



City of West Torrens Youth Action Plan (draft)
2026 - 2029

Contents

Youth in West Torrens.....	3
The Youth Advisory Committee	4
Communicating with Youth.....	4
Shaping this plan.....	4
Themes.....	4
Action plan	5

Acknowledgment of Country

West Torrens is located on the Traditional Homelands of the Kaurna Nation of People, the first Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Adelaide Region.

Council pays respect to Elders past and present.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and spiritual relationship with the land, sea, waterways and sky.

We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today.

We have built a beautiful city. However, we further recognise that the process of settlement resulted in the dispossession and dislocation of the Kaurna people and that we are always mindful of this.

Youth in West Torrens

The age range for youth is 12-25, aligning with State, Federal, and some UN definitions. West Torrens has a population of 10,606 young people aged between 12-25 years, equating to 17.2% of the city's population.

There are 7 high schools located in West Torrens:

- Plympton International College
- Temple Christian Collage
- Immanuel College
- Underdale High School
- Thebarton Senior College
- St George College
- Warriappendi Secondary School.

Additional information relating to young people in West Torrens includes:

- Our young people aged 18 - 24 are highly educated, with 49.9% of this age group attending university or TAFE (6.8% higher than the SA average).
- West Torrens is a 'destination city' for young adults, with 1,050 more young people aged 18 - 24 moving into the area than left as of the last Census.
- First Nations: 1.2% of our residents identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- West Torrens has a higher number of young renters than the SA average. Housing stress is identified as a concern.
- 32% of all West Torrens residents were born overseas, and 31.1% speak a language other than English at home.
- Based on the 'Wellbeing in West Torrens' surveys, being 'mentally well' and 'physically well' were ranked as the 2 very important priorities for our residents of all ages.
- Young people have previously identified cost, lack of awareness, and 'not knowing anyone' as the top 3 reasons they do not attend council-facilitated programs.



The Youth Advisory Committee

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is a council committee established to provide a forum where young people across West Torrens can share their views, develop recommendations, and provide advice to council, while also building partnerships across the organisation and the wider community.

In the City of West Torrens context, the YAC was established by council on 12 December 2023 and commenced as a committee in May 2024. It operates as a section 41 committee (*Local Government Act 1999*), meaning it follows formal committee requirements and reports to council.

Notable achievements of the YAC include:

- A communication survey to young people that received more than 600 responses and resulted in the development of a Communications Plan.
- The inclusion of youth specific event in the annual Summer Festival program.
- A school holiday workshop with young migrants to improve access, information and activities in school holiday programs.
- Feedback on key plans/activities such as the Disability, Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030, the Henley Beach Road Visioning Project, and the Western Youth Centre Masterplan.
- The development of a Roadshow communication strategy to directly promote the YAC at school assemblies.

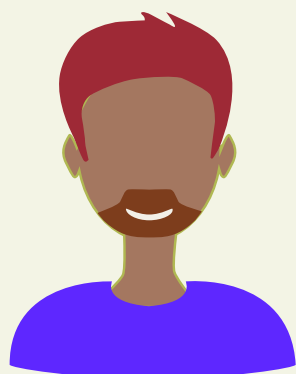
Communicating with youth

In 2024 the YAC conducted a survey of young people in high schools in West Torrens to ascertain how they want to be informed and communicated with. A total of 657 responses were received, and a Youth Communications Plan was developed, with the final plan being approved in September 2025 .

Shaping this plan

The City of West Torrens Community Plan 2034 is the lead document in council's suite of strategic management plans. This plan is a statement of what the City of West Torrens will do to help achieve the community's vision for: 'West Torrens - committed to being the best place to live, work and enjoy life'. This Youth Action Plan sits within the Community Life focus area of the Community Plan. Community Life is about supporting diversity, health and wellbeing, community cohesion and connections and creating opportunities to learn and enjoy the local area. Strategic Objective 1.7 aims to respond to the needs of young people.

