

**ACTION PLAN FOR OUR  
YOUNG PEOPLE 2023–2027**



THE CITY of  
*Unley*



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

**Ngadlurlu tampinhi, ngadlu Kurna yartangka inparrinhi. Ngadlurlu parnuku tuwila yartangka tampinhi.**

**Ngadlurlu Kurna Miyurna yaitya yarta-mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku tampinhi.**

**Parnuku yailtya, parnuku tapa purruna yalarra puru purruna.\***

We would like to acknowledge this land is the traditional lands for the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

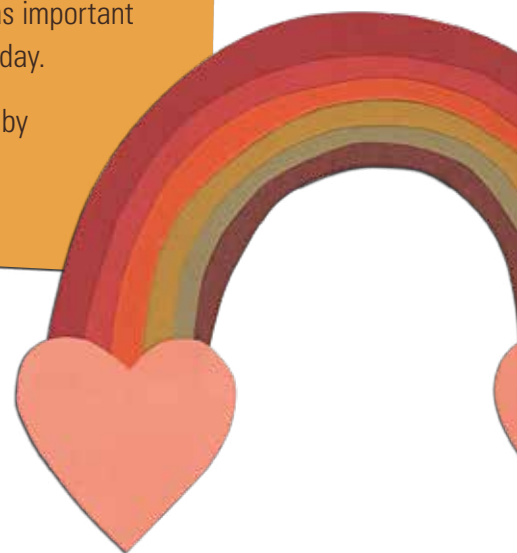
\*Kurna Translation provided by Kurna Warra Karrpanthi

# SAFE ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATION

The City of Unley is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children, young, elderly, and other vulnerable people who access our services, facilities, events, and activities. All City of Unley employees and volunteers are aware of their duty of care responsibilities for the protection, safety and wellbeing of children, young, elderly, and other vulnerable people.

The City of Unley follows the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. These principles emphasise the importance of embedding child safety and wellbeing in organisational leadership and governance, that children and young people are informed of their rights and are involved in decisions that affect them, and that staff are knowledgeable and skilled to provide child-safe environments.

**<https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles>**



“The power of youth is the common wealth of the entire world. The faces of young people are the faces of our past, our present and our future. No segment in society can match the idealism, enthusiasm, and courage of young people.” **Kailash Satyarthi**

## MAYOR'S FOREWORD

As a teacher, school principal and parent, I have seen young minds develop and exceed expectations when presented with the right environment, encouragement, and opportunities. It takes a community to bring up a child, and I am both impressed with and proud of the way we engage our young citizens.

Societies and organisations that decline to acknowledge and support their young people are those which I believe will also fail to achieve great things.

Council's *Living Young Action Plan 2023–2027* builds on its previous iteration and expands the parameters to include a greater range of young people and to hear their ideas, suggestions, and concerns.

Previously our plan focussed on young people from 5 to 25 years. Our new plan now includes children from the time they are born.

The Plan is the result of significant consultation with our community, with expert stakeholders, and with young people who form part of the City of Unley's Living Young Reference Group.

It has been informed by resources from state government, statistical and census data, and public health bodies input to create an organisation-wide Plan that gives Council guidance and direction in our aims to work more closely with the youngest members of our community.

Much consultation has also occurred with various agencies whose role is to provide care, education, and support for young people, from babyhood to their adult years.

This extension of the Plan to consider infants and toddlers factors in the importance of early developmental years, and the things we can do which can help positively influence learning, health, and social behaviours.

In a time when there is significantly more pressure on the young – academically, socially, and psychologically – I am delighted we are providing a platform for young people of all ages to come together to debate, formulate, and collaborate, to explore original business ideas and to express themselves in venues in which their voices are heard by older generations.

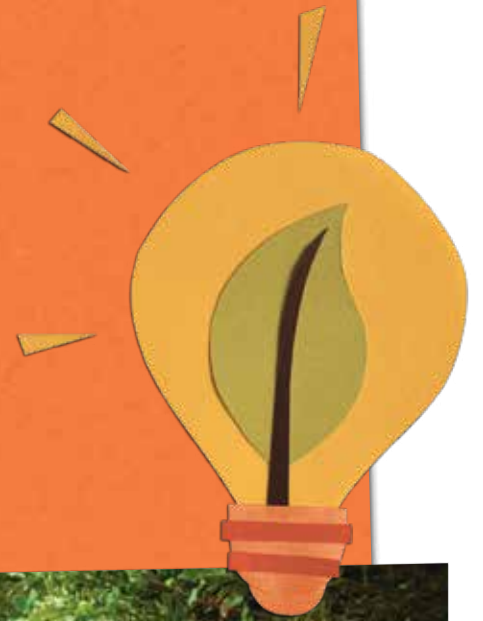
I think you will agree that the *Living Young Action Plan* is an important piece of work, a roadmap to building and strengthening relationships with the young citizens who are our future leaders.



**Michael Hewitson AM**  
Mayor of Unley



# A PLAN FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE





# OUR APPROACH

This plan demonstrates the City of Unley's commitment to supporting children and young people in our community, from birth. A common proverb is 'it takes a village to raise a child', and the City of Unley is committed to its role as part of that 'village', providing a city where children can learn, grow and reach their full potential.

Previous versions of Living Young plans have focussed on 5–25 and 12–25 age ranges. An extended 'from birth' focus aims to close potential gaps in program delivery as well as capture the extensive work the City of Unley is already undertaking.



**This new approach recognises the critical importance of the early years for healthy brain development, influencing future learning, behaviour and health.**

Living Young is an action plan for four years (2023–2027) and commits to increased partnerships with children and young people – ideally from program design to delivery.

Living Young will address impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic on children and young people broadly rather than specifically. The Plan includes opportunities to grow and support children and young people's health, wellbeing, education and employment – noting that the global pandemic is impacting all of these.



# OUR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**Living Young proposes the below roles and responsibilities of the City of Unley and the broader community:**

## COUNCIL

- Will enable, advocate for and listen to young people.
- Will provide services and programs for children and young people.
- Will network, connect and partner with service providers and educational institutions who support children and young people.
- Will support parents and guardians in their role as primary carers and educators by providing access to information, resources, services and programs, and support.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Can connect with the community, engage with Council, contribute ideas, be involved and aspire to and be supported to achieve their dreams.

## THE COMMUNITY

- Can consider, respect, support, mentor and inspire children, young people and their caregivers.

## OTHER AGENCIES AND PROVIDERS

There are many other service providers, including educational institutions, that have touchpoints in children and young peoples' lives. Council acknowledges it is one of many agencies in a vast network of service providers supporting children and young people across the education, health, employment, arts, housing, sport and recreation, justice sectors, among many more.








# STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The City of Unley's role in supporting children and young people is part of a broader government policy context. In October 2022, the Australian Government committed to developing a new Youth Engagement Model, which seeks to create meaningful opportunities for young Australians to have a say on Australian Government policies and programs. This model will be co-designed with the Youth Steering Committee, comprised of 15 young people, to ensure it is developed for young people by young people. The development of the model is also intended to ensure young people from diverse and at-risk cohorts are represented in consultations and engagement with government.

