



**YOU**

**MITCHELL  
YOUTH  
SERVICES**





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**Front Page: Original artwork by Samuel Brislin Dias Martins, local young Wandong artist, age 16 years.**





## Foreword.

As Youth Mayor on behalf of the Mitchell Shire Youth Council and as a young person living in Mitchell Shire who contributed to the Strategy, I am pleased to introduce the Mitchell Shire Youth Strategy for 2014-2017.

The community, contributing organisations and young people involved in the Strategy's development all worked extremely hard to ensure that this document reflects the needs of young people, and can help guide decision making that will benefit the youth population of Mitchell Shire.

Feedback provided by the local youth population, community organisations, schools and other youth supporters was collected in order to provide a clear understanding of the issues that face our community. Methods such as focus groups, surveys and steering committees were utilised to accurately gather this information. Mitchell Shire Council Youth Services and Mitchell Shire Youth Council displayed enormous determination in obtaining this information that can now be shared throughout Mitchell Shire with the development of the Mitchell Youth Strategy.

The Strategy can be referred to by Mitchell Shire Council and its partners when delivering youth services throughout the shire. The Strategy clearly outlines the support required from within the municipality that can assist in improving the lives of local young people.

Mitchell Shire Youth Council is thrilled that the Mitchell Shire Youth Strategy is now available. I would like to thank all of those involved for their work which has produced an excellent result that will benefit young people in Mitchell Shire and surrounds for the next three years.

*Jai Cameron,*  
**Youth Council Mayor 2013-2014**

**Photo Left: Mitchell Shire Mayor Rodney Parker and Mitchell Shire Youth Council Mayor Jai Cameron.**





# 1. Commitment to Young People.

Young People play an essential role in Mitchell Shire. They are the future leaders, students, workers and parents in our community. The 2011 Census indicates that Mitchell Shire is home to 7461 young people, and rapidly increasing.

For the purpose of this document, a young person is aged 10-24 years and lives, learns, earns, socialises or has a significant connection to the Mitchell Shire.

Mitchell Shire Council Youth Strategy is the culmination of an extensive research and consultation program. It provides a framework to guide the development of youth services that is receptive and efficient in meeting the needs and aspirations of all young people within Mitchell Shire. The Strategy is more than a report outlining the future priorities of Council's Youth Services Team; it is a whole of Council and whole of community approach, based on feedback from young people and stakeholders, and research on current best practice.

Council takes a lead role in developing strategies to engage young people in civic participation activities, and in developing the service system for and with young people and local agencies. In summary, the Youth Services Team responds to the needs of young people in the municipality in the following ways:

- > Youth development and civic engagement
- > Youth support, information and referral
- > Service provision, agency support and coordination
- > Planning and advocacy
- > Developing partnerships and the local service system

The actions identified in the Mitchell Youth Strategy 2014-2017 aim to promote health, education, recreation, inclusion and partnerships which connect young people to each other and their community.





## 2. Youth Strategy Summary.

### WHY

To adopt a whole of community approach to plan.

### WHAT

#### Being Safe, Being Healthy

Improve the health and wellbeing of young people. Prevent and reduce the harm associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

#### Learning and Earning

Increase opportunities for young people to access and participate in learning activities.

Improve career and employment opportunities for young people.

#### Places to go, Things to do

Provide accessible and sustainable recreational and entertainment opportunities for young people.

#### Have your say, Be Involved

Meaningfully engage young people in the community, acknowledging their opinions and promoting opportunities for them to be heard.

#### Who, What and Where? Effective Youth Services

Work collaboratively with agencies and young people to ensure that youth services respond to changing needs, circumstances and policy directions.

### HOW

- > Working in partnership with key stakeholders, agencies and all levels of government
- > Advocating for youth champions to assist young people play an active and essential role in their Community
- > Designing and implementing strategies and actions that address priority areas
- > Ensuring that all plans and strategies within Council are considered and align with the priorities contained within the Mitchell Youth Strategy

### PARTNERS

- > Whole of Council approach
- > Community organisations and Youth Service providers
- > Regional Networks and organisations
- > Youth Council, Volunteers, Parents, Carers and Support Workers
- > Education and Employment providers

# 3. Mitchell Shire.



Mitchell Shire is located in central Victoria, between 35 and 100 kilometres north of the Melbourne Central Business District and is the second fastest growing regional municipality outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

Mitchell Shire is bounded by City of Greater Bendigo, and Strathbogie Shire in the North, Murrindindi Shire in the east, the City of Whittlesea and Hume City in the south, and Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander Shires in the west.

