

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