

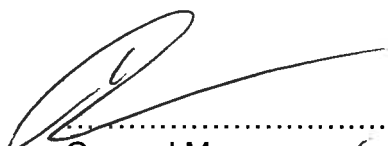


Glen Innes Severn Council Youth Strategy 2021-2025

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 General Manager (Interim)

.....
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Glen Innes Severn Council

Youth Strategy

2021 - 2025



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Respect, Integrity, Courage, Honesty, Transparency Glen Innes Severn Council Values



Glen Innes Severn Council along with Murphy Access Consultants acknowledges and pays respect to the Ngoorabul people and their Elders, both past, present and emerging, as the traditional custodians of this land.

Disclaimer:

While every care has been taken by Murphy Access Consultants in preparing the Glen Innes Severn Council Youth Strategy 2021-2025, Murphy Access Consultants does not accept responsibility or liability for the results of specific actions taken on the basis of this information nor for any errors or omissions.

Introduction

The Youth Strategy 2021-2025 has been developed after consulting with the Glen Innes Severn community having a particular emphasis on developing the thoughts and ideas of young people. The actions contained within the Strategy are designed to provide the framework for Council and community to guide and assist young people during the next four (4) years to reach their goals. The journey towards 2025 with young people will build on self-awareness, self-esteem and resilience and increasing our young people's quality and enjoyment of life.

Young people are an integral part of any community. They bring with them different perspectives, new ideas and a vibrancy for life that can be lost as we age. Glen Innes Severn Council acknowledges that young people play a pivotal role in making the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area a vibrant, confident, and inclusive community. Indeed, it is young people who will determine the future prosperity of our communities.

The Glen Innes Severn Council Youth Strategy 2021-2025 reaffirms Council's commitment with the community to provide young people with the supports they require as they transition along the sometimes-difficult path to adulthood. The Strategy provides a vision for young people to grow up in a safe, happy, and healthy community which is supportive of changing needs, encourages resilience by promoting self-esteem, and provides opportunities to advance their life skills whilst making safe, sensible decisions for themselves.

“Indeed, it is young people who will determine the future prosperity of the Glen Innes Severn area.”

How this Strategy was developed

The Glen Innes Severn Council Youth Strategy 2021-2025 was developed by reviewing relevant Glen Innes Severn Council Strategies and Plans along with relevant International, Federal, and State policy and plans (see reference list). Census, Remplan and Population Projection data were also reviewed.

Consultation was undertaken to gain the opinions of those aged between 12 and 24 years on what they consider important elements of their lives, what they contribute to the community and what actions they would like to see Council implement.

Consultation was undertaken with parents, carers, teachers, Elders, and employers to get their thoughts on what they felt young people contributed to the community and what can be done to better assist young people.

Service Providers were consulted to undertake a service analysis to gain a solid understanding of the current met and unmet needs and to obtain knowledge from their point of view and to incorporate that into relevant actions.

Eight face to face consultation sessions were held in November 2020 with a total of 58 people attending.

236 online surveys were completed, 189 of those were by young people aged 12-24, this being 16% of the population.

While consultation was targeted to ensure as many people as possible could have their say. The survey was also available online through Council's website and Social Media accounts, promoted through school newsletter and social media accounts.

Actions have been developed for Council to implement over the coming four (4) years. These actions were developed based on the information gathered through both the community and service provider consultation in conjunction with various Council departments. Actions will require partnerships with young people, local service providers and the wider community to get the best possible results out of each action.

Purpose of this Strategy

The Glen Innes Youth Strategy 2021-2025 provides clear strategic direction and actions that meet the identified needs and wants of young people living in the LGA.

The Youth Strategic Plan seeks to:

- Provide Council with actions they can implement between 2021-2025 based on the input from young people and the wider community as well as research on best practice ideals.
- Provide the community with relevant information that helps to guide programs, events, employment opportunities, that engage young people.
- Aid in advocating for best-practice support and services to be delivered to young people in Glen Innes Severn LGA.
- Ensure that young people are actively engaged, that they are empowered to participate in community life and that the community is responsive to their needs.
- Provide evidence for relevant grant applications made by both Council and the wider Community.





About Glen Innes

Glen Innes Highlands is located on Ngoorabul land and is comprised of the township of Glen Innes, the villages of Glencoe, Red Range, Deepwater and Emmaville and the hamlets of Wellingrove, Wyaliba, Dundee and Glen Elgin.

Glen Innes and surrounding areas are located within the New England Area, surrounded by natural beauty. Young people said that the things they liked best about Glen Innes Severn was its small-town size, the quiet, peaceful nature of the area as well as the people and the community vibe.

The people of Glen Innes have had a difficult two (2) years (2019/2020) experiencing devastating drought, bushfires, floods, and Covid-19. The recovery effort from the fires are continuing and there is a community focus on resilience. There is however, a powerful hope for the future and a strong sense of community that was evident in the consultation.

Ngoorabul

The Ngoorabul people are the traditional owners of the Glen Innes Highlands area. The Ngoorabul people are a proud nation, they know that young people are the future and play an important role in learning and promoting their culture. Through connections to their Land and Culture young Indigenous people can increase their confidence, feel empowered to demand change and to be positive leaders within their community.