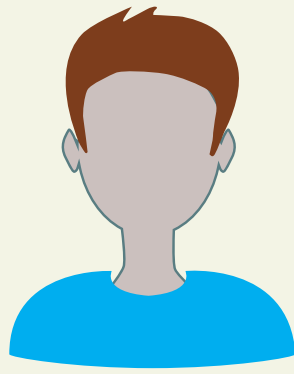
This Youth Action Plan aims to create ongoing ways for young people to be involved in shaping services and community outcomes that are meaningful to youth while encouraging diversity and inclusion. The themes and actions in this Youth Action Plan have been determined from information and feedback gained via the City of West Torrens YAC and the Department of Human Services (DHS) SA Youth Action Plan 2025-2028.



Themes

The key themes of this plan are:

1. Mental health and Wellbeing.
2. Connections and Activities.
3. Participation, Contribution and Communication.



Action Plan

Theme 1: Mental Health and Wellbeing

Purpose: To support young people to be healthy and well.

Action	Lead	Stakeholders	Timeframe
1.1 Partner with local sporting clubs to deliver free 'come and try' sessions for young people.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Local sporting clubs	Ongoing
1.2 Increase the knowledge and skills for council staff working with young people of mental wellbeing by ensuring that they undertake mental health first aid training.	Community Connections Team Leader	People and Culture Department	Ongoing
1.3 Deliver Respectful Relationships workshops in schools.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Local schools	Bi-annual
1.4 Offer activities targeting youth as part of council's wellbeing program to increase youth participation.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Community Wellbeing Officer	Ongoing
1.5 Partner with youth mental health services to strengthen referral pathways.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Relevant agencies	Ongoing
1.6 Deliver practical wellbeing and resilience workshops (life skills).	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Youth Program and Learning Officer	Ongoing

Theme 2: Connections and Activities

Purpose: To support young people to have access to information, services and to facilitate activities for learning, making friends and being active.

Action	Lead	Stakeholders	Timeframe
2.1 Ensure the annual council events program includes at least one event focussed on young people.	Events Team Leader	YAC Children, Youth and Families Officer	Annual
2.2 Build, maintain and promote up-to-date information regarding youth services that young people can access.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Youth Program and Learning Officer	Ongoing
2.3 Actively partner with community organisations and services to deliver youth-centric programs and activities.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Youth Program and Learning Officer	Ongoing
2.4 Develop and implement a program of free/low-cost activities for young people during each school holiday period.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Youth Program and Learning Officer	Quarterly
2.5 Develop and maintain youth focused library collections.	Youth Program and Learning Officer	Library team	Ongoing
2.6 Partner with young people to identify gaps in youth friendly amenities within council facilities.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Community Planner Property Advisor	As required
2.7 Expand arts and culture opportunities for young people, including programs, events and showcases delivered or supported by council.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Arts and Place Activation Officer	Annual
2.8 Work with local businesses and community organisations to increase youth-friendly pathways to jobs, volunteering and work experience.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Business and Tourism Officer	Ongoing



Theme 3: Participation, Contribution and Communication

Purpose: To support young people to have opportunities to participate in their community and to have a voice in decisions that impact them and the community.

Action	Lead	Stakeholders	Timeframe
3.1 Develop and implement information sessions for young people, to be delivered in schools, about how they can connect, engage and be involved with council.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	Local high schools	Terms 1 and 2 yearly
3.2 Support the administration and initiatives of the YAC.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	YAC Council	Ongoing
3.3 Actively represent youth matters as a member of the Rainbow Council.	Youth Program and Learning Officer	LGBTQIA+ networks	Ongoing
3.4 Support work experience and volunteering opportunities for young people.	Community Connections Team Leader	People and Culture Department	Ongoing
3.5 Where practicable, involve local youth in decision making processes through active participation and engagement.	Children, Youth and Families Officer	YAC Youth Program and Learning Officer	As required
3.6 Review and improve youth communication and engagement mechanisms, guided by the Youth Advisory Committee and the Youth Communications Plan.	Communications Officer	YAC	Annual
3.7 Promote relevant information and opportunities using channels that young people prefer to engage with.	Communications Officer	Children, Youth and Families Officer YAC	Ongoing





The City of West Torrens

165 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Hilton SA 5033

8416 6333

info@wtcc.sa.gov.au

westtorrens.sa.gov.au