Mitchell Shire covers an area of 2,864 square kilometres and incorporates the townships of Beveridge, Broadford, Clonbinane, Heathcote Junction, Kilmore, Puckapunyal, Pyalong, Reedy Creek, Seymour, Tallarook, Tooborac, Wallan and Wandong.

Mitchell's age profile is youthful, with over 35% aged below 25 whilst only 17.6% of the population is aged 60 years or over. Population is focused on the towns of Wallan, Kilmore, Seymour, Broadford, Wandong-Heathcote Junction and at the Puckapunyal Army Base west of Seymour.





## 3. Mitchell Shire.

In 2013 the population of the Shire is estimated at 37,633 with a projected population increase to 58,903 by 2021.

The youth population is projected to rise to 16,738 by 2031. However, as a proportion of the total youth population (Age b/w 10-24) will remain similar to the current 21%.

There is rapid growth occurring in the south of the Shire with many young people and families relocating to areas such as Wallan and Beveridge.







## 4. Development of the Strategy.

The Development of the Mitchell Youth Strategy 2014-2017 has been prepared using a ten stage process. Each stage is a reflection of the importance of evidence based information and transparent community consultation.

**MITCHELL 2020 Community Plan and Council Plan 2013-2017.**

**Develop project plan and process for the development of Youth Strategy 2014-2017.**

**Review current legislative and policy environment. Conduct youth and service provider consultation.**

**Develop discussion paper and identify themes and gaps.**

**Establish Steering Committee.**

**Present findings to Steering Committee and confirm themes and gaps. Identify any other themes through analysis of consultation.**

**Present Draft Youth Strategy to Youth Council, Steering Committee and Mitchell Shire Council.**

**Draft Youth Strategy for Public Consultation.**

**Review and incorporate feedback as indicated.**

**3 Year Youth Strategy endorsed by Steering Committee, Youth Council and Mitchell Shire Council.**

\* The Draft Mitchell Youth Strategy has been informed by a number of documents, policies and strategies see Appendix 2.



# 5. Our Young People.



The Development of the Mitchell Youth Strategy 2014-2017 has been prepared using a ten stage process. Each stage is a reflection of the importance of evidence based information and transparent community consultation.

Figures 1 and 2 demonstrate the gender and age distribution of the youth in Mitchell.

- > The highest proportions of young people reside in Kilmore, Wallan and Broadford
- > There is an even distribution of young people within the three age groups, 10-14 years, 15-19 years and 20-24 years
- > The number of young people are comparative, 53% Male and 47% Female

**Figure 1: Number of youth (10-24 years) as a proportion of total population of Mitchell Shire 2011**

| Youth Census 2011     | Males        | Females      | Total        | Total Population | Percentage Youth |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Tallarook             | 70           | 59           | 129          | 789              | 16%              |
| Tooborac              | 36           | 44           | 80           | 405              | 20%              |
| Reedy Creek           | 30           | 21           | 51           | 244              | 21%              |
| Pyalong               | 74           | 78           | 152          | 735              | 21%              |
| Seymour               | 689          | 644          | 1,333        | 6,369            | 21%              |
| Broadford             | 465          | 436          | 901          | 4,174            | 22%              |
| Heathcote Junction    | 98           | 86           | 184          | 846              | 22%              |
| Kilmore               | 779          | 681          | 1,460        | 6,677            | 22%              |
| Wallan                | 965          | 898          | 1,863        | 8,502            | 22%              |
| Beveridge             | 113          | 81           | 194          | 871              | 22%              |
| Wandong               | 149          | 145          | 294          | 1,295            | 23%              |
| Puckapunyal           | 226          | 99           | 325          | 1,154            | 28%              |
| <b>Mitchell Shire</b> | <b>3,978</b> | <b>3,483</b> | <b>7,461</b> | <b>34,638</b>    | <b>22%</b>       |





## 5. Our Young People.

Figure 2: Projected youth population by age structure

| Age Structure      | 2014         | %         | 2016         | %         | 2018         | %         |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 10-14 years        | 2,873        | 7         | 3,165        | 7         | 3,526        | 8         |
| 15-19 years        | 2,965        | 8         | 3,088        | 7         | 3,310        | 7         |
| 20-24 years        | 2,288        | 6         | 2,433        | 6         | 2,619        | 6         |
| <b>Total Youth</b> | <b>8,126</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>8,686</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>9,455</b> | <b>20</b> |