The *South Australian Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* states that all governmental authorities must seek to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People completes an annual Child Rights Progress Report against the Convention's recommendations. The Commissioner highlighted a number of areas of concern of relevance to local government in her 2022 report:

- mental health and impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- expansion of information and initiatives related to disaster preparedness.
- emphasis on public consultation with children and young people on issues that affect them, including climate change and the environment.



In South Australia, *Strong Futures: The SA Youth Action Plan (2020–2022)* ceased in December 2022. The Department of Human Services is currently establishing a new plan in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders including young people. A consultation paper was released in July 2023 which contained the following focus areas for discussion:

- Physical Health, and Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Safety and Justice
- Education and Employment
- Connections and Access to Resources
- Citizenship and participation

In July 2023, the Department for Education released its *Strategy for Public Education in South Australia*. The vision for the strategy is for ‘educators and staff to work in partnership with families and communities to nurture, develop and empower all South Australian children and young people with the knowledge, skills and capabilities they need to become fulfilled individuals, active and compassionate citizens and lifelong learners’. Of relevance to local government is the strategy’s focus on fostering partnerships with the local community and creating partnerships with cultural and community organisations and employers.

The *City of Unley Community Plan* is a comprehensive community vision for the council area to 2033. The Plan’s Vision is that our City is recognised for its enviable lifestyle, environment, business strength and civic leadership.

Four themes and related goals were identified which provide the key aspirations to achieve our vision for the City.

## COMMUNITY LIVING

**Goal:** People value our City with its enviable lifestyle, activities, facilities and services.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

**Goal:** We will maintain and enhance our urban environment, and strengthen our City’s resilience to climate change by providing leadership to our Community.


## ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

**Goal:** Our businesses are valued because of the range of goods, services and facilities they provide, and new businesses are supported, not burdened with bureaucracy.

## CIVIC LEADERSHIP

**Goal:** Council will listen to the Community and make transparent decisions for the long-term benefit of the City.

Development of an action plan for young people is a strategic action within the *4-Year Delivery Plan 2021–2025* in Objective 1.3 – Our City meets the needs of all generations.



Living Young also supports the achievement of goals in the following strategic documents:

- *Living Well, The City of Unley's Plan for Health and Wellbeing 2021–2025*
- *Cultural Plan, 2021–2026*
- *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, 2022–2026*
- *A Smart Plan for the City of Unley 2023–2027*
- *Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging Plan 2022–2025*
- *Active Ageing Strategy, 2020*
- *Economic Development Growth Strategy 2021–2025*





# KEY INFLUENCES, TRENDS AND POSSIBILITIES

There are a multitude of publications and research which discuss the issues and trends relevant to children and young people. This plan does not attempt to fully cover or discuss the breadth of young peoples' experience. However, some key aspects are highlighted below.

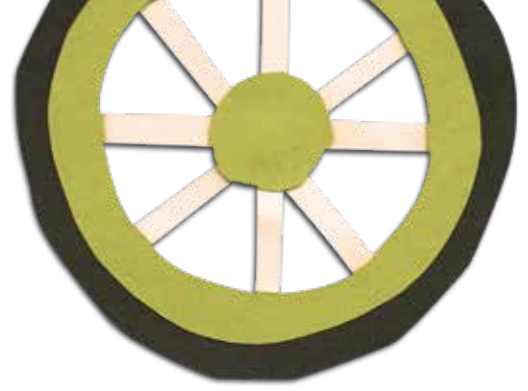


## EARLY CHILDHOOD

Children's experiences in the early years of life physically shape the brain's architecture and ultimately the adults we become. Children's growth and development in early childhood moves in leaps and bounds. Councils can play an important role in supporting childhood immunisation, early literacy, learning and socialisation through broad ranging community programs and events. Councils can also support parents and caregivers in their roles through information provision, providing opportunities to connect, and more.

## JUNIOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN

In primary school, research focuses on the need for children to develop healthy behaviours, resilience and the importance of physical activity for wellbeing and skill development. At this age it is important to foster a sense of individualism and also promote skill development in group work and collaboration. Councils can assist by supporting children's creativity, promoting physical activity, and providing opportunities to connect with the environment, peers and the broader community, to name a few examples.





## TWEENS

Tweens are a discrete group, aged between 8 – 12 years old, who navigate major stages of social, emotional and physical development. According to South Australia’s Commissioner for Children and Young People, “If we fail to listen to what children in this age group share with us, we risk alienating them at a time in their lives when they are seeking reassurance that they can trust the adults who are in their lives.” This age group is characteristically developing more independent thinking, social awareness and creativity. Councils can assist in many ways, including by providing safe places for tweens to express themselves and explore their interests, making information and resources available in our venues, connecting with schools to work together on priority projects, and by providing relevant and engaging services and programs, among many other things.

## TEENS

As children transition to teenagers, they become increasingly independent from their caregivers and are starting to fully develop their own world views, opinions and sense of self and self-expression. Being a teenager can be both an exciting and challenging time, as teens navigate school, stress and wellbeing and relationships. Challenges of being a teenager include coping with stress, self-esteem, technology use, drug and alcohol use, and sexuality. Teenagers also have the exciting but sometimes daunting challenge of transitioning out of the school system and deciding what to do next – whether that be employment, training, further education or some combination of these.

Councils can assist by continuing to engage teenagers through leadership initiatives, community engagements and via exciting and relevant programs which foster peer connection. Councils can work with schools to identify priority action areas to guide the range of programs and services we offer. We can also have a focus on providing greenspaces which maintain young people’s interest throughout their teenage years.

## YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults are often juggling work and study pressures as they seek to decide their immediate and future career paths. Most young adults have or are studying towards a non-school qualification. Young people in this age group want secure but flexible work that is personally meaningful to them, but due to limited sustainable entry-level positions, they are often under-employed in nonprofessional casual roles or short-term work. Increasing awareness and openness about mental health over time has revealed that many young people in this age group have close personal experiences with mental health and wellbeing issues. Other key priority areas for young adults are the environment and climate change, strong relationships, rising costs of living, and housing unaffordability. Councils typically engage young adults at our large-scale community events as well as workshops and programs in community centres and the library.

# THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR CITY

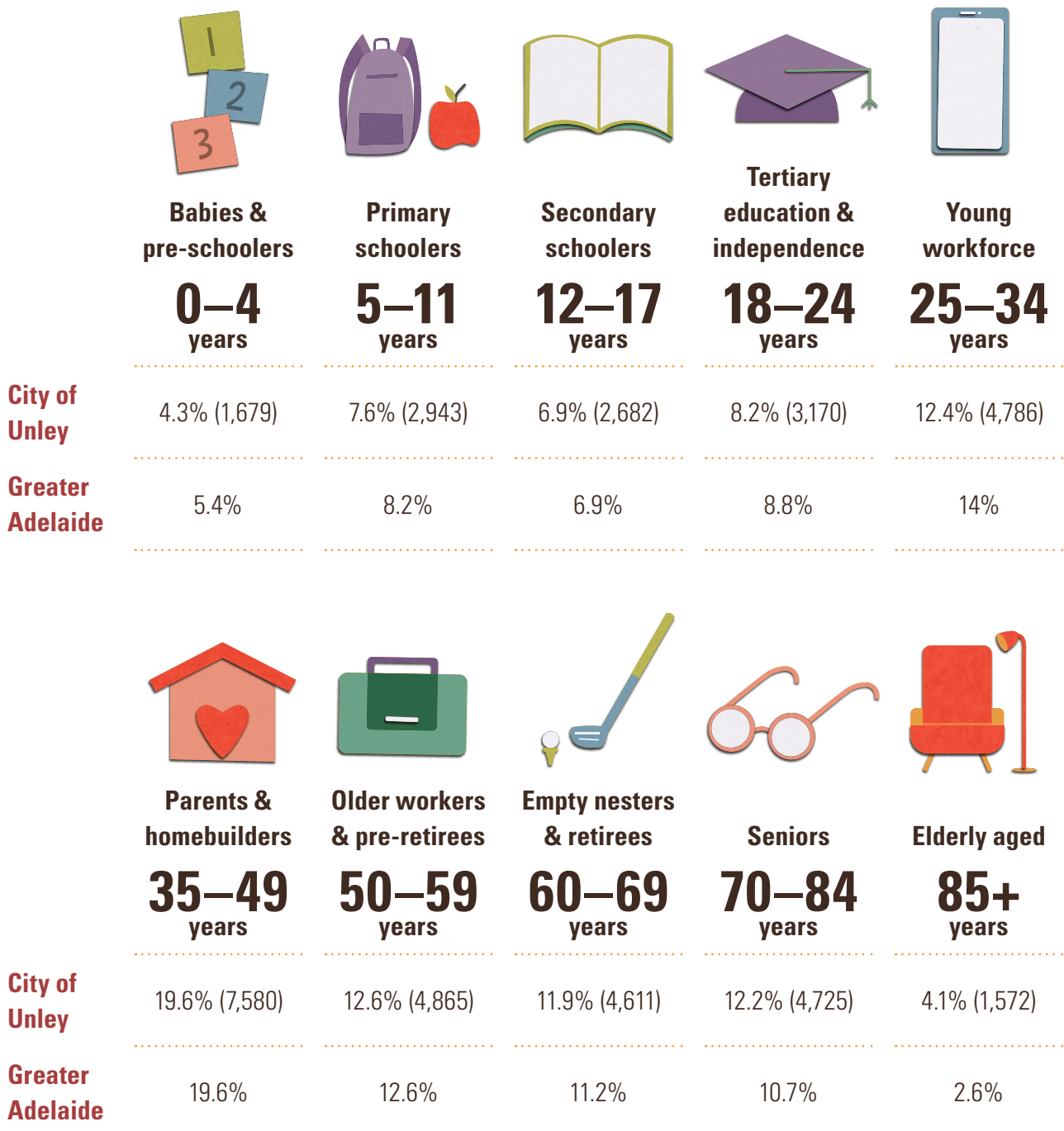


In the 2021 Australian Census, the City of Unley's population was ~39,000 people, of which ~10,500 were aged 0–25 years old.

The median age for the City of Unley was 43, higher than Greater Adelaide (39).

The City of Unley's population is ageing: 28.3% of the population is now aged over 60 years compared to 25.4% in 2016 and 22.3% in 2011.

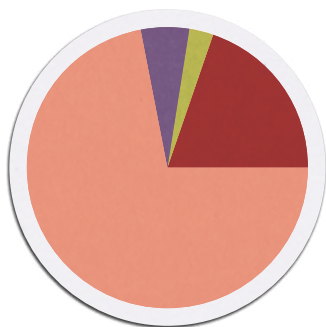
## CITY OF UNLEY 2021 SERVICE AGE GROUPS (COMPARED TO GREATER ADELAIDE)





# PLACE OF BIRTH IN 2021 (TOP 10 COUNTRIES)

## ALL OF UNLEY POPULATION



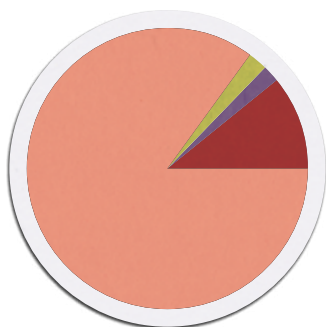
### Top 3 countries:

- Australia**  
27,881 people  
(72.2%)
- United Kingdom\***  
2,073 people  
(5.4%)
- China**  
1,046 people  
(2.7%)

### Other countries:

- India**  
838 people  
(2.2%)
- Greece**  
498 people  
(1.3%)
- Italy**  
376 people  
(1.0%)
- Malaysia**  
322 people  
(0.8%)
- New Zealand**  
320 people  
(0.8%)
- Nepal**  
234 people  
(0.6%)
- South Africa**  
227 people  
(0.6%)

## UNLEY POPULATION UNDER 25 YRS



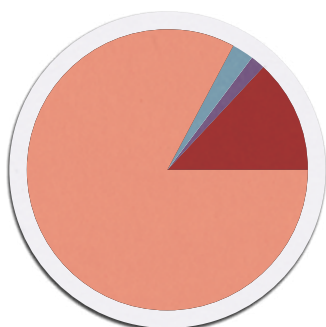
### Top 3 countries:

- Australia**  
8,829 people  
(85.2%)
- China**  
217 people  
(2.1%)
- United Kingdom**  
200 people  
(1.9%)

### Other countries:

- India**  
193 people  
(1.9%)
- Malaysia**  
62 people  
(0.6%)
- USA**  
69 people  
(0.7%)
- Nepal**  
62 people  
(0.6%)
- Sri Lanka**  
49 people  
(0.5%)
- Pakistan**  
46 people  
(0.4%)
- South Africa**  
43 people  
(0.4%)

## GREATER ADELAIDE POPULATION UNDER 25 YRS



### Top 3 countries:

- Australia**  
337,681 people  
(83%)
- India**  
9,441 people  
(2.3%)
- United Kingdom**  
7,133 people  
(1.8%)

### Other countries:

- China**  
5,027 people  
(1.2%)
- Philippines**  
2,358 people  
(0.6%)
- Vietnam**  
2,238 people  
(0.6%)
- Pakistan**  
2,023 people  
(0.5%)
- Malaysia**  
1,905 people  
(0.5%)
- Nepal**  
1,990 people  
(0.5%)
- South Africa**  
1,580 people  
(0.4%)

\* Includes England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and North Ireland