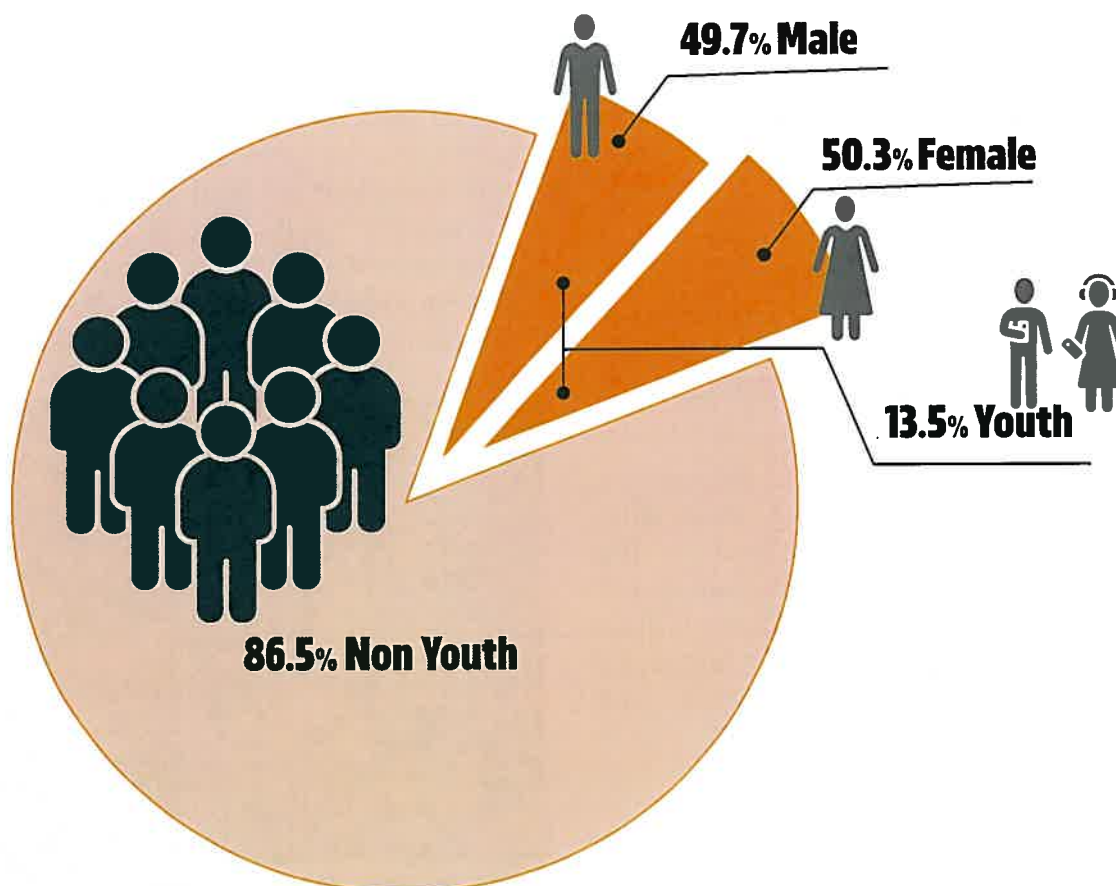
Glen Innes Severn Council

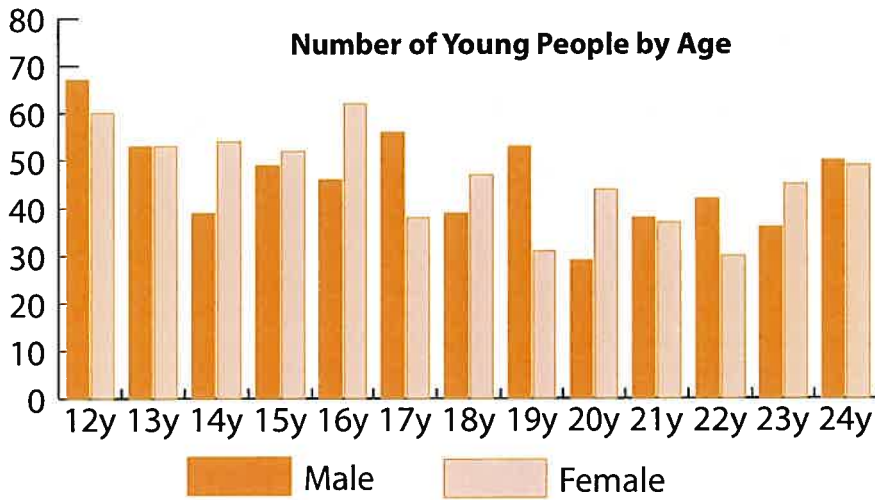
Glen Innes Severn Council's vision is to have a vibrant, confident, and inclusive community supported by a sustainable and prosperous economy underpinned by a well-maintained road network. Glen Innes Severn Council acknowledges that young people are innovative, creative, energetic, capable agents of change – no matter what their background and play an essential part in ensuring Glen Innes is a vibrant, confident, and inclusive community. As such Council has set out to develop this Strategy to ensure its resources are directed at the facilities and services that young people and the community have asked for.

The Glen Innes Youth Strategy 2021-2025 will feed into the Glen Innes Community Strategic Plan and flow through to the Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan and Budget.

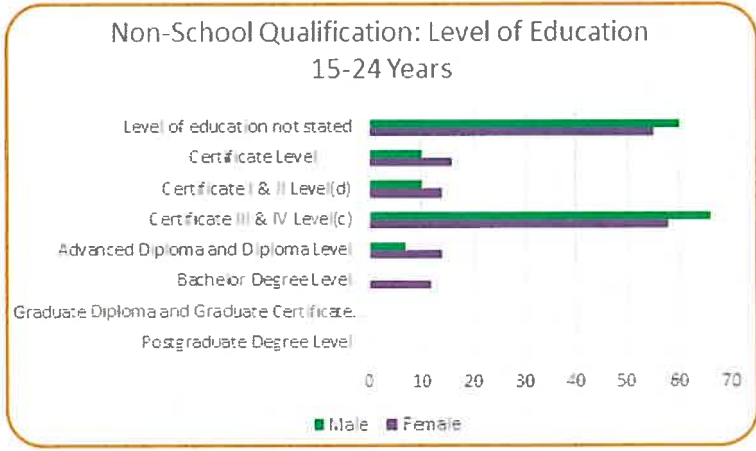
Youth Demographics

The population of Glen Innes was 8,849 people on the 2016 census night. Of that number, 1,199 were aged between 12 and 24 years. Which means that 13.5% of the total population is deemed as 'Youth'. Of that percentage, 51% are female and 49% are male.





