

## YOUTH FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLAN

2024-2028





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## Message from the Shire President

One of the overarching roles of Council is to help provide a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community. We recognise within that requirement the great significance that providing such an environment has for the youth of our community.

Young people who feel safe, respected and heard go on to be confident adults, keen to actively participate in their own life and that of their broader community. Encouraging our young people to stay or return to their regional towns ensures long term sustainability in the regions. A broad range of age groups makes for dynamic, inclusive communities with new ideas and understandings underpinning the evolution of our towns.

Council is very pleased to be revitalising the Shire's Youth Friendly Community Plan which has been completed in conjunction with Youth Services Advisory Committee, local young people and the Bridgetown High School Student Forum. I would like to congratulate and thank them and the Shire Officers who conducted broad community consultation to produce a meaningful and relevant framework for the coming 5 years.

Direct engagement with our young people in formulating this plan was obviously vital and our Youth Survey, completed by 144 respondents, provided valuable information. Those who play key, day to day roles with the youth of our community also provided important feedback. These included BYA, schools, sporting groups, mental health services, theatre groups and other service providers operating in the youth sector.

This broad approach allowed us to discover first-hand the successful initiatives currently operating and indeed the gaps that need to be addressed. The Plan identifies areas where Council can implement and support youth centred initiatives, where we need to provide advocacy and where outcomes can best be achieved by partnering with relevant community groups.

The Plan re-affirms that creating a great place for young people requires an appreciation and a dedication to change, to constantly evolve with the changing needs of our youth. Having them participate in the development of our Youth Plans as they are regularly reviewed will ensure our framework stays current and purposeful.

This Plan will form part of our overall Strategic Community Plan, which Council uses as its guiding document as we strive to contribute to a strong, safe and happy future for us all.

Cr Jenny Mountford
PRESIDENT
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

## **Executive Summary**

Young people in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes enjoy a relaxed country lifestyle in a small and friendly community. With a strong sporting culture and a highly valued natural environment, the community provides a safe place for young people to be independent and enjoy the local facilities with their families and friends.

However, being a small community with high schooling to only Year 10, means our young people must travel to nearby Manjimup or other locations, to complete their education. Combined with the challenges of limited transport options in rural communities, this can make it harder for young people to actively participate in community life and successfully make the transition from education to employment. Maintaining the health and wellbeing of our whole community and importantly, of our young people, is also a key focus for us all.

During 2023/24, Council embarked on a journey to renew its Youth Friendly Community Plan, and to understand the current ideas, needs and aspirations of young people aged 10-17 years.

A Youth Survey was completed by 144 residents aged between 10-17 years to provide information on the feelings, thoughts and interests of young people.

A questionnaire was also distributed to 20 Youth Services Providers offering support to young people in Bridgetown and Greenbushes, with 15 providers responding. Feedback from service providers suggests our young people are perceived as resilient, adaptable, respectful, polite, and self-reliant. However, challenges such as an increased mental health issues, ADHD, and ASD combined with limited transportation and a lack of awareness in regard to the availability of some services, as well as limited services in our region, are preventing some young people from accessing the assistance they need.

The valuable information gained from the survey and the questionnaire has guided the development of our Youth Friendly Community Plan and assisted in identifying the necessary areas of focus. The priorities for local young people identified through this engagement are:

- Flexible physical spaces that provide better recreational and social opportunities, and can adapt to the changing needs and interests of young people
- Mental health and counselling services advocacy and support for providers to ensure the need is met
- Events and programs that appeal to non-sporting interests e.g. music, arts and technology
- Inclusivity and accessibility ensuring the lack of transport and other barriers to participation are reduced
- **Resilient, strong young people** creating a supportive, strong and respectful community approach that enables young people to continue to build their resilience, self-esteem, and self confidence

The Youth Friendly Community Plan 2024-2028 focuses on four main areas and includes actions developed to better meet the needs of young people in our community.

This Plan provides a roadmap to guide Council and Shire staff, working collaboratively with other youth service providers, schools, community organisations and most importantly, our young people, to ensure we make the Shire a great place for young people.

Note: The Australian Institute of Health and Wellness defines the age range of young people as 12-24 years old. The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Youth Friendly Community Action Plan covers 10–17-year-olds. The Youth Services Advisory Committee made the decision to undertake 2 engagement processes and 2 compile 2 different plans, the first reflecting the school-aged cohort and their service providers, and the second outlining the feedback from the 18-24 year cohort, given the distinct differences in circumstances and unique challenges of young people, pre and post high school education.

## Profile of young people in our community

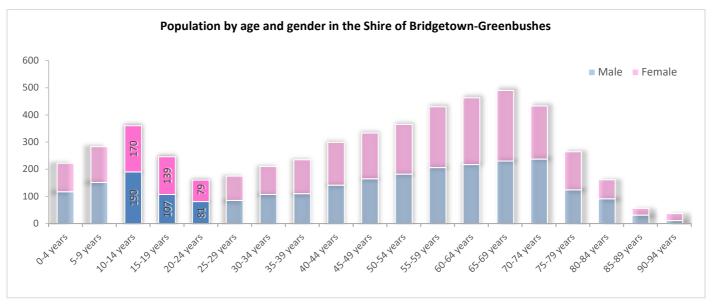
Located 270km south of Perth, in the southwest region of Western Australia, the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes has a community of 5,238 with an annual increase in population of approximately 2.5% (census 2021).

As a community founded on agriculture, the local economy has diversified to include a growing tourism industry, benefiting from the natural beauty of the Blackwood Valley area. The town of Bridgetown offers a diverse mix of retail options, and a range of medical facilities and service-related industries. The smaller community of Greenbushes, located 20km north of Bridgetown, hosts the Talison Lithium mine site – a major employer in the region. The expansion of the Talison Lithium Mine has seen an increase in younger families relocating to the region.

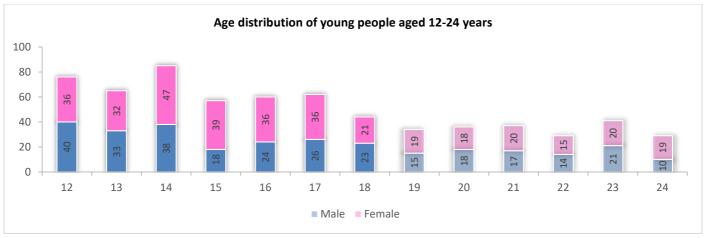
### Youth population

In 2021, there was approximately 766 young people aged 10–19 years, living in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, representing around 14% of the local population. This age group (10-17 years) is the focus of the Shire's Youth Friendly Community Plan.