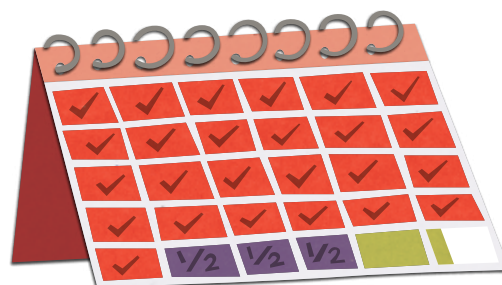


In the 2021 Census, most people who live in the City of Unley were born in Australia (72.2%) and for young people under 25 in the City of Unley, a higher proportion (85.2%) were born in Australia. Slightly more City of Unley young people were born in Australia than greater Adelaide (83%). Young people born overseas, who live in the City of Unley, are mostly from China (2.1%), the United Kingdom (1.9%) and India (1.9%), which is similar to the entire City of Unley population. However, there are small proportions of people born in Pakistan and the United States of America, countries of birth which do not feature as commonly in the broader City of Unley population. Greater Adelaide has considerable proportions of young people who were born in Vietnam and Philippines, which is not the case in the City of Unley. The City of Unley has approximately 194 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**22% of people in the City of Unley speak a language other than English at home, compared to 11% of City of Unley's young people. Mandarin (4.3%) and Greek (2.1%) are the most commonly spoken non-English languages at home, which is the same as the broader City of Unley population.**

Of those who speak a language other than English at home, 90.3% speak English very well or well and 9.9% speak it not well or not at all. This means proficiency in English exceeds that of Greater Adelaide.

Of those aged 15–24 in the City of Unley:

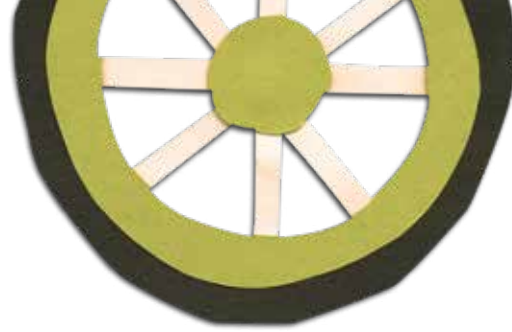
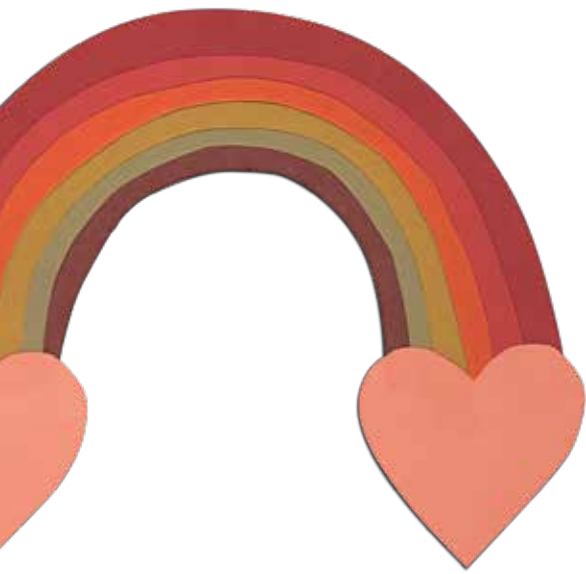


- 84% are fully engaged in full-time study or full-time employment,
- 10% are engaged in part-time work or part-time study,
- and 4% are not engaged in work or study.



City of Unley had ~2,000 international students living in the council area at per the 2016 Census, the majority of whom were on a higher education or VET visa.

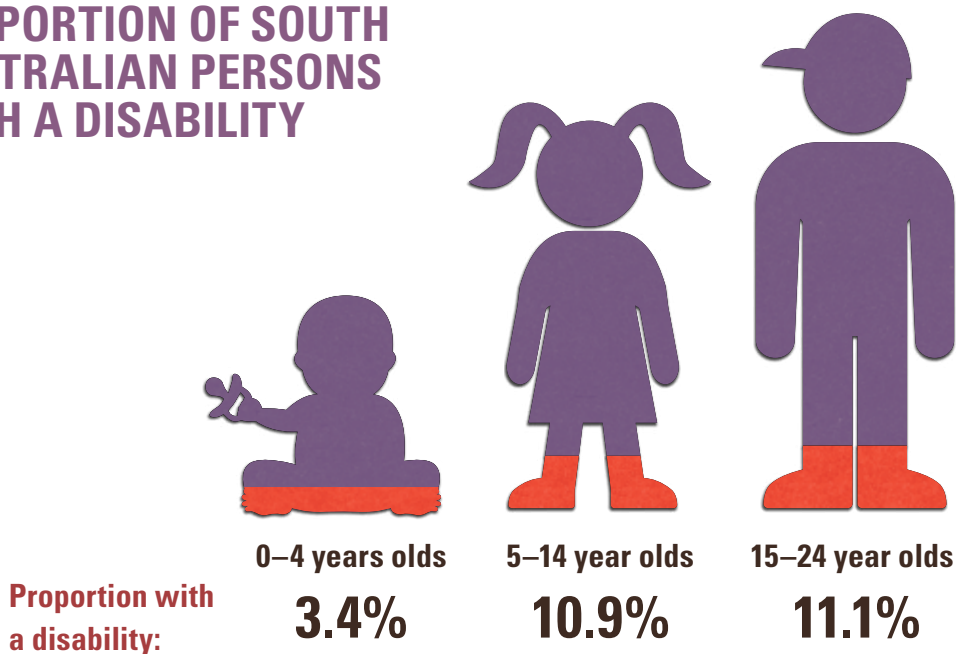




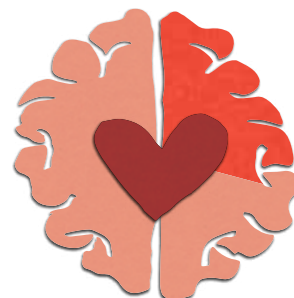
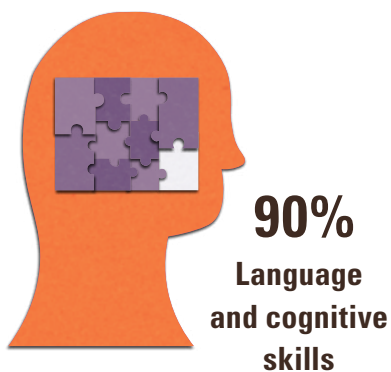
In the 2018 Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey, 19.4% of all South Australians reported having a disability and 8.4% of children and young people aged 0–25 had a disability. Further age breakdowns are provided in the below infographic.