25% of the Aboriginal Population of Glen Innes are aged 10-24 years.



Of the people employed in Glen Innes, 13% are aged between 15 and 24 years. Females are primarily in sales and Community and Personal Services; and males are employed as technicians, tradies or labourers.



Consultation

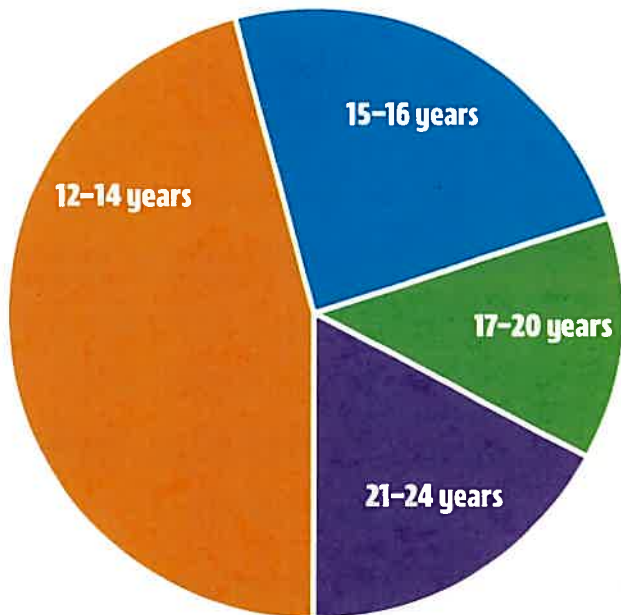
Almost 300 people participated in the consultation process. Consultation took place via a number of methods including face-to-face interviews, surveys, email and phone consultation. Face-to-face consultation was held in both Glen Innes and Emmaville. Three (3) surveys were developed; the first was aimed at young people aged 12-24 years, the second was aimed at parents, carers, teachers, elders and employers of young people. The third was aimed at service providers. The service provider survey allowed us to look at the current needs that are being met; identify any gaps in service; and to identify any potential partnership actions.

A snapshot of the consultation data is below. For more details refer to Appendix 1.

Youth Survey

Who completed the Youth Survey

Number of Responses by Age

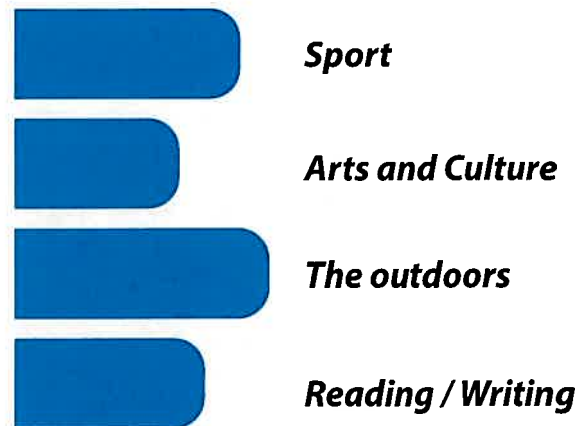


26 respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

21 respondents identified as LGBTQ+

7 respondents identified as having a disability

What Young People Enjoy!



What's their plan?



Mental Health

29 respondents said their mental health was not good, but they kept it to themselves

19 respondents said they had a diagnosed mental health condition

100 young people said they had good mental health

When asked how big a problem mental health was for young people, they replied ...

52% of respondents said it's a really big problem and we need more help and support

7% of respondents said it's not a problem at all



Technology

71% of respondents have their own mobile phone

90% of respondents have access to the internet and a relevant device at home

32 respondents know that using technology is affecting their mental health

33 respondents have been bullied online

28 respondents have accessed content online their parents wouldn't approve of

23 respondents have been asked for, or have received without asking for, inappropriate pictures of themselves or others

Sport and Culture Participation

82 respondents play sport

24 respondents participate in cultural activities



Best thing about being young ...

30 respondents said having less stress and responsibilities, especially around finances

15 respondents said having good physical health and the ability to play sport (without 'creaky bones!')

14 respondents said their freedom and independence



Best thing about Glen Innes ...

30 respondents said being a small town with good people

15 respondents said their family and friends

Priority Areas for Council from the Youth Survey

Respondants to the Youth Survey were asked to identify three (3) priority areas for Council to focus on. Collated results are shown below:

Priority Area	Respondants
Mental health	67
Better employment options	44
Better sporting facilities	43
Education support	34
Recreation opportunities	28
Fitness and sporting opportunities	27
Driver education	25
Domestic violence support	21
Reducing bullying	21
Drug and alcohol education	20
Life skill programs	20
Valuing young people	20
Transport	16
Arts and cultural activities and events	15
Youth Booth	15
Other	6

When asked what, specifically, they would like Council to focus on, in their own words they replied:

**25 respondents said a BMX/
Mountain bike track**

**9 respondents said upgrades to the
skatepark**

**10 respondents said various forms
of motorsport facilities**

**11 respondents mentioned various
recreation options including laser
tag, paintball, trampoline park or
bowling**





Community Survey

The Community Survey was aimed at parents, carers, family members, elders, teachers, coaches and employers.