There is a significant decline in the number of people aged 20-29 years, which reflects the tendency for young people to move away from the Shire following the completion of school – either for study, work, life experiences or relationships. This trend also reflects the absence of higher education or diverse employment opportunities for young people in the local community. This trend was identified by service providers interviewed for the development of the Youth Friendly Community Plan. The two charts below show the distribution of ages and gender within the Shire as at the 2021 ABS Census.



Source: ABS census 2021 (total population 5,238)



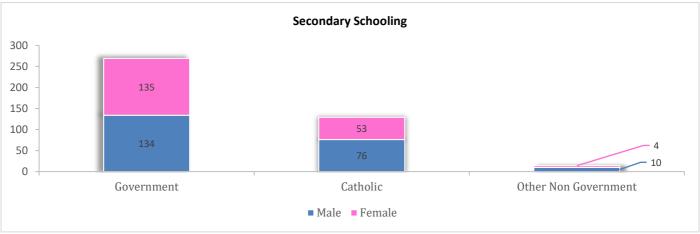
Source: ABS census 2021

### Education

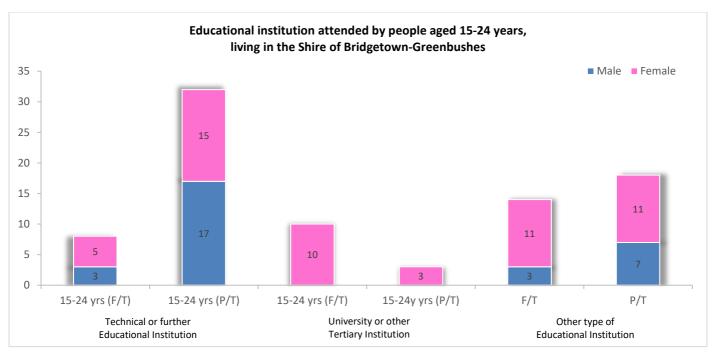
Education facilities in the Shire of Bridgetown include Bridgetown Primary School, St Brigid's Primary School, Bridgetown High School (Years 7-10) and Greenbushes Primary School. Students must travel to Manjimup, Bunbury or other private colleges to complete their secondary education. Secondary schools in the nearby regional centre of Manjimup include Kearnan College (K-12) and Manjimup Senior High School (Years 7-12).

Over many years, there has been a community desire for local schooling in Bridgetown to include Years 11 and 12. However the WA Department of Education has stated that the number of enrolments and the regional approach to the provision of secondary schooling does not justify the provision of Years 11 and 12 locally. The small number of students would also mean a very limited curriculum would be offered. This issue will continue to be monitored as the Shire's population grows.

There are no tertiary institutions in Bridgetown. TAFE colleges operate in Manjimup and Bunbury and the nearest university is the Edith Cowan University campus in Bunbury.

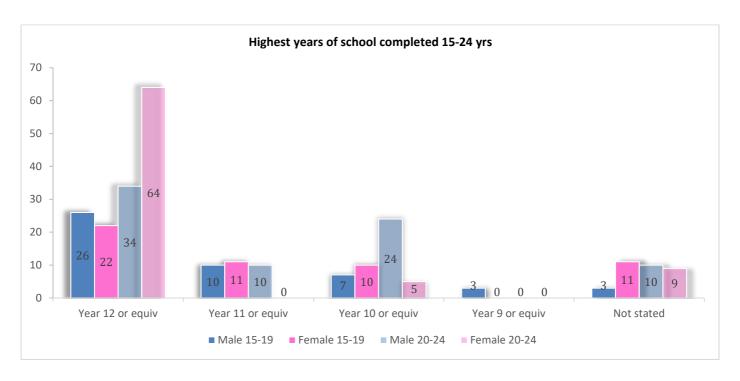


Source: ABS census 2021



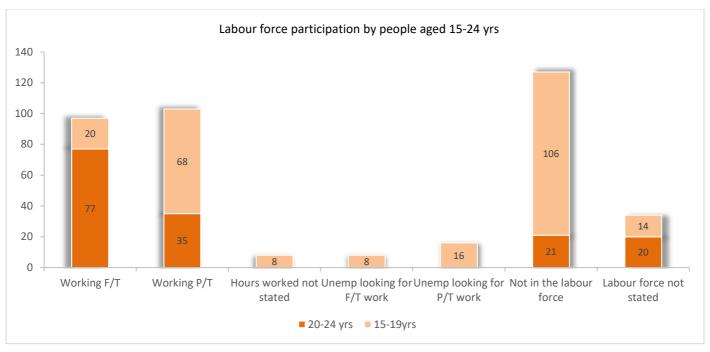
Source: ABS census 2021

\* Type of educational institution not stated – Males (210) Females (183)



### **Employment**

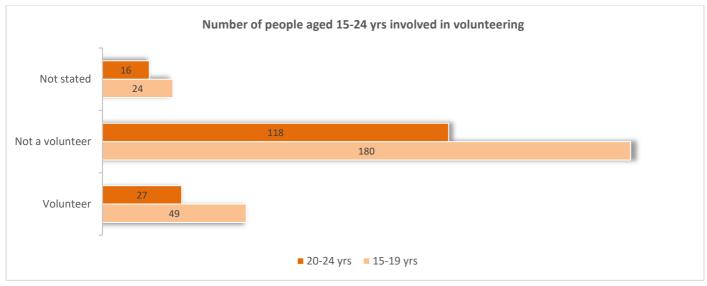
Following completion of school, local employment opportunities are found primarily in the areas of mining, hospitality, tourism, retail, agriculture and trade-related industries. The chart below shows the level of participation in the workforce by residents aged 15-24 years.



Source: ABS census 2021

## Volunteering

Young people in the Shire have been recognised as being community minded, accepting of others across all age groups, and active in sport and recreation pursuits. The chart below shows the number of young people aged 15-24 who are actively involved in volunteering.



Source: ABS census 2021

### Consultation

The Shire released a 2023/24 Youth Survey and received 144 eligible responses from young people aged 10-17 years who live in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes. Additionally, a questionnaire was prepared for Youth Service Providers operating within the region, the summary of which can be found at Appendix 3.