**In the 2021 Census, 2% of children and young people aged 0–25 in the City of Unley reported that they required assistance with core activities, which means they have a profound or severe disability.**

## PROPORTION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY



## PROPORTION OF CITY OF UNLEY PRESCHOOL CHILDREN ON TRACK ACROSS FIVE AECD DOMAINS

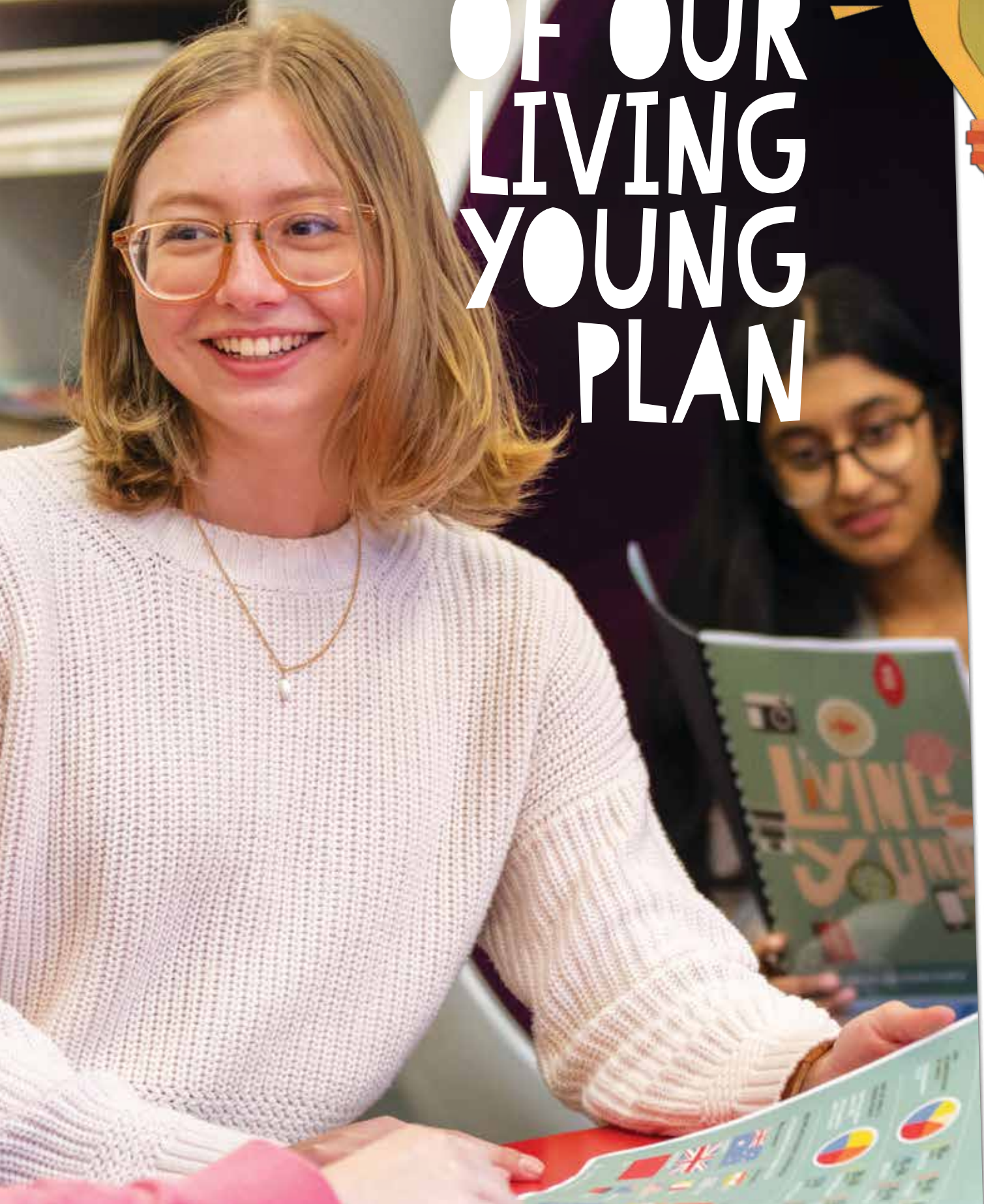


In the 2021 Australian Early Childhood Development Census, 59.5% of City of Unley first year school children were developmentally on track across all five domains. The above infographic displays the proportion of first year school children on track across each domain. The proportions are higher than the average for metropolitan Adelaide.

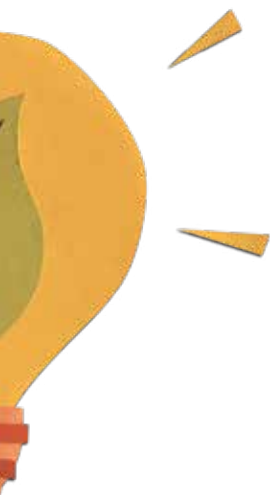
The City of Unley's second lowest performing domain, social competency, refers to how children interact with peers and adults, form friendships and understand the needs of others. The lowest domain, emotional maturity, is about children understanding and managing their response to situations.



# DEVELOPMENT OF OUR LIVING YOUNG PLAN







The updates in this plan build upon the success and learnings from the implementation of the Council's *2018–21 Living Young Action Plan*. The following community engagement was undertaken to inform the *2023–27 Living Young Action Plan*.

## YOUR SAY UNLEY SURVEY

Children, young people and parents/guardians were encouraged to complete an online survey to voice their priorities, passions, experiences and ideas. In total, 101 people completed the survey and provided feedback on what is important to them in the Living Young Plan.

## CITY OF UNLEY'S LIVING YOUNG REFERENCE GROUP

A consultation session with the Living Young Reference Group (20 volunteers, aged 12 – 25 years) was completed to review actions in the previous plan, identify any perceived gaps and propose improvements.

A separate visioning workshop, facilitated by the Strategic Foresight team in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, was held with the group where together they created a shared hope and vision for future young people. This vision was further refined by a group member and has been included in full in this plan.

## OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

- Engagement was undertaken with Purple Orange to encourage young people with disability to contribute to the survey.
- Local schools were asked to promote the Your Say Unley survey and educators were also asked to complete it.

Peak body YACSA (Youth Affairs Council South Australia) was involved in the preparation of this plan and undertook research into related strategies and contemporary youth plans and programs.

## CITY OF UNLEY STAFF

A consultation session was also held with staff members with roles and responsibilities related to working with children and young people was. They applied their professional knowledge and experience to review actions in the previous plan, identify any perceived gaps and propose improvements.

## CITY OF UNLEY ELECTED MEMBERS

A workshop was held with Elected Members who provided feedback on the draft Plan's objectives and actions. Members were supportive of each of the objectives and generally positive about the plan. Several actions were tweaked as a result of feedback received in the workshop.





# OUR FOCUS

In depth research and community engagement for the development of Living Young revealed a number of strong, recurring themes about what is important to children and young people. Children and young people want Council to:

- Actively and effectively engage and communicate with them,
- Continue to deliver events and initiatives,
- Empower and support them,
- Support their employment and education,
- Promote health and wellbeing,
- Protect the environment and promote sustainability,
- Ensure equity and inclusion,
- Foster social connection, and
- Recognise diverse needs.

