

CIRCULAR HEAD YOUTH STRATEGIC PLAN

YPLAN 2016 - 2019

GOAL 1

To make youth participation the core approach to youth leadership and youth development.

Circular Head Council takes the role of young people seriously as evidenced by a sustained commitment to encouraging the voice of young people via CHYL - Circular Head Youth Leaders.

Council has shown a willingness to host forums for young people to better understand their vision and priorities. The 7-UP Youth Centre was established as an outcome of a 2009 youth forum and has received national recognition - including a national local government award in 2011.

CHYL is Circular Head Council's Youth Leadership program. Current members of the program are positive about their community project experiences. Nevertheless, some members feel that their capacity to link with other young people and to contribute to Council planning is not yet realised - and that their role and function needs review.

In terms of positive youth engagement, It is noteworthy that a current Circular Head Councillor is young and a member of CHYL.

National and State Policy trends in relation to resourcing positive 'youth engagement' are uncertain at this time and some renewed interest is emerging - within a somewhat 'problem alleviation focus'.

GOAL 1 Strategies

Develop the capacity of CHYL to participate in Council planning and to facilitate other young people's participation by ...

- Reviewing structure, role and function of CHYL including application / membership process and how CHYL membership is promoted to attract a wider and diverse cohort of interested young people.
- Implementing a new orientation program for CHYL members, Councillors and Council Officers that prepares them for a more integrated role. This should include exchange / visits to well established 'youth council' and leadership groups within and outside Australia.
- Ensuring that CHYL members know more about the planning and development agendas of Circular Head Council and how Council works.
- Offering opportunities for CHYL members to accompany Councillors and Council Officers to local and regional meetings and state-wide working groups.
- Preparing CHYL members to reach out and be strengthened by the rich diversity of people in Circular Head, including Indigenous young people.
- Engaging older CHYL members as mentors for new members and as links to broader youth participation networks.

GOAL 2

To develop a positive Circular Head identity that encourages diversity, creativity and opportunity.

7-up youth centre is sustained by way of collaboration between Council, schools, Rural Health, Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation (CHAC) and Smithton Christian Fellowship. 7-up meets an important social need for a smaller cohort of young people than initially envisioned.

The YPLAN process has identified a need to ensure that a broader group of young people are able to contribute to the provision of information to their peers - especially in the context of promoting a positive local image and accessing new learning experiences. This is not 'instead' of the current 7-up, it is a necessary step to compliment and better resource what already exists.

GOAL 2 Strategies

Establish a youth led 'innovation and information space'; that inspires enterprising activity and delivers information and services young people need by ...

- Establishing a social enterprise within a new space that supports innovation and provides information, technology and a place to develop skills & opportunities.
- Locating CHYL in this new 'innovation space' to raise their profile and role.
- Partnering locally and regionally with CHAC, Rural Health, schools, AGRITAS and others to diversify participation.

GOAL 3

To embed local youth initiatives in a cooperative and strategic regional approach.

Local co-operation has become an essential feature of youth praxis by Circular Head Council and local community agencies.

Within Council, progress has been made by way of locating youth within a community development response by Council. This has been recently strengthened by sharing management resources with the neighbouring Waratah-Wynyard Council.

The next step involves building young people's participation into all Council units including the Council's future economic, tourism and environment agenda's.

Young people in Circular Head want to contribute to a future with clean rivers and increased community activity and enterprise in their main streets.

The emerging 'whole of Council' approach being adopted by Circular Head Council provides a better opportunity for local youth initiatives to also be understood and supported by regional planning initiatives.

Regional co-operation is an imperative and strategic way of leveraging outcomes that would struggle to be achieved by any one council.

GOAL 3 Strategies

Identify new work opportunities and facilitate diverse learning / enterprise experiences inside and outside Circular Head by ...

- Developing a work-experience and summer vacation casual employment policy for Circular Head Council.
- Building work experience, casual employment or project leadership experience into Council projects and activities. Including priority areas identified by young people in the YPLAN forums and focus groups: job pathways, tourism, local environment, business sustainability, town image, technology, sport and recreation (including pool).
- Promoting work experience, short-term employment and cadetship opportunities for young people at Council and then in local industries - including agriculture.
- Assessing opportunities to support the development of new local industries - including technology and creativity based enterprise activity at the proposed 'innovation and information space'.
- Partnering with local agencies, education providers and industry networks in relation to diversifying training opportunities in the emerging trends - including social enterprise.

Strengthening regional partnerships by...

- Maximising opportunities for young people to inform & implement the 25 year Murchison Community Plan.
- Increasing opportunities for Circular Head young people to participate in the Youth Network of Tasmania.

GOAL 4

4a To achieve best practice in governance and administration of youth services;

4b To bring alive the 'Council Vision' with input from young people;

4c To ensure that the plan's implementation is informed by leading edge policy and funding trends.

Good Youth Strategic Planning in local government requires planning beyond youth service delivery. This YPLAN puts forward a strategy for involving young people in the Council planning process and the achievement of the Council Vision.

The current Council Vision is broad - "Circular Head will be an iconic community valued for the balance between a progressive economy, unique environment and vibrant lifestyle, providing and caring for all."

Young people have little knowledge of the current vision statement and many have expressed a desire to contribute to a new Council Vision. YPLAN forums have seen an emerging consensus about what young people want to achieve with Council.

A youth strategy needs to work with opportunities but also keep its eye on the Council Vision and strategic objectives so that funding does not end up as 'opportunism' or chasing money in all directions.

The emergence of the 'social enterprise' and 'social impact' funding sectors provides an opportunity to align Council goals with young people's priorities - the newness of this sector will require significant ground work if it is to underpin the establishment of new youth enterprise/s in Circular Head.

GOAL 4 Strategies

Review YPLAN biennially and monitor regularly in relation to trends and opportunities for funding by ...

- Referencing Youth Strategy actions against the broader key result areas and goals of the next Council Strategic Plan.
- Regularly reporting against the Youth Strategic Plan at team level and Council meetings.
- Establishing an outcome focussed evaluation approach.
- Promoting and regularly updating all Councillors, Council Officers and partner agencies about youth policy trends - involving CHYL in this process.
- Expose Circular Head Council Officers and young people to Australian and International best practice in relation to social enterprise and youth spaces.

Implementation Notes:

The implementation of a Youth Strategic Plan needs to be considered in relation to broader Council policy activity and resource allocation. While the strategy will require new resources - it is foremost a strategy for bringing new and purposeful resources into Circular Head. The plan is also about how to work with the existing initiatives and existing good will of young people.

The 2016 Youth Strategic Plan (YPLAN) is a 5 year plan and has been undertaken in the period leading up to the development of the next Circular Head 5 year Council Strategic Plan. There is an immediate opportunity to involve CHYL and other young people as contributors and facilitators during this significant planning process.

The Murchison 25-year community planning process also provides a 'once in a generation' opportunity to bring Circular Head young people into this regional planning initiative. Four Councils are involved in this planning process. There is an opportunity for Council to initiate and facilitate a regional youth voice and role.

Circular Head Council has already established a track record of seeking the ideas of young people in the development of local youth services. YPLAN seeks to refine a process and praxis that enables more young people to:

- participate in creating and realising a clear vision for Circular Head.
 - be involved in creating access to the information and services they need.
 - benefit from and be involved in a co-operative regional approach.
 - experience innovative and diverse learning environments and experiences.
 - learn from young people's experiences in other communities (local and international).
 - contribute to a vision for a community that embraces diversity of people and interests
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