## Key findings

### Survey Summary - What young people shared with us

About the respondents:

- 32% live in the town of Bridgetown, with a further 23% in rural areas around Bridgetown
- 13% live in Greenbushes and Catterick area
- 96% were aged 12-15 years
- 95% are students with 96% attending Bridgetown High School

When asked to rate the importance of a range of lifestyle and personal development topics, all respondents rated the following as very important:

- Finding a job 56%
- My mental health 52%
- Personal safety 50%
- Keeping fit 49%
- The environment 43%
- Education & school 42%
- Eating healthy 35%

The top responses to a question of what makes this community an awesome place to live were:

- 1. Friendly people/community
- 2. Good facilities/close to nature
- 3. Safe, small community

When asked about feeling part of the community, 55% felt they were part of the community "a little bit, or some of the time" and a further 29% responded with "yes, a lot", with 15% not feeling part of the community at all.

When asked if they thought the views of young people were heard in the community, only 7% felt they were heard "very well", 63% responded "only some of the time", with 29% "not at all".

Approximately 76% of young people felt they had ok/good access to opportunities such as sports, education, employment and recreation, with around 35% feeling there was a lack of opportunity/awareness in accessing activities in the arts and environment or in volunteering.

Youth were asked where they found information on the following topics, the top 3 responses are captured below:

World Issues (from 101 responses)	Internet/Google - 49	News - 24	Socials - 8
Climate (from 103 responses)	Internet/Google - 49	News - 21	Socials - 5
Mental Health (from 100 responses)	Internet/Google - 40	School - 28	Parents - 13
Sustainability (from 100 responses)	Internet/Google - 38	School - 15	News - 12
Culture (from 101 responses)	Internet/Google - 35	School - 20	News - 10
Wellbeing (from 99 responses)	Internet/Google - 42	School - 18	Parents - 11

Youth were also asked if they knew how to access the following:

Mental health support (from 125 responses)	Yes - 92	No - 28
Transport (from 131 responses)	Yes - 105	No - 21
Sports (from 129 responses)	Yes - 120	No - 8
Arts (from 127 responses)	Yes - 96	No - 31
Health & Fitness (from 128 responses)	Yes - 118	No - 10
Centrelink (from 123 responses)	Yes - 34	No - 81

Overwhelmingly, young people seek help and support with something difficult in their lives, from their parents and friends. Alternatively, they seek help from teachers or other family members. Respondents were asked to select all the suggested sources of help that they would use. The most frequently identified sources were:

•	Parents	114
•	Friends	89
•	Siblings	64
•	Other family	48
•	Teachers / school	42
•	Police	21
•	Counsellor	17

The five most important issues facing local young people were noted as follows (listed by the number of mentions):

•	Nothing to do	27
•	Bullying/Mental Health	17
•	Vaping & Drugs	14
•	Jobs	13
•	Safety/Vandalism/Bad behaviour	11

The five most important challenges for young people were noted as follows (listed by the number of mentions from 135 responses) –

•	Nothing to do here	16
•	School/study	10
•	Jobs/apprenticeships	6
•	Transport	5
•	Not feeling respected	5

Use of community facilities in the Shire by young people provided some interesting results from respondents:

- 47% use the library from time to time
- 55% never use the skate park (29% from time to time)
- 39% use the BLC at least fortnightly
- 42% use the river (swimming/fishing) from time to time
- 66% never use the Community Resource Centres
- 43% use local trails from time to time

When asked if they had the chance to build, make create or change something in the Shire, these were the top 3 responses:

Shops – clothes/fast food/games 16
 Mountain bike/walk trails 9
 Better gym facilities (fans in courts, 24/7 access) 9

## Youth Friendly Community Plan 2024-2028

The purpose of our Youth Friendly Community Plan is to provide a roadmap to guide Council and Shire staff to work collaboratively with other youth service providers, schools, and community organisations to ensure we make the Shire a great place for young people.

### **Priorities**

Through the results of the Youth Survey and the Youth Service Provider Questionnaire, the following priorities have been identified:

- Flexible physical spaces that provide better recreational and social opportunities, and can adapt to the changing needs and interests of young people
- Mental health and counselling services advocacy and support for providers to ensure the need is met
- **Events and programs** that appeal to non-sporting interests e.g. music, arts and technology
- Inclusivity and accessibility ensuring the lack of transport and other barriers to participation are reduced
- **Resilient, strong young people** creating a supportive, strong and respectful community approach that enables young people to continue to build their resilience, self-esteem, and self confidence

### Areas of focus

Our four key areas of focus are shown in the figure below. For each of these areas, goals, strategies and actions have been developed to ensure we work in partnership with our community to make our Shire a great place for young people to live.

BEING INVOLVED participation

KEEPING ON TRACK

health & wellbeing

PLACES TO BE

outdoors & facilities LEADING THE WAY

engagement & leadership

### **Implementation**

The young people of our community, Youth Services Advisory Committee and service providers will provide important input and direction for the implementation of our plan. Working in partnership will be imperative to its success.

Progress of our plan will be tracked throughout each year with a mid-term review in 2026. Following the release of the latest ABS data in 2027 (from the 2026 census), the youth profile of our community will be updated.

# participation BEING INVOLVED

variety, accessibility, inclusion

To encourage and support young people to actively participate in local groups, clubs, programmes and community activities

Strategy	Action	Deliver	Facilitate	Partner	Advocate
A wide variety of recreational	Support and encourage a range of recreational and social activities that appeal to different interests amongst young people	$\bigcirc$	$\Diamond$		$\bigcirc$
and social activities are	Encourage the delivery of arts, cultural and music experiences specifically designed for young people			$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
available for young people	Provide advocacy and support for existing youth group activities to continue				$\bigcirc$
	Encourage the delivery of STEM opportunities and experiences for young people including technology/coding, animation and photography	$\bigcirc$		$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Activities, events,	Transport options are incorporated into all youth programs delivered by the Shire	$\bigcirc$			
programmes and services	Encourage local clubs and groups to address transport barriers for participants (carpooling, roster, bus) ie education campaign				$\bigcirc$
are accessible to all young	Implement a supervised gym/weights program for young people at the Bridgetown Leisure Centre	$\bigcirc$			
people	Supervised girls only gym/weights program at the Bridgetown Leisure Centre	$\bigcirc$			
	Ensure programs for young people are rotated around locations across the Shire	$\bigcirc$			
Increase awareness and acceptance of diversity in our	Encourage and support events that are welcoming to young people regardless of ability, culture, age or gender			$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
	Access and Inclusion is considered in all aspects of service delivery within the Shire	$\bigcirc$			
young people	The needs of young people with a disability are considered in the planning and delivery of youth events and programs	$\bigcirc$			