32 people completed the survey; of those six (6) identified themselves as Aboriginal.

What we were told

Young people's greatest contribution to the community is their creative ideas and their energy.

Twelve people felt there were enough sport and cultural activities, while 18 think there is a need for more sport and cultural activities, especially cultural.

82% of respondents feel there are not enough employment opportunities for young people.

Other key points were:

- 97% think Mental Health is an issue for young people
- 42% think the most positive thing about technology is the ability to stay connected
- 29% see bullying as the biggest negative to technology followed by 20% overuse, 18% social media.

The top three (3) areas of focus for Council:

1. Mental Health;
2. Life Skills Programs; and
3. Employment Opportunities.

Key Themes

Mental Health

Mental Health was identified as a significant issue for young people (93% of people consulted). Research shows over 75% of mental health issues occur before the age of 25, while suicide continues to cause the largest loss of life of young people in Australia (Beyond Blue).

The Australian Government, through its National Mental Health Strategy - Mental Health of Young People in Australia report, found only one out of every four young persons with mental health problems receives professional help. We also know from the survey that 29 of the young people surveyed said they suffer from mental health issues but keep it to themselves.

A holistic approach is needed to combat mental health issues in young people encompassing both access to mental health services as well as non-medical assistance, including but not limited to:

- Ensuring young people and their families know the value of being active and playing sport, eating healthy food, getting enough sleep.
- Helping young people to become more resilient by teaching problem-solving and interpersonal skills, managing emotions and education on coping mechanisms they can turn to when things get a bit tough.
- Providing supportive environments in the family, at school and in the wider community.

Mental health issues are also more likely to occur in young people who have experienced any of the following:

- Poverty
- Abuse or violence
- Sexual identity that is different from those around them
- Bullying (verbal, physical and cyberbullying)
- Sexual abuse
- Young people who have chronic illness, autism spectrum disorder, an intellectual disability or other neurological condition.

Putting actions in place that either reduce exposure to these areas or help young people navigate through them with respect and support, will assist in reducing the level of mental health issues facing young people in Glen Innes.

Employment

Employment opportunities in Glen Innes are limited compared to other areas of NSW. 17% of young people looking for work are unemployed, for Aboriginal young people its 20% compared to 11.7% for NSW. For those young people employed in Glen Innes 48% are employed full time (Census 2016). The feedback received through the consultation is that there just are not enough opportunities for young people to not only get into the workforce, but to have career opportunities that would see them stay in the area.

Added to that, the current median weekly personal income in Glen Innes is \$481 compared to \$664 in NSW and \$662 in Australia thus reducing the incentive further to stay in Glen Innes after finalising their education.

For Glen Innes Severn Council the population growth predictor has the Glen Innes population reducing by 2,350 people between 2016 and 2041. The number of working aged population (aged 15-64) is estimated to decrease from 5,100 people in 2016 to 3,200 people in 2041 – a change of 1,900 people (Glen Innes Severn Council 2019 NSW Population Projections). However, it has been reported by Council that the 'Fit for the Future' analysis has demonstrated that Glen Innes Severn LGA has a stable population and so the reduction in population may not be as drastic as the projections suggest. With that in mind, it is always best to aim for population growth to expand business and industry opportunities.

As such, working with local business, industry and young people to improve and expand upon

opportunities will be a key priority area for Council in order to meet, not only the needs of young people, but that of the wider community. The Glen Innes Economic Strategy, PLACE Strategy 2020-2040 and the PLACE Action Plan 2020-25 will provide actions and funding to provide those opportunities.

A key element of action, as identified in both the Glen Innes Economic Strategy, PLACE Strategy 2020-2040 and the PLACE Action Plan 2020-25, are employment opportunities and growth through creating a community that young people will want to return to, once they have left Glen Innes for further study or carer advancement. Creating a town whereby new businesses are encouraged, where working remotely allows you to get the 'best of both worlds' and where other social elements create a town people wish to return to, to raise families or settle down, create employment opportunities and population growth in the long term.

Technology

Technology is a wonderful resource for young people.

It provides assistance with education, ability to look up general knowledge, apply for jobs, learn new things, stay connected with friends and family, aid in forming their identity, linking in with diverse communities they may not have access to locally and entertainment. Young people did acknowledge that there are some negative impacts on using technology including cyberbullying, trolling, isolation, accessing inappropriate material, inappropriate relationships and overuse.

Research shows that the things that help young people have a positive experience online are:

- having a good understanding of the internet and how online media work (including things like privacy settings)
- having the skills to critically understand, analyses and create content that adds value for themselves and others.

If young people understand what it means to be a good 'digital citizen', then trust should be given to them to manage their own internet use, just as trust is given to act responsibly when they are at school and out with friends.

<https://parents.au.reachout.com/skills-to-build/wellbeing/technology-and-teenagers>



Safe Place

Having a safe place for young people was identified across all three (3) target groups. A safe place was considered as somewhere young people could go for recreation in a safe environment. However, both young people and the wider community identified that they wanted a safe place for young people who may wish to delay going home, due to a less than ideal family situation. Having a place where young people can relax, feel welcome and valued with the opportunity to learn new things was a priority based on the community consultation.

Life Skills

Life skills was another priority area from the perspective of young people and the wider community. Young people identified that there was a gap between formal education and the skills they will need once they finish school. Life skills such as driver education, resume writing, cooking skills and vehicle maintenance were noted throughout the consultation process.

Sport and Recreation

Young people identified that they would like access to either improved sport and recreation facilities or new facilities. The two (2) key recreation activities identified were a new BMX track; and improvements to the Skatepark.