Figure 3: Population of Young people in Neighboring LGA

|                | Number 10 – 24 years | % of total population |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Whittlesea     | 31,409               | 20%                   |
| Hume           | 38,714               | 23%                   |
| Murrindindi    | 2,002                | 15%                   |
| Macedon Ranges | 8,096                | 19%                   |
| Mitchell       | 7,461                | 22%                   |

# 6. Projected Population.



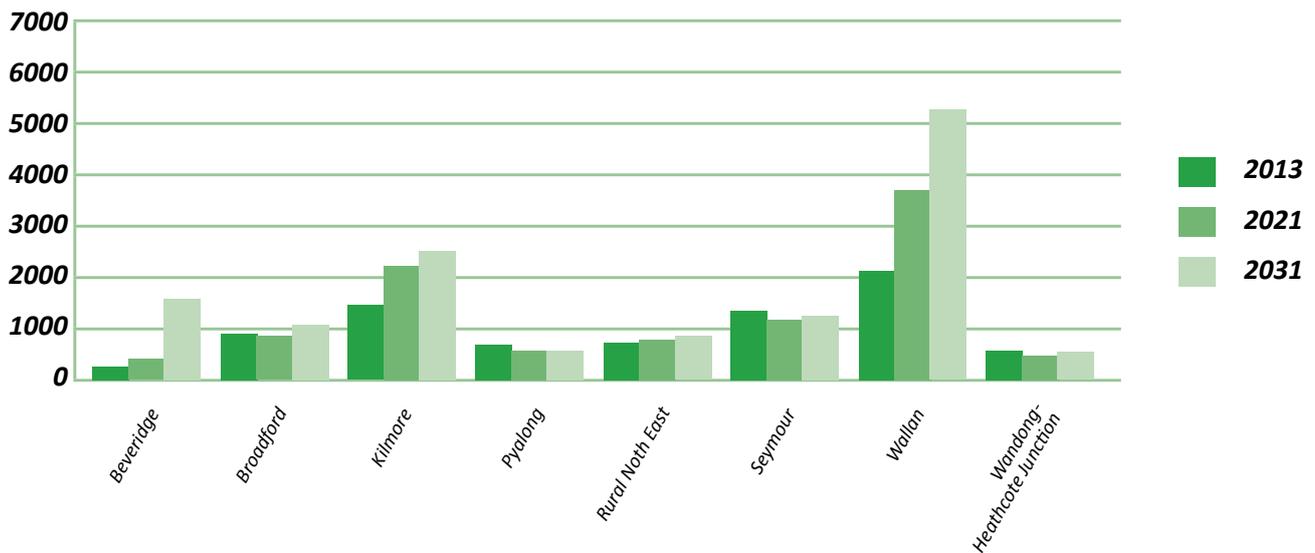
Based on the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI) projections, the total population in Victoria is expected to increase by 30.9 per cent from 5,128,310 in 2006 to reach 6,711,190 by 2026.

As demonstrated in Figure 4, the youth population within Mitchell is projected to rise to 16,738 by 2031. As a proportion of the total population this will remain similar to the current 21%. The largest growth areas will be in the South with Wallan and Beveridge.

Based on id. Forecast projections, the population aged 10 to 24 years in Mitchell will increase by 59% per cent from 7,461 in 2013 to 11,929 by 2023.

Based on id. Forecast projections, the total population of Mitchell will increase by 66% per cent from 35,092 in 2013 to 58,401 by 2023.

**Figure 4: Forecast youth population in Mitchell.**





# 6. Projected Population.

Mitchell Shire is recognised as an interface council. Interface Councils are a Local Government Area at the boundary of metropolitan and rural Councils. Interface Councils characteristically have a mix of concentrated urban areas and rural townships with growth in new housing estates.

The unique challenges faced by interface areas have direct influence on the outcomes of the youth population. Figure 5 demonstrates the changing demographics in Mitchell and the adjoining interface councils.