- Activities offer opportunities to try different things and to mix with people of different ages, backgrounds and interests
- Most programs are low-cost or free, transport is available, and some activities are held in locations around the Shire
- Young people feel welcome, considered and included in youth activities

## health & wellbeing KEEPING ON TRACK

variety, accessibility, inclusion

To encourage and support young people to actively participate in local groups, clubs, programmes and community activities

Strategy	Action	Deliver	Facilitate	Partner	Advocate
Locally based	Promote and advocate for the presence of youth support				
and/or	services in our community that are aligned with the changing			$\bigcirc$	
outreach	needs of young people				
services and	Outreach services are available for young people within our				
	shire and transport assistance is made available to access			$\bigcirc$	
programmes	services in Bridgetown and Manjimup				
are available in	Collaborate with, and support community groups and				
our Shire for	charities with projects aligned to the goals and strategies of			V	
young people	the Youth Friendly Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan				
	and Strategic Community Plan				
Provide	Work with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage local				
opportunities	businesses to increase work experience opportunities				Ů
to assist young	Investigate a student scholarship scheme to provide funding				
people to	support for young people wanting to participate in a special				
successfully	youth or study program that brings new skills or ideas to the				
•	Shire				
complete	Explore the potential to develop a homework club and/or				
education and	tutoring services at the Bridgetown Library	$igcup_{\mathcal{O}}$	V V	Ů	
move into	Provide annual traineeship positions and work experience				
employment	placements for young people with the Shire	<b>V</b>			
	Promote and support community jobs boards				
				<b>V</b>	
	Promote regional service providers who assist with				
	traineeships, jobs and skill development				
Support	Partner with community groups to organise guest speakers to				
initiatives that	raise awareness on specific issues				
develop	Work with community groups to identify activities that will				
<u> </u>	help young people look after their wellbeing				
confidence,					
self-esteem					
and resilience					

- Young people can access the services and help they need in a timely manner
- Young people are supported in their education to employment transition
- The community supports young people to reach their potential

## hang out spaces PLACES TO BE flexibility

& utilisation

Outdoor spaces and physical places used by young people are fit-for-purpose and resourced based on demonstrated demand

Strategy	Action	Deliver	Facilitate	Partner	Advocate
Community	Provide access to Shire facilities for events including				
spaces and	art/photography exhibitions, short film and music festivals,	$\bigcirc$			
buildings can	specifically showcasing the talents of young people	_			
be adapted to	Seek external funding to provide indoor cricket equipment	$\bigcirc$			
accommodate	and other sporting focus equipment to offer a variety of sporting opportunities at the BLC				
a wide range of	Seek external funding to provide extra storage at the BLC for				
interests and	sporting groups that focus on young people to continue to	$(\checkmark)$			
activities	support the sporting groups' growth	•			
activities					
Encourage	Programs for young people, hosted by the BLC, Library, are				
social and	targeted at all age groups (primary and high school) and	$\bigcirc$		$\langle \vee \rangle$	
recreation	regularly change to encourage ongoing participation				
	Provide arts-based programs and events for young people				
programmes	such as a short film festival, battle of the bands and art mural				
for young	Provide school holiday programs hosted by the BLC and				
people that	Library, including activities for 12-17 year olds	$igcup_{igcup}$			
make the most	Work in partnership with clubs to ensure sporting facilities are				
of our existing	fit for purpose and improved based on need and funding	$\bigcirc$			
facilities	availability				
	Host outdoor and indoor movie nights				

- Community spaces and facilities meet the needs of young people
- Usage of community spaces and facilities are improved

# engagement & leadership LEADING THE WAY

leaders, consult & communicate

Young people are involved in local decision making and provided opportunities to develop strong leadership skills

Strategy	Action	Deliver	Facilitate	Partner	Advocate
Young people	Support young people to attend leadership programs to				
are	develop new skills and capabilities				
encouraged to	Establish a Youth Leadership Team (YLT) to work closely with				
take on	staff to empower young people, fostering a sense of pride and	lacksquare		$\checkmark$	
leadership	ownership within the community	_			
roles in the	Provide resources to support officer time to work with young	$\bigcirc$			
community	people in the YLT to engage with the youth sector to develop				
Community	programs, activities and inform Council decisions  Develop a dedicated Youth Awards program to recognise and				
	celebrate the achievements of young people in our	$(\checkmark)$		$(\checkmark)$	
	community				
	Community				
Encuro	Regularly engage with young people to understand their				1
Ensure young	changing needs and concerns	$(\checkmark)$			
people are	Young people are engaged in the planning and design of local				
regularly	programs for young people				
engaged in	Continue to support the interagency youth groups				
conversations	continue to support the interestation, yearing, outpe	$(\checkmark)$			
and activities	Invite Bridgetown High School's Student Forum group to meet				
that enable	with Shire President, interested Councillors and Shire Officers	$\bigcirc$			
their ideas,	once per term to discuss issues affecting young people in the				
opinions and	community				
need to be					
heard					
	1	ı	1	I	
Information	Maintain a register of current local youth services and				
and promotion	programs, including contact details				
of events,	Create a dedicated youth page on Shire website with links to				
services and	local services/groups, updating as required.				
activities	Consult with young people as the most effective way to				
	communicate 'what's on'				
reaches all					
young people					
living in our					
community					

- The role of young leaders in the community is supported and recognized
- Young people feel they are part of the community and involved in decisions that affect them
- Young people can source up to date, relevant and local information about services and programmes available

## Glossary

BLC	Bridgetown Leisure Centre
ВҮА	Blackwood Youth Advocacy Inc., known as Blackwood Youth Action
Council	Refers to the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes elected Council and Administration.
CRC	Community Resource Centre
MSHS	Manjimup Senior High School
Shire	Refers to the geographic local government area of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
SoBG	Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

## References

ABS, 2021. *Basic Community Profile for Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes* (S)(LGA50840). Based on place of usual residence. Cat. 2001.0. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Commonwealth of Australia

SoBG, 2023-2033. *Strategic Community Plan.* Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes, Bridgetown, Western Australia.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Youth Survey Questions

Appendix 2: Youth Service Provider Questionnaire

Appendix 2: Summary of Youth Service Provider Questionnaires



### Bridgetown-Greenbushes Youth Survey

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes would like to hear about what matters to young people aged 13-18 years, living in our community. By completing this survey, you are letting us know what you think is important and what is not.