Others wanted Council to encourage new businesses to set up in the area to provide recreation and sporting opportunities in the areas

of motorsport, laser tag, paintball, and a trampoline park. They also identified outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and fishing that they would like to participate in.

For young people access to sport and recreation can be difficult if barriers such as access to transport or the cost involved in equipment/travel etc are an issue. As such, just providing more may not be the answer if there are other barriers in place.

For young people aged 18-24, it was identified that the key recreation/social space is the pubs. Providing predominately social space where alcohol is the key activity is not ideal. As such working with young people aged over 18 to provide recreational activities to meet their needs would be a positive step in providing a variety of recreation options and potentially reducing the use of drugs and alcohol and any associated violence that may occur as well as drink driving.

The actions on the following pages will address the key themes from the Consultation as well as other relevant identified actions, that were raised to meet identified needs through the consultation and research elements of the strategy.

Action Plan

Action	Time (year to start)	Responsibility	Funding
Promote public awareness of domestic violence including where to go for assistance and access to a safe place.	Annually	Manager of Community Services (MCS)	NA
Establish a Youth Services 'Interagency' to promote collaboration, networking opportunities and promote awareness of available services.	2021	Coordinator Children, Youth and Family Services (CCYFS)	OP Budget
Partner with local sporting groups to promote youth access to indoor sporting facilities.	2021	CCYFS	NA
Promote safe and inclusive activities and programs for all youth demographics including LGBTQ+.	2021	CCYFS	NA
Advocate for a Young Volunteer Award at Australia Day Award Ceremonies.	2021	MCS	NA
Reference the consultation data, collected as part of the development of the Youth Strategy for future Council strategic plans.	2021/22	MCS	OP Budget
Support local Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) programs.	Annually	MCS	NA
Where possible, provide transport options to surrounding villages for youth events and programs.	Annually	Youth Worker (YW)	Grant funding OP Budget
Promote community volunteer and work experience opportunities across Council Departments and at the Youth Booth. Work with local businesses, schools, and Council to provide work experience opportunities	Annually	YW	OP Budget
Promote the Youth Booth as a safe place for young people to attend.	Annually	YW	OP Budget
Utilise the quarterly resident newsletter where applicable to promote the Youth Booth and change the stereotype of what happens there.	Annually	MCS	OP Budget
Identify the most effective ways for Council to communicate and connect with young people, their families, schools, and adapt Council's communication channels and methods accordingly.	Annually	YW	OP Budget
Consult outlying communities to facilitate improved access to programs and activities for their youth population.	Annually	YW	OP Budget
Advertise Council traineeship and/or apprenticeship programs for young people as they become available.	Annually	YW	Government Funding OP Budget

Action Plan (cont)

Action	Time (year to start)	Responsibility	Funding
Through consultation with relevant stakeholders investigate programs that help learner drivers to get the required number of driving hours to progress to their P1 licence. Investigate opportunities via Grant Funding to provide driving lessons from a suitably qualified driving instructor.	2022	YW	Government Funding OP Budget
Create a social media strategy with a focus on interacting with young people.	2022	CCYFS	OP Budget
Consider the promotion of staff profiles in newsletters and social media with a focus on young people ATSI, and those with specific/interesting skills. To increase awareness of the types of opportunities in employment and that GISC celebrates diversity.	2022	MCS	OP Budget
Through consultation with the local Aboriginal Land Council, advocate for a program that allows aboriginal young people to go out to Country with Elders to increase awareness of heritage and cultural values.	2022	MCS	Grant Funding
Consult with the local Aboriginal Land Council and advocate for a program that promotes communication between aboriginal elders and youth to raise awareness and understanding of aboriginal heritage and cultural values.	2022	MCS	Grant Funding
Deliver a range of opportunities to showcase the creative work of young people, including young artists. Showcase at Family Picnic Days, Youth Week and NAIDOC events as well as permanent public art works.	2022	CCYFS	OP Budget Grant Funding
Encourage young people to take the initiative in waste reduction, potentially using ideas from Clean Up Australia.	2022	CCYFS	OP Budget Grant Funding
Write a letter to local recreation and sporting groups such as Fishing Clubs and the Motor Sport Club, to advocate for the promotion and expansion of recreation opportunities for young people within the LGA.	2022	MCS	OP Budget Grant Funding
Advocate for grant funding to facilitate additional elements to the skate park involving interested young people in the design.	2022	CCYFS	OP Budget Grant Funding
Advocate for the development of a BMX track involving interested young people in the design.	2022	MCS	NA
Through consultation with relevant stakeholders, implement a Youth Booth program that teaches "Being a good Digital Citizen". With the aim being to improve online security, understanding of rights and responsibilities when online and reducing cyber bullying.	2022	YW	OP Budget Grant Funding

Action Plan (cont)

Action	Time (year to start)	Responsibility	Funding
Investigate establishing financial assistance programs (potentially in partnership with service organisations) that help young people who may need access to additional equipment such as uniforms, shoes and transport costs to increase their participation in physical activities.	2022	YW	Grant Funding
Consult with relevant community groups to engage young aboriginal people and a local aboriginal artist to complete a painting at the Youth Booth.	2022	YW	OP Budget
Work with local Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) to implement a program around 'Safe Partying' that addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Drink-spiking ■ Violence ■ Safe sex ■ Drug and alcohol overdoses ■ Safe operation of a motor vehicle – including being a responsible passenger 	2022	MCS	OP Budget Grant Funding
Investigate the demand for establishing a support group for young carers. If community demand is identified - advocate for the establishment of a young carers group within the community.	2022	CCYFS	OP Budget
Liaise with local schools to establish a bi-annual careers day. Promoting not only Council employment opportunities but opportunities to establish business in the area. Planting the seed for young people to return to live and work in the area.	2022 & 2024	CCYFS	OP Budget Grant Funding