The three key objectives from the 2018–21 Living Young Action Plan, which have been continued in this iteration, are:

- 1. Engage and Enhance Leadership**
- 2. Support Positive Connections and Learning**
- 3. Enable Wellbeing and Resilience**

These key objectives have informed the development of actions in Living Young and many of the actions contribute to more than one objective. Actions have also been selected by focusing on initiatives which will have maximum impact, as well as the unique role that the City of Unley can play in child and youth development. A strength-based approach has been used in the development of this plan, building on current successful and impactful programs, events and activities offered by the City of Unley.





# OUR PLAN



## A FUTURE VISION FOR CITY OF UNLEY'S YOUNG PEOPLE

The Living Young Reference Group worked together to brainstorm their ideal, positive future. The Group came up with over a hundred different ideas and then grouped them into common themes. The ideas highlighted the diversity, potential and technology that the Living Young Reference Group hopes to have been harnessed by 2050.

These ideas were then used to create the vision, which services as a useful artifact because it allows City of Unley to consider and identify what actions Council can take now to assist to realise this vision.



## THIS IS THEIR VISION FOR THE FUTURE:

The City of Unley is a place where everyone feels respected and like they belong. First Nations culture, knowledge and expertise is valued and celebrated. People speak languages and engage in culture from all around the world and enjoy sharing cultural celebrations, arts and foods. Local community events and community gardens bring neighbourhoods together and the community works together to solve present and future problems. People of all ages and genders are valued for their unique contributions and have opportunities to connect with one another. Neighbourhoods and communities are places people can feel safe.

Government supports provide accessible and responsive healthcare, social services and protection and people can expect to live long, healthy lives. Formal education is delivered by caring educators and is focussed on skills and values important for the future. Opportunities are able to be tailored to student's needs and strengths regardless of individual circumstances. Libraries continue to offer exciting and relevant programs and services.

Housing is more efficient, affordable and built with sustainability and liveability in mind. There is zero homelessness and adequate housing provides good living conditions for all. Employment is meaningful and attainable and there are employment supports for those who need it.

The neighbourhood is cool and green with many trees and greenspaces, where we coexist well with nature. Our greenspaces are places for relaxation and socialisation. Public artworks and greenery blend well with modern and historical parts of the city. Community amenities are easily accessible and it is easy and affordable to source local, sustainable, organic foods and products. Our community values products which last.

Our neighbourhood is lined with dedicated walking and cycling paths that keep us active, happy and healthy. Our streets have less cars and more people walking, our public transport system is electrified, comfortable, frequent and well connected. Technological advancements have meant our greenhouse gas emissions have considerably reduced and we have embraced renewable energies.

New technologies support a healthy balance between digital and face-to-face experiences while still harnessing their full potential. Technologies which have a positive impact on everyday lives are embraced.

Decision-making at all levels is considerate and includes representation of First Nations people and people of all genders, and equity is pursued as a common goal. Decision-making on key issues is robust and involves open and public discussion with experts and community members.



## OUR SHARED AIM

**Children and young people are supported to shape the City of Unley and engage with us about the things that matter to them.**

## KEY OBJECTIVES

### ENGAGE AND ENHANCE LEADERSHIP

Council benefits enormously from children and young peoples' ideas and contributions to our City. This plan seeks to maximise this engagement and empower children and young people in decision making processes. We will create opportunities for children and young people of different ages and backgrounds to engage with us on things that matter to them; we will work with them to advocate and implement their ideas where we can and provide meaningful feedback to ensure they remain informed about outcomes.

This objective frames leadership as a broad concept, encouraging children and young people to be active local citizens, initiating, influencing and implementing ideas and change in our community. Council will provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about civics, and how this learning could be applied locally. Council will also provide various platforms for children and young people to shape our community, such as the Living Young Reference Group. We will also offer opportunities related to employment, business and entrepreneurship. We want children and young people to explore opportunities to apply their global thinking. We recognise that there are lots of voices, and we want to ensure that all children and young people are heard and can have their say on what happens in their community and city.





## SUPPORT POSITIVE CONNECTIONS AND LEARNING

A positive recurring message in developing Living Young is that children and young people are socially conscious, recognise the importance of good personal relationships and value opportunities to connect with others. Children and young people also want a diverse range of learning options and to live in a lively and environmentally conscious city. Council can actively foster this spirit and support children and young people to contribute and collaborate with community members and assist us in building lively, green and safe neighbourhoods. It is important to facilitate initiatives that are exclusively for children and young people to connect with other like-minded young people, as well as opportunities that support connections with the broader community and offer rewarding intergenerational experiences. Council can provide diverse opportunities for social connection and learning in our community centres, libraries, parks, on our streets and into peoples' homes. We have a crucial role to play in helping communities do what individuals themselves cannot.



## ENABLE WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE

Councils have a responsibility for preventative health and creating a City which fosters positive health and wellbeing in the broadest sense. Children and young people are aware of the importance of creating healthy habits, accessing help and supporting one another. This can be furthered by Council promoting physical and mental health and supporting the community to assist children and young people. Wellbeing is heavily linked with community and a sense of belonging; we will provide opportunities to further inclusion and connection to community with the goal of supporting wellbeing.

# PRINCIPLES

These principles underpin the delivery of the key objectives and will be used as 'checkpoints' for making decisions and evaluating our programs and support of children and young people.

**Mutual Benefit:** Acknowledging that Council benefits from engaging with children and young people, and vice versa.

**Building on Strengths:** This principle emphasises the importance of enabling environments where children and young people can use and grow their strengths to positively impact the community and personally flourish.

**Innovation:** Recognising that children and young people are at the forefront of designing and adopting innovations and that Council needs to respond to and support this in order to stay relevant and engaging.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** Celebrating diversity and developing inclusive initiatives that are flexible and tailored to different ages and abilities.

**Social Justice:** Applying a lens to Council initiatives to ensure they are accessible, barriers are removed, and measures are in place to engage vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people

**Partnership:** Acknowledging that Council is just one 'player' in this space, and that there are multitudinous benefits – including reducing duplication, maximising funding, increasing promotional reach, etc., from partnering with other agencies for a common goal.

**Accountability:** Embracing the importance of monitoring and measuring the real life impact of our work, ensuring we seek feedback from children and young people regularly and meaningfully and ensuring we stay on track to meet these principles.



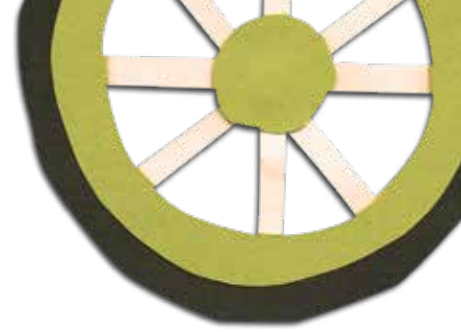


# RESOURCING THE PLAN

Any financial requirements for implementing this Plan will be sought through Council's annual budget process, with external funding to also be pursued. Every opportunity will be taken to leverage funding, via sponsorships, grants or partnerships, to increase the potential value and impact of initiatives.