July 19 to the second of the s
This information will help us to develop a Youth Plan.
The Youth Plan sets out how the Shire intends to work with you to make our community a great place for young people.
1. If you feel comfortable providing your name please do so below.
All information provided will be treated confidentially. Your name will not be mentioned in any reports or documents arising from this project.
* 2. Where do you live (most of the time)?
<b>\$</b>
* 3. How old are you?
•
* 4. Which statements best describes your current education or employment status? Choose as many as you need to.
I am a student
I work full time
I work part time
I am currently unemployed
I work away from home (how often are you home?)
* 5. Are you still at school? Choose the answer that best describes you.
•

6. How important a				
	Not Important	Important	Very Important	Not sure
Personal safety	O	0	0	0
Education & school	0	0	0	0
Finding a job	O	0	0	0
The environment	0	0	0	0
My mental health	0	0	O	0
Eating healthy	0	0	0	0
Keeping fit		$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
* 8. Do you feel li	ke you are part of	the community?		
Yes, a lot A little bit, or so Not at all  * 9. How well do y community? Very well Only some of the	ome of the time  you think the view  se time	vs and ideas of yo	oung people are hea	ard in this
Yes, a lot A little bit, or so Not at all  * 9. How well do y community? Very well Only some of the	ome of the time  you think the view  the time  a feel about your a	vs and ideas of you	oung people are hea	
Yes, a lot A little bit, or so Not at all  * 9. How well do y community? Very well Only some of th Not at all	ome of the time  you think the view  se time	ability to access to	oung people are hea	Don't know
Yes, a lot A little bit, or so Not at all  * 9. How well do y community? Very well Only some of th Not at all  10. Tell us how you	ome of the time  you think the view  the time  a feel about your a	vs and ideas of you	oung people are hea	
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Yes, a lot A little bit, or so Not at all  * 9. How well do y community? Very well Only some of th Not at all  10. Tell us how you  Education  Employment  Sport	ome of the time  you think the view  the time  a feel about your a	ability to access to	oung people are hea	

Brother / sister				
Friends				
Employer				
Other family				
Neighbor				
Counsellor				
Police				
Internet				
Telephone help l	ine			
Teachers / schoo	ıl			
Blackwood Youth	h Action Inc. (BYA)	)		
I don't know whe	ere to find help			
Someone else (w	7ho?):			
. How often do yo	ou use these fa		re of Bridgetown-Green	nbushes?
	Every day	At least fortnightly	From time to time	
rary				Never
ite Park			$\cup$	Never
			$\circ$	Never
	0	0	0	Never
ntre	0	0	0	Never
dgetown Rec ntre dgetown Pool OP shop	0	0	0	Never  O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O
ntre dgetown Pool OP shop er				Never  O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O
lgetown Pool OP shop er amming/fishing) rts facilities tball, netball				Never
getown Pool  P shop  er mming/fishing)  rts facilities tball, netball				Never  O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O
dgetown Pool  P shop  er  mming/fishing)  rts facilities  tball, netball  enbushes Pool				Never  O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O
getown Pool  P shop  r mming/fishing)  rts facilities tball, netball ) enbushes Pool				Never
ntre dgetown Pool				Never

Alental Health  Culture  Vellbeing  15. Do you know how to access the following?  Mental health upport  Transport  Sports  Lealth & Fitness  Lealth & Fitness	* 14. Where do y	ou find out about the fol	llowing topics	?	
dental Health  dustainability  culture  Vellbeing  15. Do you know how to access the following?  dental health dupport  cransport  dental health dupport  cransport  dental health dupport  cransport dental health dupport  dental health dupport dental h	World issues				
custainability culture  Vellbeing  15. Do you know how to access the following?  Mental health upport  Pransport  Pranspo	Climate				
Alture  Vellbeing  15. Do you know how to access the following?  Mental health upport  Aransport  Aports  Aransport  Aran	Mental Health				
15. Do you know how to access the following?  Mental health upport  Transport  Sports  Health & Fitness  Health & Fitness  Health & Fitness  Health & Shire?  17. If you had the chance to build, make, create or change something in the Shire of	Sustainability				
15. Do you know how to access the following?  Mental health upport  Transport  Transport	Culture				
Mental health upport  Pransport  Pransport  Pronts  Realth & Fitness  Realth & Fitness  Prentrelink  16. What do you think are the most important challenges are for local young people iving in this Shire?	Wellbeing				
Mental health upport  Pransport  Pransport  Pronts  Realth & Fitness  Realth & Fitness  Prentrelink  16. What do you think are the most important challenges are for local young people iving in this Shire?			_		
ransport  ports  dealth & Fitness  dealth & What do you think are the most important challenges are for local young people iving in this Shire?		w how to access the foll	owing?		
Pransport  Sports  Lealth & Fitness  Leantrelink  16. What do you think are the most important challenges are for local young people iving in this Shire?  17. If you had the chance to build, make, create or change something in the Shire of	Mental health support				
It is a second to be	Transport		$\exists$		
Itealth & Fitness  Sentrelink  16. What do you think are the most important challenges are for local young people iving in this Shire?					
Health & Fitness  Centrelink  16. What do you think are the most important challenges are for local young people iving in this Shire?  17. If you had the chance to build, make, create or change something in the Shire of	Sports				
216. What do you think are the most important challenges are for local young people iving in this Shire?  217. If you had the chance to build, make, create or change something in the Shire of	Arts				
16. What do you think are the most important challenges are for local young people iving in this Shire?  17. If you had the chance to build, make, create or change something in the Shire of	Health & Fitness				
17. If you had the chance to build, make, create or change something in the Shire of	Centrelink				
	<b>3</b>				
	-			hange somethir	ng in the Shire of



## SHIRE OF BRIDGETOWN-GREENBUSHES YOUTH ACTION PLAN – DATA COLLECTION

### THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Information gathered as part of this questionnaire will be de-identified where necessary to protect the privacy of individuals. Information about services that is publicly available may be included in our youth action plan.

We recognise that service providers often provide support and services to young people from a wider catchment than just those located in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

For the purposes of this questionnaire, we are particularly interested in the services you provide for, and your observations of, young people in our Shire.