Action Plan (cont)

Action	Time (year to start)	Responsibility	Funding
Encourage local investment in recreation opportunities for young people aged 18 to 24 to provide alternative social opportunities that do not involve alcohol.	2023	MCS	NA
Consider adding play equipment and art works to make the space around the skate park not only a family friendly space, but also a community hub area.	2023	MCS	Grant Funding OP Budget
Consider relevant programs that encourage intergenerational connections e.g. adopt a grandparent program.	Annually	CCYFS	OP Budget
Work with young people and relevant stakeholders to hold Youth Week events.	Annually	CCYFS	Grant Funding OP Budget
Encourage young people to get involved in Family Picnic Day events. Utilise Family Picnic Day events to have elements of youth focus such as displaying youth artwork, young aboriginal dance groups, musicians etc.	Annually	CCYFS	OP Budget
Establish a regular program of activities to engage young people both at the Youth Booth and within the community. Programs to include life skills such as resume writing, applying for a tax file number, basic vehicle maintenance, cooking, and recreational activities.	Annually	CCYFS	OP Budget Grant Funding

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics – 2016 Census Community Profile Glen Innes LGA

Beyond Blue - www.beyondblue.org.au

Black Dog Institute - www.blackdoginstitute.org.au

Clean Up Australia - www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au

Glen Innes Severn Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027

Glen Innes Severn Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017/2021

Glen Innes Severn Cultural Plan 2017 - 2021

Glen Innes Severn Delivery Plan 2017-2021

Glen Innes Severn Engagement Strategy

Glen Innes Severn Operational Plan and Budget 2020-2021

Glen Innes Sporting Facilities Review and Master Plans June 2018

National Mental Health Strategy -Mental Health of Young People in Australia- October 2020

NSW Government - Get Healthy NSW - www.gethealthynsw.com.au

NSW Government - Glen Innes Severn Council 2019 NSW Population Projections

NSW Government – Youth NSW- <https://www.youth.nsw.gov.au>

Reach Out - <https://parents.au.reachout.com/skills-to-build/wellbeing/technology-and-teenagers>

Reach Out – Safe Partying – www.tuneinnotout.com

Remplan – Glen Innes Highlands

World Health Organisation - Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020

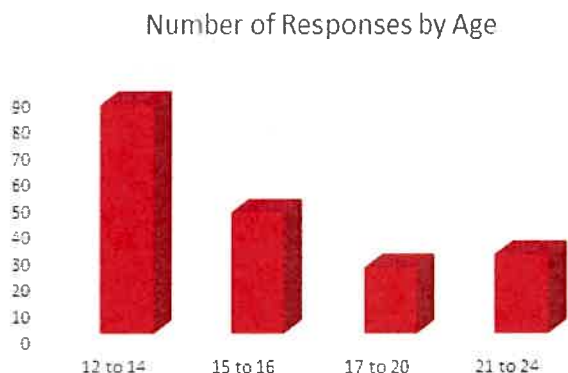
World Health Organisation - www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-mental-health

Appendix 1 – Detailed Data from Consultation

Survey 1 – Youth Consultation

Who completed the youth survey

189 young people completed the youth survey.



Age	Responses
12-14 years	87
15-16 years	46
17-18 years	21
19-20 years	5
21-22 years	11
23-24 years	19

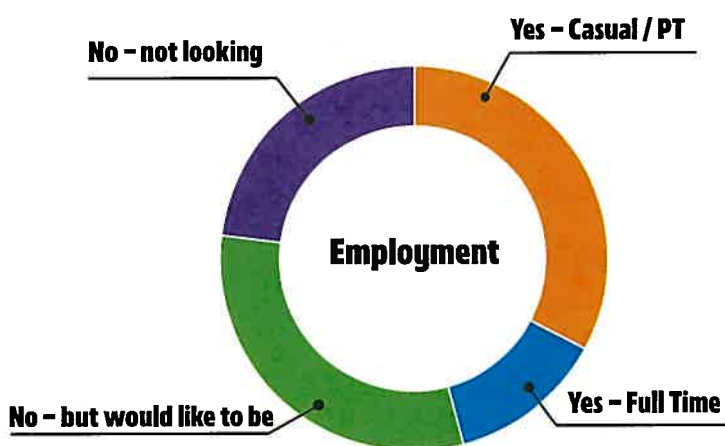
- 26 identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 21 identified as LGBTQ+
- 7 identified as having a Disability
- 7 Young people said they are religious

Employment

- 82 are employed. Of those 59 are employed casually/part-time and 23 are employed full time.
- 57 are looking for employment
- 42 are not looking for employment at the moment.

What young people enjoy

- 93 sport
- 58 art and culture
- 133 the outdoors
- 62 reading/writing



Appendix 1 – Detailed Data from Consultation

Survey 1 – Youth Consultation

What's the Plan?

- 44 plan to leave Glen Innes for University/ Apprenticeship
- 22 plan to stay in Glen Innes for University/ Apprenticeship/Traineeship etc.
- 31 plan to leave Glen Innes and get a job
- 36 plan to stay in Glen Innes and get a job
- 18 plan to leave Glen Innes and go traveling
- 57 have no idea what then plan is, yet.

Mental Health

Ask about their own mental health:

- 19 said they had a diagnosed mental health condition
- 8 said they had mental health issues, but they did talk to people
- 29 said their mental health was not good but they kept it to themselves.
- 49 said their mental health was ok, that they have some bad days but overall, their mental health is pretty good
- 51 said their mental health was good, that they have really good mental health and cope well with most things.