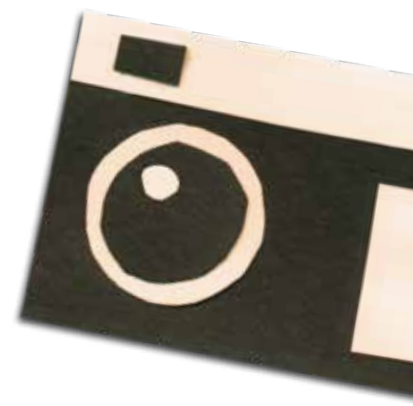




## OBJECTIVE 1

# ENGAGE AND ENHANCE LEADERSHIP

Actions	Outcomes	Indicators of Success	Timeframes
<p>Children and young people are provided opportunities to influence decision-making including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Via new and/or innovative methods.</li><li>• Pursuing partnership or co-design as best practice.</li><li>• Via dedicated methods or opportunities specific to children and young people.</li><li>• Relating to the design of local parks, public spaces, buildings, venues, sporting facilities and streetscapes so that they best meet the diverse needs of children and young people.</li></ul>	<p>Initiatives are developed that respond to emerging needs and interests.</p> <p>Children and young people have input into Council programming and planning.</p> <p>Children and young people engage in meaningful experiences to co-design and co-deliver initiatives.</p> <p>Council listens, learns and responds to children and young people in the City of Unley.</p> <p>Children and young people have opportunities to develop their advocacy and public speaking skills.</p> <p>Engagement opportunities for children and young people are of a high quality, consider access and inclusion and target groups such as people with disability, LGBTIQ+ and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p>	<p>Children and young people are provided an opportunity to share their views with Elected Members at least annually.</p> <p>Engagement data, including response rate and demographics, are collected, and analysed.</p> <p>Four new programs are implemented based on the input of young people over the life of this plan.</p> <p>At least two specific engagements are held with children and young people each year.</p>	<p>All years</p>



Actions	Outcomes	Indicators of Success	Timeframes
<p>Continue to enable and support opportunities for young people to undertake meaningful voluntary work, work experience, traineeships, placements, internships and mentoring.</p>	<p>Young people are exposed to a range of learning opportunities.</p> <p>Young people develop work readiness skills.</p> <p>Young people are supported to develop leadership skills.</p> <p>Young people's mental health and self esteem is promoted.</p>	<p>At least 6 student placements, work experience opportunities, internships, mentoring arrangements, volunteer positions, traineeships and/or competitions are offered to young people per year.</p> <p>The number of young City of Unley volunteers is maintained or increased over the life of this plan.</p> <p>City of Unley maintains its current level of support to students undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award.</p>	<p>All years</p>





Actions	Outcomes	Indicators of Success	Timeframes
<p>Deliver initiatives that support young people to explore and build skills in employment, entrepreneurship and business.</p>	<p>Young people are inspired to create small businesses and undertake entrepreneurial activities.</p>	<p>At least 10 young people access opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in business and entrepreneurship per year.</p>	<p>All years</p>
	<p>Linkages are fostered between young people, local businesses and networks.</p>	<p>Interest in and demand for Council’s flagship youth entrepreneurship program is maintained.</p>	<p>All years</p>
	<p>Young people can access relevant training, support and information related to employment and entrepreneurship, such as through Unley Libraries’ Reboot program and City of Unley’s Your Business website.</p>	<p>A new initiative is implemented specifically to support young people to gain employment or self-employment.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
		<p>Explore the development of a dedicated Youth Entrepreneurship page on the City of Unley’s Your Business website or similar.</p>	<p>Year 3</p>







Actions	Outcomes	Indicators of Success	Timeframes
Continue to actively support and promote the LYRG.	<p>A highly engaged group who see a mutual benefit to their involvement.</p> <p>Living Young Reference Group are a highly valuable resource to Council.</p>	<p>High retention rates of group members.</p> <p>Group members report their involvement as valuable and impactful via a formalised consultation mechanism annually.</p> <p>Living Young Reference Group lead several projects over the course of the Plan.</p> <p>Education and mentorship opportunities are offered to group members.</p> <p>Living Young Reference Group are consulted on at least 2 council initiatives each year.</p>	All years
Deliver and promote Council's Youth Sponsorship Program.	Local young people who have excelled in a particular sport, art, cultural or recreational activity are financially supported to participate in a related event which is of state, national or international significance or are supported to develop and deliver a community project.	Approximately 20 young people receive sponsorship annually.	All years



## OBJECTIVE 2

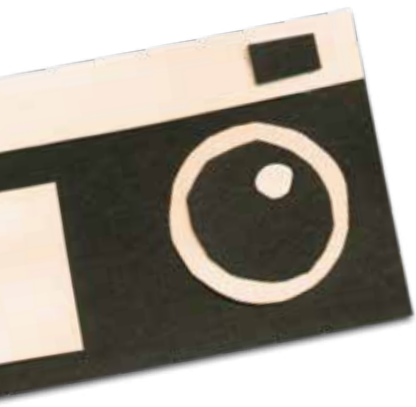
# SUPPORT POSITIVE CONNECTIONS AND LEARNING

Actions	Outcomes	Indicators of Success	Timeframes
<p>Foster strong relationships with education, care and service providers for the benefit of children and young people.</p>	<p>Projects of mutual benefit are implemented and promoted.</p>	<p>At least 7 schools and/or community groups participate in initiatives with Council each year.</p>	<p>All years</p>
	<p>Educators, care providers, community groups and organisations partner with Council to organise and cross promote meaningful initiatives for children and young people.</p>	<p>The number of classes (or equivalent) visiting council facilities for structured excursions is at least maintained over the life of this plan.</p>	<p>Year 2 onwards</p>
	<p>People form a connection with their local Council from a young age.</p>	<p>A Council staff member attends a student representative group every quarter.</p>	<p>All years</p>
	<p>Children and young people understand the services and facilities that the City of Unley offers.</p>	<p>At least 1 school is supported to deliver their Civics &amp; Citizenship learning per year.</p>	<p>All years</p>
	<p>Council staff are locally networked and better understand trends and issues impacting children and young people.</p>		

Actions	Outcomes	Indicators of Success	Timeframes
<p>Promote, enable, and coordinate accessible, relevant, and diverse programs for children and young people, based on their needs and interests.</p>	<p>Children and young people have opportunities to develop knowledge, skills, social connections, health and wellbeing, lifelong literacy and connect with other cultures.</p> <p>A wide variety of programs are on offer for the community, based on emerging needs and interests.</p> <p>Children and young people can participate in events and programs for Reconciliation Week, Harmony Day, and other cultural events.</p>	<p>Participation in school holiday programs is maintained over the life of this plan.</p> <p>Children and young peoples' participation in Reconciliation Week and Harmony Day activities is maintained over the life of this plan.</p> <p>Children and young peoples' participation in Community and Cultural Centre programs is at least maintained over the life of this plan.</p> <p>Council continues to explore new ways of supporting children and young peoples' literacy, learning and connection including exploring external funding and partnership opportunities.</p>	<p>All years</p>
<p>Increase intergenerational engagement in Council's Community and Cultural Centres.</p>	<p>People across generations share knowledge with each other.</p> <p>Tolerance, mutual understanding and neighbourhood connections are fostered through intergenerational connection.</p>	<p>At least one specific intergenerational program or activity is delivered.</p> <p>Children and young peoples' participation in Community and Cultural Centre programs is at least maintained over the life of this plan.</p>	<p>Year 2 of plan</p> <p>All years</p>







### Actions

Work with young people to promote relevant information and programs, including:

- Via social media
- Via City of Unley digital newsletters
- Via education, care and service providers
- Exploring new methods.