**Figure 5: Population increase in Families/Births**

|            | Rise in number of Families |        |     | Number of Births |        |     |
|------------|----------------------------|--------|-----|------------------|--------|-----|
|            | Annual                     | Weekly | Day | Annual           | Weekly | Day |
| Hume       | 1378                       | 27     | 4   | 2766             | 53     | 8   |
| Melton     | 2049                       | 39     | 6   | 2172             | 42     | 6   |
| Mitchell   | 1003                       | 19     | 3   | 561              | 11     | 2   |
| Whittlesea | 3500                       | 67     | 10  | 3276             | 63     | 9   |



# 7. Context.

A number of Youth Policy documents from a National, State, Regional and Local perspective have been reviewed to identify their potential to directly relate to and influence the development to the Mitchell Shire Youth Strategy 2014-2017.

## 7.1. National Context.

The Federal Government has no dedicated Minister for Youth Affairs. Youth policies and programs affecting young people are spread across six Commonwealth Departments. The Department of Education is nominally responsible for Youth Affairs, including youth transitions. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet will control all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy, programs and service delivery. There is no mention of poverty, homelessness, multi-generational trauma or marginalisation.

**National Youth Strategy for Young Australians** articulates the Australian Government's aspiration for all young people to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient. It aims to guide future government policy making to ensure that this aspiration can become a reality for all young Australians.

The focus is on eight priorities:

- > Health and wellbeing
- > Education
- > Families
- > Communities
- > Online
- > Work
- > Early intervention
- > Safety





## 7.2. State Context.

### **Engage, Involve, Create (Youth Statement)**

This outlines the vision and strategy to support the future aspirations of young Victorians. The Victorian Government will work closely with all Victorians – young people, families, the youth sector, community, business and philanthropic sectors – to ensure the best possible opportunities for young Victorians.

The Government's vision is that all young Victorians experience healthy, active and fulfilling lives and have the opportunity to:

- > Be engaged in education and/or employment
- > Be involved in their communities and decisions that affect them
- > Create change, enterprise and culture

To achieve this, the government has identified three priority areas:

- > Getting young people involved
- > Services that meet the needs of young people
- > Creating new ideas and partnerships

### **Right in the mix: Roles for Victorian Councils in the delivery of services to vulnerable young people**

This document recognises that the local government sector in Victoria is a strong contributor to programs, projects and resources aimed at Victoria's young people and agreed to facilitate research to highlight good practice in local government and in particular, that which related to vulnerable young people.

### **Building the Scaffolding (Strengthening support for young people in Victoria) April 2013**

This report looks at the role that the community sector and government organisations play in reinforcing the scaffolding and considers how supports can be further strengthened to promote better outcomes for all young Victorians.

### **Victorian Police Child and Youth Strategy**

The Victoria Police Child and Youth Strategy 2009 – 2013 provides Victoria Police with the framework to enhance organizational understanding of issues impacting on young people and to develop a better understanding of how we can effectively deal with them for the good of those affected.

The Way Ahead 2008 – 2013 articulates Victoria Police' strategic objectives, over the life of which our organisational focus will be maintained on three key priorities:

- > a safer Victoria
- > connecting the community
- > valuing our people

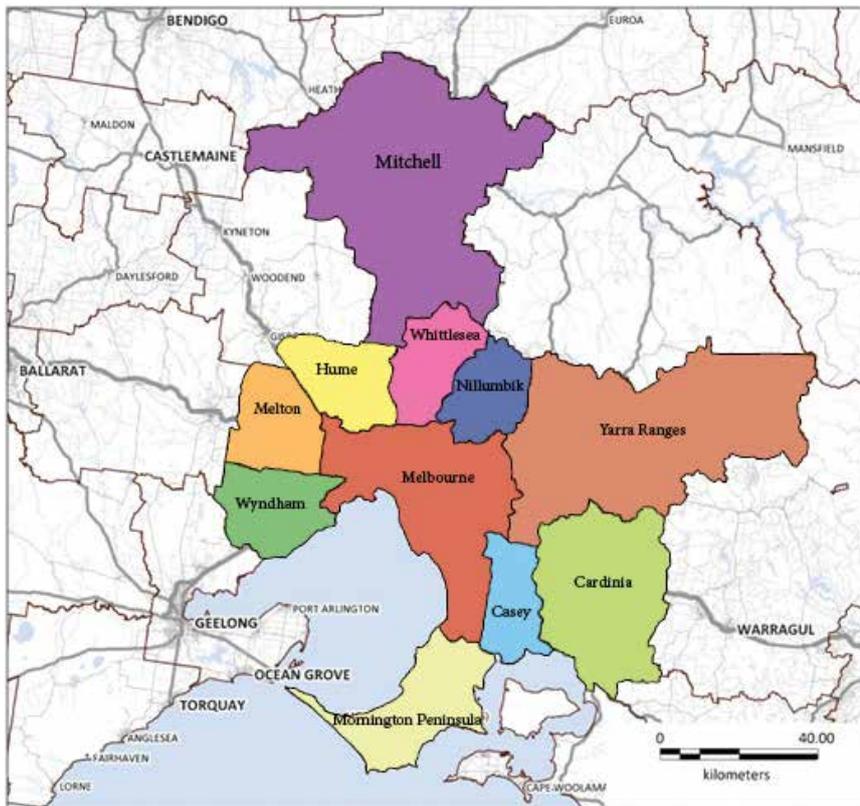
## 7.3. Regional Context.