When asked how big a problem Mental Health was for young people:

- 82 said it's a really big problem and we need more help and Support
- 35 said it's a big problem, but we do have support and help now
- 27 said it's a problem but there are bigger challenges facing Young People
- 11 said it's not a problem at all

When asked if they have someone (or people) they trust and can talk to about anything? Young People identified:

- 104 - Parents / Carers
- 28 - Aunty/Uncles

- 47- Siblings
- 29 - Grandparents
- 23 -Teacher
- 9 - Coach
- 109 - Friend
- 9 - Elder
- 28 - Counsellor / Doctor/ Youth Worker
- 10 said Other including, partner, colleagues, people online and 2 said they had no one.

Technology

When asked about technology use, we learnt:

- 139 said they have access to the internet and a relevant device at home
- 94 said they have a device (laptop/ iPad/ tablet etc) in order to do school or University/TAFE work?
- 7 said they need (and don't currently have) a device in order to be able to complete there school or University/TAFE work
- 79 said they spend more than two hours a day on a device for fun (gaming, watching YouTube/Netflix/Disney Plus etc. Using apps, communicating with friends)
- 33 said they have been bullied online
- 28 said they have accessed content online they know their parents wouldn't approve of
- 23 said they have been asked for, or have received without asking for, inappropriate pictures of themselves or others.
- 110 said they have their own mobile phone
- 23 said they feel uncomfortable/ lost/ anxious without their phone or digital device?
- 35 said they find themselves talking to people online more than face-to-face
- 41 said they ask search engines like google questions rather than asking their parents or carers

Appendix 1 – Detailed Data from Consultation

Survey 1 – Youth Consultation

- 32 said they know using technology is affecting their mental health (either from overuse or from bullying)
- 95 said they have their own social media account
- 18 said they value opinions of social influencers online

Sport and Culture Participation

82 responders play sport.

The type of sports young people noted as playing included:

- Footy
- Running
- Motor sports
- Dance
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Bikes
- Basketball
- Swimming
- Cricket
- Soccer
- Rugby league
- Golf
- Touch football
- AFL

24 responders participate in cultural activities.

The types of cultural activities young people said they were involved in included:

- Guitar
- Dancing
- Singing
- Acting
- Art

Best thing about being young

30 young people said the best thing about being young was having less stress and responsibilities especially around finances.

15 young people thought their physical good health and ability to play sport ('without creaky bones!') was the best thing about being young

14 think their freedom and independence is the best thing about being young.

Other areas noted included:

- Ability to do more things
- Friends
- Opportunities given to them
- Ability to learn new things
- Ability to have fun
- Energy

What they like best about Glen Innes

41 said that Glen Innes being a small town with good people was what they liked best; while 15 said the next best is their family and friends.

Other areas noted included:

- Sport
- Recreation opportunities
- Nature and natural beauty
- Peaceful
- Weather
- Quiet
- Safe
- Nothing

Priority Areas for Council to Focus on

Young people were asked what three areas they would like Council to focus on. They said:

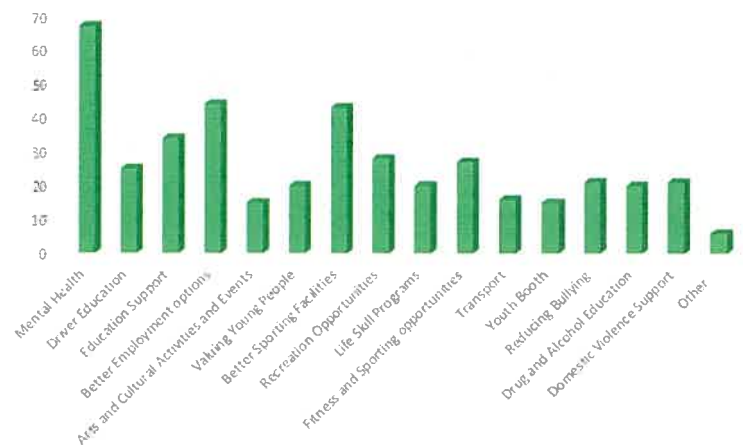
- 67 mental health
- 44 better employment options
- 43 better sporting facilities

Appendix 1 – Detailed Data from Consultation

Survey 1 – Youth Consultation

- 34 education support
- 28 recreation opportunities
- 27 fitness and sporting opportunities
- 25 driver education
- 21 reducing bullying
- 21 domestic violence support
- 20 drug and alcohol education
- 20 valuing young people
- 20 life skill programs
- 16 transport
- 15 Youth Booth
- 15 arts and cultural activities and Events
- 6 Other- Including LGBTQ+ support, sex education, retail options

Priority Areas for Council



When asked exactly what they would like Council to focus on in their own words:

- 25 said BMX/Mountain bike track
- 9 said upgrades to the skatepark
- 10 mentioned various forms of motorsport facilities
- 11 mentioned various recreation options including laser tag, paintball, trampoline park or bowling.

Other comments included:

- Upgrades to various sporting and recreation facilities
- Employment opportunities
- Mental health programs and services
- Getting new shops and a Subway.
- Upgrades to the pool and an indoor pool
- Life skill programs
- Youth centre and safe place
- Driver education
- Running track



Appendix 1 – Detailed Data from Consultation

Survey 2 – Community Consultation

Who completed the Youth survey

The Community Survey was aimed at parents/carers, family members, elders, teacher, coaches, and employers.

32 people completed the survey 6 of whom identified as Aboriginal.