### YOUTH ACTION PLAN – SERVICE PROVIDERS – DATA COLLECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name:						
Organisation:						
Position:						
Phone:						
Email:						
Physical address (of orga	nisation):					
Postal address:						
A little bit about you -						
1. In what sector of the	community are you employed/	volunteering for?				
Public sector	(government)					
Private secto	r (business/industry)					
Not-for-profi	t sector (community service)					
2. How long have you b	een employed/volunteering in	this role in our local c	ommunity?			
Less than 2 years 2 to 5 years						
Over 5 years						
3. As part of this role, h	ow much interaction do you ha	ve with young people	?			
A lot	A moderate amount	A little	None			

4. Please list the services provided by your organisation for young people:					
5. How many young peo	ple from our community d	loes your organisation pro	vide services for?		
Per year	Per month	Per week	Per day		
6. What are the typical a	age groups of young people	e who access your service	?		
Mal	le	Fer	male		
7. How are young people referred to your service or how do they know about your service?					

	What additional things/proassist young people to acc	ogrammes or special considerations have you had to provide to ess your service?				
9. \	What are the top 3 challer	nges/issues facing young people who access your service?				
10.\	What are the barriers for y	young people who need to access your service (but don't or can't)?				
	11. Do you work closely with other organisations involved in providing services / support / programs for young people. If so, in what ways do you work together?					
Orga	nisation	How we work together				

Greenbushes and if so, what are they?
13. When you think about young people from the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, what are some of the real strengths you feel they have?
14. How could the community better support the development of resilience and happiness in young people? What could make our local community more youth-friendly?
15. What other facilities and services would you like in future to assist young people and what is preventing your organisation from providing/operating them?
Service/programme/facility Barriers

ocument/strategy/plan	Are you able to share this document with us for the purposes of this project?
7. Do you have any other comments/feedb	pack?

16. Does your organisation have any specific plans in place to meet the needs of local young people?

## Appendix 3: Summary of Youth Service Provider Questionnaires

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
Bridgetown High School	<ul> <li>Primary role is formal education of young people from years 7-10</li> <li>A wide range of elective subjects, as well as specialist programmes such as SES cadets are offered to attract students</li> <li>Work placement is offered to students who struggle with school and are more suited to early pathways to employment</li> <li>Deliver Resilience Project – aims to improve the mental health of students by providing them with coping strategies</li> <li>School provides access to a school psychologist one day per week, and a school chaplain three days per week (partly funded by the Shire)</li> <li>Youth workers from BYA attend the school two lunchtimes per week and services are provided by ICAMHS, Youth Focus and Accordwest as requested</li> </ul>	Accepting of differences amongst themselves such as gender and neurological diversities	<ul> <li>Students with a poor attendance rate often have poor sleep habits and spend a lot of time on screen, making it challenging to find the motivation to get to school – additionally some parents find it difficult to establish good routines</li> <li>Cyber safety and the appropriate use of technology</li> <li>Mental health and wellbeing – mental health support is always in short supply</li> <li>Food security – lack of funding even with support of Foodbank and local supermarkets makes offering a full-time lunch and breakfast programme for students in need difficult</li> <li>Friendship issues</li> <li>Continued funding for school chaplain</li> </ul>	There is a wide range of services, clubs etc available to suit a wide range of student needs and interests and the majority are catered for. Those in the minority do seem to be marginalised but not sure how this could be tackled. If these individuals don't choose to access what is available, we are not sure how they can be engaged.

### Blackwood Youth Action

- Mental health prevention, early intervention, case management, treatment
- Driver support
- Support groups
- Youth events
- Youth activities
- Op shop service
- Retail training

- Self-reliance our young people | Limited further education in can and have had to learn to adapt to challenges such as limited resources, isolation and economic restraints and have developed problem solving skills and a strong sense of independence
- Work ethic and practical skills rural upbringing can involve exposure to practical skills and work ethic from a young age
- Community pride, a passion and respect for their town
- Creativity

- Bridgetown-Greenbushes
- Belonging/interest lead groups are lacking
- Promotion of our services voung people do not know we are here or what we do
- Waitlists for programmes and services we provide
- Geographical isolation with no public transport services parents work full time or are not supportive
- Small town lack of confidentiality – everyone knows everyone's business
- Stigmas surrounding mental health issues continue to exist
- Community engagement

- Provide Access to Education and Skills Development: Ensure that young people have access to quality education and opportunities for skill development. This could include vocational training, apprenticeships, and programs that prepare them for both local and broader job markets
- Promote Mental Health and Well-being: Establish support networks for mental health services and counseling. Addressing mental health issues early can prevent longterm problems and contribute to overall well-being
- Encourage Community **Engagement: Create** opportunities for young people to participate in community decision-making processes. This involvement helps them feel valued and connected to their community
- Foster Peer Support Networks: Support youth-led initiatives and organisations that allow

	young people to connect with
	peers who share their interests
	and concerns
	Support Entrepreneurship and
	Innovation: Encourage young
	people to pursue
	entrepreneurial ventures by
	providing mentorship, funding
	opportunities, and business
	development resources
	Invest in Transportation
	Infrastructure: Improve
	transportation options within
	and to/from rural areas to
	enhance access to education,
	jobs, and recreational activities
	Combat Social Isolation:
	Address issues of social
	isolation by organising
	community events that bring
	together people of all ages.
	Foster intergenerational
	connections to provide
	mentorship and role models
	for young people
	Advocate for Policy Changes:
	Advocate for policies at local,
	regional, and national levels
	that address rural youth issues,

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
				including healthcare, education funding, and economic development  To be more youth-friendly, rural communities should actively listen to young people's needs and aspirations, involve them in planning processes, and create environments that offer opportunities for growth and fulfillment. Building a supportive and inclusive community ensures that young people feel valued and empowered to contribute positively to their communities now and in the future
Henri Nouwen House Inc	<ul> <li>Henri's offers a 14 Step Support Programme (addiction) which anyone over the age of 18 can attend</li> <li>Henri's has previously run a support programme at Manjimup High School specifically for teens</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Adaptive to the challenges of rural life – it is very different to life in the city and far more complex and restrictive</li> <li>Community awareness – feeling part of something that is bigger than themselves</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Alcohol and drug addiction</li> <li>Social isolation</li> <li>Education and training</li> <li>Lack of transportation/ability to obtain drivers licence</li> <li>Lack of knowledge around the services we provide</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Quality education and vocational training</li> <li>Places and activities where they can meet with peers and build interests, peer groups.</li> <li>Mental health support and support networks</li> </ul>