There are multiple partnerships and collaborations occurring in the region which address a diverse range of youth issues. From these partnerships, there are some significant plans, policies and strategies which impact the direction of the Youth Strategy. These include:

- Nexus Primary Health Diversity Plan
- Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership (PCP) Implementation Plan
- Lower Hume Sub – Regional Plan

This plan does not sit alone, but is influencing and is influenced by a range of different internal and external policies, plans and strategies.



### One Melbourne or Two

The 'One Melbourne or Two' report (February 2013) commissioned by the Interface Councils identified that there are insufficient services to meet current and projected demands in growth areas. The report identified that during the last ten years, Interface Councils have had to accommodate approximately 50 per cent of state growth and 55 per cent of Melbourne's growth. Growth in the interface councils continue to rise at an alarming rate, with up to 19 new families settling in Mitchell Shire every week.





## 7.3. Regional Context.

### **Role and Contribution of Interface Councils**

Interface Councils will continue to play a critical role in supporting Metropolitan Melbourne's economy in the coming decades, including accommodating approximately 64% of metropolitan population growth and approximately 57% of labour force growth over the period 2011-2026.

Interface Councils are responsible for the management of 90% of Melbourne's Green Wedges, 98% of Melbourne's and 11% of Victoria's agricultural production, and the management of 55% of Melbourne's local road network, including a significant number of unsealed roads.

A set of Strategic Development Objectives has been compiled by the Interface Councils focused on improved infrastructure and services provision (public transport, community services, etc), early intervention initiatives, and expanded local employment opportunities to overcome existing disadvantages and to ensure long-term economic efficiency in the Interface areas.

Challenges identified for Melbourne's growth areas include:

- > Ensuring social and economic participation for everyone regardless of where they live
- > Providing jobs closer to where people live
- > Improving transport connections to jobs and services
- > Providing easy access to childcare and schools
- > Ensuring easy access to the highest level of education to assist up-skilling and economic participation
- > Ensuring health and education services are located close to where people live to improve job provision, social connection and provide community amenity
- > Ensuring that services are provided in a more timely manner to urban growth areas and established outer areas of Melbourne

### **Adolescent Community Profile - Hume Region 2010**

The profiles are intended to provide local level information on the health, wellbeing, learning, safety and development of adolescents. They are published to:

- > Equip communities with the information required to identify the needs of adolescents and their families within their local government area
- > Assist local government areas to identify key areas of vulnerability for adolescents in their local area and use this information to assist with early intervention strategies
- > Support local government and regional planning of youth services
- > Assist community service agencies working with vulnerable families and young people

### **The Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership Integrated Health Promotion Plan 2012-2017**

This outlines specific goals and objectives related to the identified priorities including an emphasis on strengthening partnerships with local councils.

## 7.4. Local Context.



Mitchell Shire Council has a number of Strategies and Plans that relate to the Mitchell Youth Strategy.

The Mitchell 2020 Community Plan was developed after extensive community consultation undertaken in 2011. This Plan describes the Council and community vision and priorities for the next 10 years and establishes a shared basis for joint planning, service delivery and advocacy. The following priorities have been identified:

- Community Leadership
- Economic Prosperity
- Governance and Advocacy
- Social Wellbeing
- Sustainable Development
- Environmental Sustainability

### **Mitchell Shire Council Plan 2013-2017**

The Plan outlines Council's ambition and priorities for the next four years. The Plan has also been informed by the community's long term vision, Mitchell 2020 Community Plan, which was completed in 2011, and considers Mitchell Shire Council's longer term funding strategy and budget – the financial plan that makes our work possible.