### Outcomes

Children, young people and those that support them are able to access information about the wide range of opportunities on offer in the City of Unley.

The City of Unley uses engaging and relevant online content and platforms to promote opportunities to children and young people.

### Indicators of Success

Council's children and youth programs and initiatives are widely promoted and have high participation and engagement.

New participants take part in City of Unley initiatives.

The Living Young Reference Group guides the promotion of opportunities to young people.

Staff are skilled to develop engaging promotional campaigns.

### Timeframes

All years

Continue to support parents and guardians in their role as primary carers and educators, through offering, supporting and promoting programs such as Baby Connect and parenting education workshops.

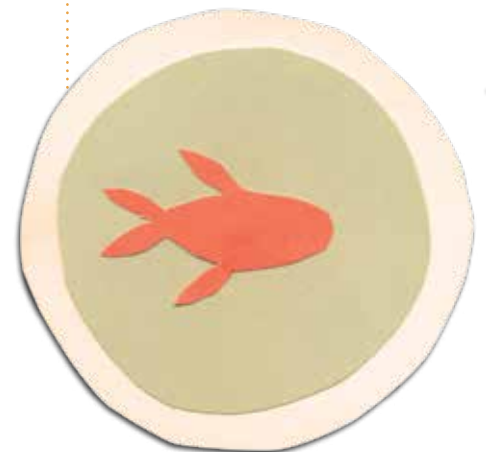
Parents and guardians are supported in their roles.

Parents and guardians connect with others.

Council supports the building of neighbourhood and community connections.

Programs are continued and participation is sustained over the life of the plan.

All years



### OBJECTIVE 3

# ENABLE WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE



Actions	Outcomes	Indicators of Success	Timeframes
Promote City of Unley Libraries and Community Centres as places for children and young people to drop in and access services.	Children and Young People utilise City of Unley Libraries for study, connection and Learning.	Children and young people utilise dedicated spaces at the libraries and provide feedback on how the spaces could best work for them.  The uptake of Council's Study Support Packs is at least maintained over the life of this plan.	All years
Coordinate informative workshops on topics related to wellbeing and resilience, such as stress management for exams and life skills.	Children and young people learn new information to help manage their wellbeing and/or resilience and support others.  Children and young people develop health-seeking behaviours and know where to access information and support.  Greater understanding amongst young people and the community of mental health issues experienced by young people and available support options.	A minimum of two workshops per year.  Workshops offered to all primary and high schools located in the City of Unley over the life of the plan.	All years

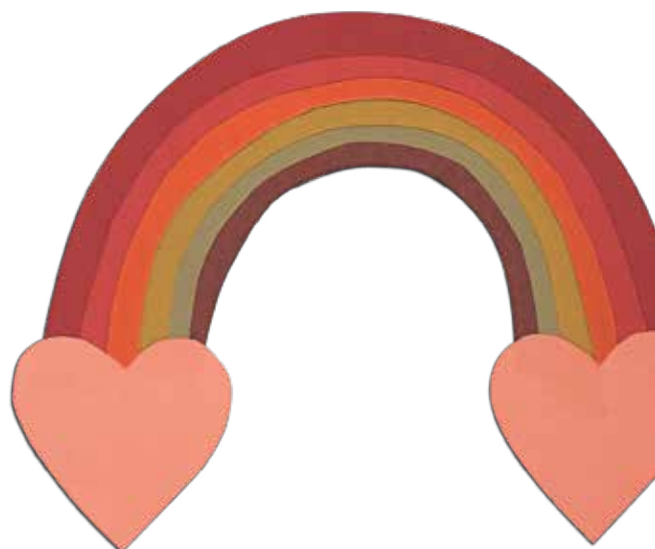
Actions	Outcomes	Indicators of Success	Timeframes
<p>Increase understanding and skills of Council staff and the community related to mental health and illness, including how it affects children and young people.</p>	<p>Greater understanding amongst staff of mental health issues experienced by children and young people and available support options.</p>	<p>Relevant Council staff complete professional development related to mental health.</p>	<p>Year 4</p>
<p>Link to and support children and young people to engage in city greening activities, climate adaptation and disaster preparedness initiatives, and community gardens and shared green spaces.</p>	<p>New interactions by children and young people with the green spaces in the City of Unley.</p> <p>Children and young people learn about native vegetation, climate adaptation, and water security.</p> <p>Opportunities for sensory and gross motor skills development.</p> <p>Creativity and physical activity are promoted.</p>	<p>Children and young people have the opportunity to be involved in City of Unley environmental projects at least once per year.</p> <p>Council forms at least one new collaboration with a local school or community group to enable children and young people to engage with nature.</p>	<p>All years</p>







Actions	Outcomes	Indicators of Success	Timeframes
<p>Provide opportunities for children and young people of all abilities to be involved in activations of parks, public spaces and streetscape areas.</p>	<p>City of Unley spaces meet the needs and desires of children and young people.</p> <p>Children and Young people undertake incidental as well as planned physical activity.</p> <p>City of Unley spaces promote children and young peoples’ physical activity, health, wellbeing and social connection.</p>	<p>Children and young peoples’ ideas for place activation projects are considered, and, where possible, implemented at least once over the life of the plan.</p> <p>Children and young people are engaged in Council’s events program – as attendees, volunteers and/or contractors/suppliers.</p>	<p>Year 3 onwards</p>
<p>Link Council programs (such as school holiday activities) to external awareness and participation initiatives (such as Ride to School Day).</p>	<p>More children and young people walk, bike ride or scooter for personal travel.</p> <p>Children and young people are aware of bike safety.</p>	<p>Council will partner with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport to deliver at least one Way2Go program per year.</p>	<p>All years</p>



# IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING





# IMPLEMENTATION

Council will guide the implementation of the actions outlined in this plan through the following strategies:

- Information provision and awareness raising.
- Programs, events, services and supports.
- Administrative and/or governance systems that enable positive outcomes (e.g., policy, partnerships, staff training, Council leading by example and young people's input and feedback).

# REPORTING

The Living Young Plan demonstrates how Council will support, advocate and champion all young people in the City of Unley. A midpoint review will monitor, track and evaluate the status of each action contained in the plan.

Programs and projects will also be evaluated for their impact by administering regular participant evaluations of Council's programs and initiatives.

Each of the actions will be allocated to responsible business units within Council, along with timeframes to deliver and report on.





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