The responders identified as:

- 9 Parent/Guardian
- 1 Grandparent
- 2 Aunty or Uncle
- 1 Aboriginal Elder
- 6 School Teacher
- 2 Employer
- 18 Community Member

What we were told

Young people's greatest contribution to the community is their great and creative ideas and their energy.

12 people felt there were enough sport and cultural activities while 18 think there is a need for more sport and cultural activities, especially cultural.

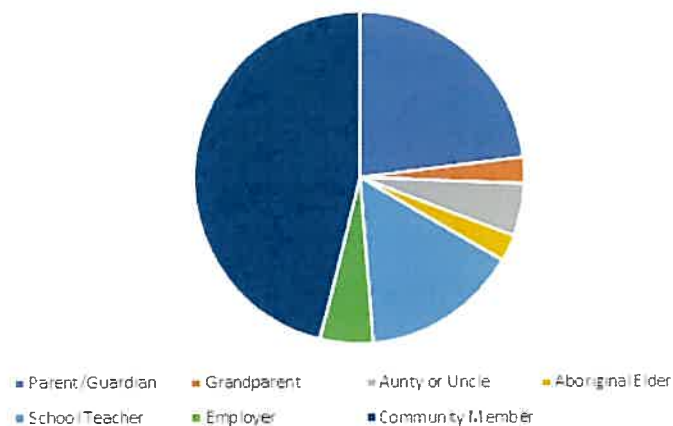
82% of respondents feel there are not enough employment opportunities for young people.

97% think mental health is an issue for young people

42% think the most positive thing about technology is the ability to stay connected

29% see bullying as the biggest negative to technology followed by 20% overuse 18% social media.

Responders to Community Youth Survey



Council Focus

The community where asked what three areas they would like Council to focus on. They said:

- 18 mental health
- 17 life skills Programs
- 15 employment opportunities
- 9 driver education
- 7 arts and cultural activities and events
- 6 fitness and sporting opportunities
- 6 drug and alcohol education
- 5 valuing young people
- 4 recreation opportunities
- 4 developing the Youth Booth
- 3 reducing bullying
- 3 domestic violence support
- 3 education support
- 2 better sporting facilities
- 2 transport
- 2 technology support and education
- 1 improving access to technology

Appendix 1 – Detailed Data from Consultation

Face-to-Face Consultation

Eight face-to-face consultations were held in November 2020 with 58 people attending.

The following points are the key points that were raised during multiple consultation sessions.

- Young people want a BMX track or Mountain bike track; they are trying to find their own space to do that and then Police come along and tell them they can't ride there.
- Need an extension on the Skatepark, it's well-used.
- Community would like a park, like those located in regional centres like Armidale and Tamworth.
- GP2U is a potential online service people in Glen Innes can access.
- Need to promote and provide safe recreation, especially for after school.
- For people aged over 18 the only recreation provided in Glen Innes is pubs. As such we are essentially sending them to alcohol and drugs for their entertainment.
- Drinking is big in regional areas and Glen Innes is no exception.
- Need to increase mental health awareness for kids, parents, and carers
- Overall, we find young people are less and less resilient
- Young people need a safe place, not all young people have access to a 'safe' home. Where can they go outside of school hours?
- The pool has the potential to be a 'social hub of Emmaville' in the summer months. Need to look at the cost as this could be a barrier.
- Consider having a free pool party once a month in Emmaville with transport provided to surrounding villages. Promote it as a family event eg, first Saturday of the month.
- Stop expecting young people to travel into Glen Innes for every event, even if transport is provided it still takes a long time to and from. Instead spend some time visiting and providing opportunities in Emmaville.
- In saying that, for events that can't happen in Emmaville, having and promoting transport in advance is still a good option.
- Council could look at subsidising sport programs, even with the Government contribution that normally only covers registration it does not cover equipment, uniforms and even fuel.
- Local kids love fishing and going to the Blue.
- Council could work with Emmaville young people/school on Youth Week activities.
- Disadvantaged kids need people that care and a place they can feel safe.
- Centralised community centre
- Employment for Aboriginal kids
- Kids can feel rejected, they know that they are considered just too hard. So, they need that continual support, someone they can turn to, that they know will always be there, rather than going from person to person, service to service. Stop the 'tick a box' mentality and service provision, but rather look long term.
- Drug and alcohol issues in the ATSI community, with a lack of services, and no Aboriginal services for young people. The issue is both young people using and being around use in the family. Issues with alcohol, marijuana, ice.
- Young Aboriginal people need to see Aboriginal people employed so that they can see it as just the norm and that they can be employed anywhere. Suggest that Council develops an Aboriginal Employment Strategy.
- Not a lot of knowledge of the Youth Booth
- There is no safe place for young people escaping home environment or if they are already homeless.
- Need somewhere disengaged kids can go that refuse to go to school, potentially this could be something that happens at the Youth Booth.
- Educational Support for young people, there's no place to get help with homework/tutoring.
- Give Youth a voice

Appendix 1 – Detailed Data from Consultation

Face-to-Face Consultation

- Council could put on school-based traineeships and encourage other industries in Glen Innes to do the same.

Young people were asked what they would like?

- Life skills for young people
- Gaming room at the Youth Booth
- Aboriginal colours used in the Youth Booth, even just one wall.
- Getting a bowling alley
- Laser Tag
- Outdoor obstacle course
- Cultural activities
- Pool open year round
- Trampoline park
- Hungry Jacks!





“The strategy provides a vision for our young people to grow up in a safe, happy, and healthy community which is supportive of their changing needs, encourages resilience by promoting self-esteem, and provides opportunities to advance their life skills whilst making safe, sensible decisions for themselves.”