### **OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

Council has identified five strategic objectives to describe what we are working towards and how we want Mitchell Shire to be in the future. These objectives are shown below



#### **Sustainable Growth and Development**

Shaping the future of our communities through forward planning and maintained facilities and infrastructure.



#### **Strong Reputation and Economy**

Developing strong regional reputation and supporting local tourism and economic development opportunities.



#### **Healthy and Vibrant Communities**

Providing and supporting programs and services to build vibrant and healthy communities where people are proud to live.



#### **Environmental Resilience**

Responding to changing environmental conditions and protecting our natural environment to ensure long term sustainability.



#### **Organisational Capacity and Performance**

Excellent and innovative performance underpinned by good governance and responsible financial management.





## 7.4. Local Context.

This Mitchell Youth Strategy aligns with the following objectives and actions of the Council Plan 2013 – 2017:

- > Plan and deliver policies and programs, and engage with other agencies, to meet the needs of our youth
- > Enhance the provision of recreation facilities and opportunities within the shire ensuring all projects provide for all abilities

### **Healthy and Vibrant Communities – Council’s Four Year Focus:**

- > Enhance Council infrastructure to foster healthy and vibrant communities
- > Undertake service improvements to ensure programs and activities promote community connectedness and wellbeing
- > Support initiatives that foster cultural inclusion and celebrate diversity
- > Promote and support volunteers and community leadership
- > Promote opportunities to support active and involved communities
- > Continue to build strong partnerships with committees of management, health and community service providers
- > Actively engage with our communities to improve collaboration and consultation outcomes

### **Adolescent Community Profile (Mitchell)**

The Adolescent community profiles are compiled by the Data, Outcomes and Evaluation Division of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). The profiles are intended to provide local level information on the health, wellbeing, learning, safety and development of adolescents.

### **Local Strategies informing this document:**

There are multiple partnerships and collaborations occurring locally which address a diverse range of youth issues. From these partnerships, there are some significant plans, policies and strategies which impact the direction of the Youth Strategy. These include:

- > Nexus Primary Health Diversity Plan
- > CRLEN Environmental Scan

This Plan does not sit alone, but is influencing and is influenced by a range of different internal and external policies, plans and strategies.





**YOUTH SERVICES.**

**MITCHELL SHIRE.**  
Together with the community, creating a sustainable future.

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL  
www.mitchellshire.nsw.gov.au

**MITCHELL SHIRE.**  
Youth Survey 2013

### What Matters To Youth

When young people are consulted, it empowers them to have a say in the future of their community. Mitchell Shire Council is committed to listening to young people and ensuring their views are taken into account in the development of local government services and programs. This survey is a key part of that commitment.

The survey results will be used to inform the development of the Mitchell Shire Council's Strategic Plan 2013-17 and to guide the development of local government services and programs. The survey results will also be used to inform the development of the Mitchell Shire Council's Youth Strategy 2013-17.

Thank you to the Mitchell Shire Council staff and the Mitchell Shire Council community for their support and participation in this survey.

Paul Jackson  
Mayor Mitchell Shire Council

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**What's Important to Youth**  
Have your say...

**Mitchell Shire Council Youth Survey**  
Want your voice to be heard?

Pages 10-240

Do you currently live, work, study or recreate in Mitchell Shire?

Go to our Facebook, Mitchell Youth Services or the Youth Survey 2013 and you can get up to the following:

- 1 of 4000
- 1 of 4000
- 1 of 4000

**WIN!**

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL  
www.mitchellshire.nsw.gov.au

**MITCHELL SHIRE.**  
Youth Survey

### Competition Entry Form

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:



## 8. Youth Consultation.

Two surveys were developed to elicit information about young people's and service providers' perspectives of living in Mitchell shire as a young person or a service provider providing youth specific services.