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
			<ul> <li>Concerns about being the only 'young' person in a support group – not be able to relate or feeling unrelatable to older people</li> <li>Lack of employment and educational opportunities/funding and expertise</li> <li>Lack of activities</li> <li>Lack of emergency accommodation</li> </ul>	Opportunities - in all aspects of life - educational, recreational, employment - all and any would help
Jobs South West Training and Community Services	<ul> <li>The JSW Youth South West Warren Blackwood Program (YSWWB) is based in Manjimup supporting young people aged 12-18 across the Warren Blackwood region. YSW is funded by the Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support.</li> <li>YSWWB provides a holistic case management support service, working from a strength based and empowerment perspective. YSW will work alongside young</li> </ul>	• Determination	<ul> <li>Mental health issues</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Family dysfunction</li> <li>Negative experiences with other support services</li> <li>Intergenerational trauma</li> <li>Lack of accommodation for youth</li> <li>Lack of youth hang out spaces</li> </ul>	Giving young people a say in what's going on in the community, having young voices sitting on local community committees

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
	people to identify personal strengths to enhance their resilience and build capacity.			
Kearnan College – Pastoral Care	<ul> <li>Catholic College from kindergarten to year 12</li> <li>Educational facility</li> <li>Support services</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Understanding of community and willing to give back to it</li> <li>Appreciate nature and our farming world</li> <li>Creative and athletic</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Availability to Dr's - even though we provide appts here at the college, waiting lists are long for initial consultation for any extra services</li> <li>Specialist appointments - waiting time and travel</li> <li>Keeping counselling services regular from our community health professionals whilst not burning them out</li> <li>Significant increase in ADHD diagnosis with medication administration but no follow up psychology or support locally for parents and child</li> <li>Special needs support for ASD teenagers - support groups specifically facilitating social skills and connection</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continuing to provide sporting and community groups that young people can belong to</li> <li>Educating our young parents around the risk of phone and tech use from an early age and the effects this is having on the mental health of our children</li> </ul>
Bridgetown Leisure Centre	<ul> <li>Pool and swimming lessons</li> <li>Pickleball, volleyball, indoor soccer, badminton</li> </ul>	•	<ul> <li>Limited space including general areas for sitting and socializing</li> <li>Economic barriers</li> </ul>	Improve of the variety of sports and services added – such as Indoor cricket

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
	<ul><li> Group fitness</li><li> Gymnasium</li></ul>		Lack of Transportation	Increase social opportunities – gaming groups, etc
Bridgetown	<ul> <li>Access to resources and information, fiction books, games and puzzles</li> <li>Activities promoting literacy, including workshops, STEM kits</li> <li>Access to digital technology and electronic sources</li> <li>A place to meet with other youth and study alone or in groups</li> </ul>	Majority of youth are responsible, kind and willing to help others	<ul> <li>Literacy – youth who have reading difficulties can find it difficult and embarrassing to access resources that could help them to improve</li> <li>Negative connotations – embarrassment or peer pressure – eg: not cool to be a reader or to be seen at the library</li> <li>Time restraints. Youth may have other after school activities, hobbies or assignments that prevent them from accessing the library</li> <li>Transportation/remote living area. The library can be difficult to access for those living outside of the town centre, especially for youth who are unable to drive and do not have access to public transportation</li> <li>Access to internet/devices. Additionally, residents living</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The schools now incorporate resilience programs. I think we should ensure that the homeschooling community also has access to these resources and promote them to parents and members of the community as well</li> <li>We may need to find additional ways to positively reinforce good behaviours and attitudes in people from all ages. E.g. anonymous recognition praising the good things, and/or useful rewards such as a local shopping reward voucher</li> </ul>

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
			outside of the town centre may not have reliable access to internet and/or digital devices at home  • Lack of resources, staff and equipment for coding and STEM programs	
ICAMHS	<ul> <li>Mental Health Assessments</li> <li>Psychiatric diagnosis and medication reviews</li> <li>Short term therapies</li> </ul>	Friendly     Community minded	<ul> <li>Youth experiencing anxiety, depression, suicide and self-harm</li> <li>School refusal</li> <li>Lack of child psychologists in the Bridgetown-Greenbushes area to refer to</li> <li>Lack of step-down facilities to refer to after acute crisis is over</li> <li>Lack of transport for appointments</li> </ul>	Increase/create groups for youth such as PCYC
Dr Sarah Youngson – Bridgetown Medical and Blackwood Youth Action	General medical care for young people including:  • management of mental illness (including anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, personality disorders etc)	<ul> <li>A community that really cares about them</li> <li>A range of services that collaborate and work effectively together</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fears of confidentiality being broken, including their parents/caregivers knowing about their attendance</li> <li>Concerns re cost; being able to access the service if not living in town</li> <li>Anxiety</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>More opportunities for intergenerational engagement eg. young people visiting Geegelup</li> <li>More opportunities/support encouragement for young people to volunteer</li> </ul>

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
	<ul> <li>sexual health (including STIs, contraception)</li> <li>skin problems; family and other relationships.</li> </ul>		• Depression • Stress	<ul> <li>Greater understanding in the adult population of the myriad of challenges that face young people today (education sessions, workshops, speakers)</li> <li>Employment and training opportunities</li> <li>Alternative school/education opportunities for non-school attenders</li> <li>Additional funded psychology services</li> </ul>
Accordwest (Bunbury based outreach service)	<ul> <li>Youth Homelessness Support         Service</li> <li>We provide homelessness         support to young people         between the ages of 16-25. Case         management supports are         provided to both         accommodated and         unaccommodated young people         presenting as homeless, or at         risk of homelessness across the         South West with provision of in         person supports restricted to</li> </ul>	We don't have a clear enough picture on what is happening for young people in the Shire at this time	<ul> <li>Youth experiencing a variety of issues such as mental health, drug and alcohol, family domestic violence and relationship issues</li> <li>Service capacity - current funding for the Youth Services described in this response is for the South West Region. The need within communities out way the capacity of services. We are consistently advocating for more supports and understanding and providing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>An increased focus on prevention to minimise occurrences of homelessness and mental health</li> <li>Education for community organisations in understanding and supporting young people impacted by mental health, FDV/family breakdown, AOD misuse and housing stress</li> </ul>

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
	Bunbury and accommodated		evidence of that needs supports	
	young people in Busselton		these efforts	
	• Our Youth Crisis Facility,		• Location: Linked to the above.	
	Bunyap, can accommodate up		Increasing levels of support in	
	to six (6) young people at any		the Shire would allow us to	
	one time. This is open to young		record and demonstrate need,	
	people throughout the South		and would increase service	
	West is they are willing to		awareness with this cohort	
	relocate and engage with			
	supports that will see them			
	secure long term and safe			
	accommodation.			
	• Reconnect - The aim of			
	Reconnect is to prevent and			
	reduce youth homelessness by			
	offering an early intervention			
	service to young people that can			
	help stabilise and improve their			
	housing situation and their level			
	of engagement with family,			
	education, training,			
	employment, and their local			
	community. This service is open			
	to young people aged 12-18.			
	Supports are provided through			
	Counselling and Family Capacity			
	Building, Group based programs			

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
	or workshops, skill building support with basic life skills, advocacy and awareness			
Bridgetown Junior Football Club	Junior Footy for all ages from Pre Primary Auskick through to year 9	<ul> <li>Good sense of community</li> <li>Making the best of the facilities that we have</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Transport to and from games and training for some kids which we try to form parent groups to help with that</li> <li>Confidence to come along and play a new sport that they might not have played before</li> <li>The perception that you must be be 'able' to play footy, all kids are welcome to join at any any age and learn</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increase in facilities for young people for any activity whether it be social or sporting is the key</li> <li>Some contact between the shire and sporting clubs would be very helpful. Maybe a regular meeting between leaders of local sports clubs and the shire would give an opportunity for volunteers to explain what is happening at grass roots level and what clubs need to continue into the future and be successful</li> </ul>
Bridgetown Basketball Club	<ul> <li>In school Terms 4 and 1:</li> <li>Aussie Hoops program for 6 and 7 year olds; a fun introduction to basketball</li> <li>Fledglings basketball program for 8 and 9 year olds; fun introduction to full court games</li> </ul>	They are generally less     encumbered by social stigma     than the city kids we see from     bigger associations. For     example, our kids are less     concerned about their     appearance and more about	<ul> <li>Anxiety and/or spectrum disorders whereby they are too overwhelmed with the crowd/noise to join in.</li> <li>Unstable home situation</li> <li>It's really just cost (though we are one of the least expensive basketball associations in the</li> </ul>	We take our role providing mental health through physical health seriously and we know we have made a difference in many lives. However, because the Leisure Centre will not allow us (BBA) or netball (BNA) to make use of the canteen

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
	<ul> <li>U12s, U14s, and U16s         basketball competition</li> <li>'Seniors' league for 16+</li> <li>Firetails representative         basketball program; teams         travel and play other towns         both in the southwest and in         Perth</li> <li>During winter - Skills         Development Program for ages         9 to 17</li> </ul>	having fun than larger towns or cities  • Friendship groups span multiple ages, compared to bigger towns/cities where they are restricted to same age  • They are exposed to more real situations and often mature faster and/or build resilience. For example, kids on a farm being exposed to dying stock	state, having done everything we can to keep costs down and thus accessible to all). This is particularly so if they have an unstable home situation and have to fend for themselves. For those kids, programs such as Kidsport won't be accessed either.  • We are pretty much at the maximum number of children we can reach because of diminishing court availability at the leisure centre. This looks set to only worsen as additional sports (indoor cricket) are added to the offerings. Not a criticism of having these options, but the council needs to recognise that space restrictions are now preventing growth	facilities and/or conduct regular events like a regular simple sausage sizzle, we are unable to generate a 'club' like atmosphere and our dealings  • with the community are transactional  • If we had use of a facility like the Blackwood United Soccer or Bridgetown Football club do, we could improve the feeling of belonging to a family  • For example, keep the outdoor pool area open later on Thursdays over our season, so that we can use the space as a club, socialise, and build bonds
Bridgetown Police	<ul> <li>Dealing with juvenile offenders and their parents</li> <li>In partnership with RoadWise, preparing and running Mystery</li> </ul>	In general, and compared to other towns and metro area, our young are extremely well behaved. Some of the issues we	<ul><li>Road safety</li><li>Minor criminal offences</li><li>Mental health issues</li></ul>	More activities and support

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
	Tour of Life (annual road safety event)  • Liaising with staff and students at primary and high school regarding crime, road safety and other issues  • Dealing with young people suffering from mental health crisis	see in the Shire which are deemed serious would not rate a mention in most other places	<ul> <li>Young people often feel nervous or not confident about approaching police officers</li> <li>There doesn't seem to be a lot of obvious investment in services or activities for youth. Whilst they have the skate parks and pool there is an expectation most towns will have these facilities</li> <li>There needs to be CCTV at the skate park to ensure youths that use the facility do not commit crime, and if they do know they will be apprehended</li> </ul>	

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
Actsintuitively Australia Ltd	Provide mental health counselling services for ages 6 to adult	All youth have individual strengths and involving them in input in decision making can assist with better outcomes	<ul> <li>Transport,</li> <li>Lack of understanding of the benefits</li> <li>Time pressures</li> <li>Feeling that their privacy and confidentiality will be breached</li> <li>Family and domestic violence</li> <li>Fearing involvement of Government agencies</li> <li>Stigma</li> <li>Fear of being pathologized</li> <li>Risk of suicide</li> <li>Lack of accommodation</li> <li>Financial hardship</li> <li>School refusal</li> <li>Lack of available social support</li> </ul>	Involving youth in projects in the community that would assist youth

Organisation	Primary services for young people	Key strengths of youth identified	Key barriers and challenges identified	Key suggestions to making our community more youth friendly
YouthCARE (MSHS Chaplain)	<ul> <li>General Support</li> <li>Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support and Referrals.</li> <li>Support to navigate school when required.</li> <li>Assistance with Centrelink, TFN, Bank Account, Birth certificate when required.</li> <li>Toastie for breakfast at Breakfast Club</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Strong Community</li> <li>BYA support</li> <li>Peer Relationships</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Mental Health</li> <li>Family Conflict</li> <li>Peer Relationships</li> <li>Possibly stigma and friends asking where they are in class</li> </ul>	Older young people talking to younger young people about the good choices they've made, and how great upper school is at MSHS, even though the transition to a bigger school is daunting.