A survey of 950 young people and 50 service providers was undertaken. Survey forms were distributed via email, hard copy, facebook, face to face distribution and with the assistance of the following programs and services:

- > Mitchell FReeZA
- > Mitchell Youth Council
- > Berry Street
- > Broadford Youth Group
- > Broadford Youth Centre
- > Broadford Secondary College
- > Wallan Gateway Church
- > Wallan Secondary College
- > Central Ranges LLEN
- > ECEC (Euro Community Education Centre)
- > Mitchell Leisure Centres
- > Mitchell Libraries
- > Mitchell Shire Facebook Pages
- > The Bridge Youth Services
- > Seymour College
- > Seymour Youth and Fitness Centre
- > Wallan Scouts

The survey asked young people to provide information about:

- > Where they live
- > What makes your area a good place to live
- > What would improve life in the area for you
- > What Education they are attending
- > What is their family structure
- > What young people's concerns are in Mitchell Shire
- > Information about Alcohol and Drug consumption in Mitchell Shire
- > How do we get information to young people
- > Youth visits to Mitchell Libraries

A copy of the survey tool is provided in Appendix 5.

The period of consultation occurred from 1 July 2013 until 1 September 2013. A total of 650 completed surveys were received, a response rate of 68%.

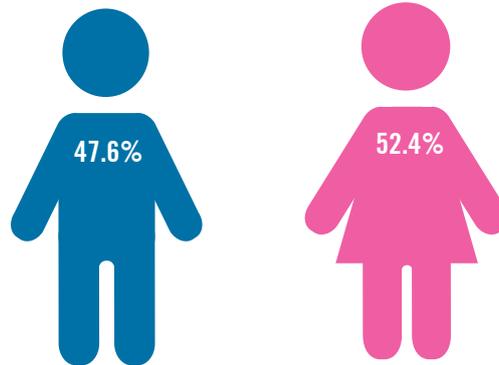
The survey results provide a comprehensive perspective of concerns, interests, gaps and health issues identified by young people within Mitchell, which have been considered in the development of the Mitchell Youth Strategy 2014-2017.

# 8.1. Youth Consultation.



A detailed breakdown and presentation of the results is provided in Mitchell Youth Consultation 2013. A summary of selected questions and findings include the following:

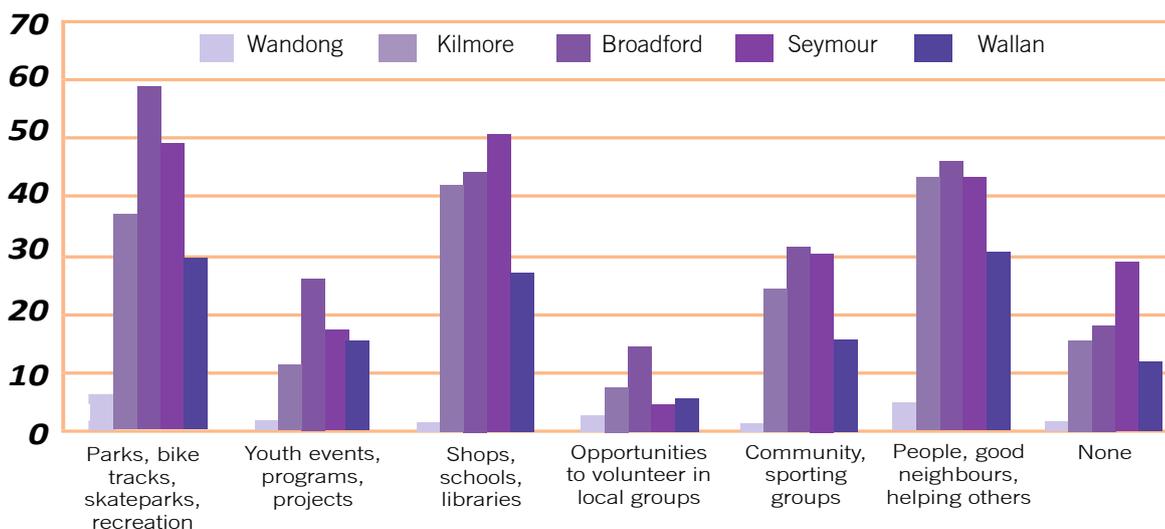
- > 47.6% of Young People Identified with being Male while 52.4% were Female
- > Respondents to the survey were in the following age groups:
  - 10yrs - 2.6%
  - 11-13yrs - 33.5%
  - 14-18yrs - 57%
  - 19-24yrs - 6.4%



Of the total Youth Survey respondents, 4.7% identified with being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. This is significant considering it is much higher than the proportion captured by the 2011 Census.

## What makes your area a good place to live?

The primary reason that young people thought their area was a good place to live was because of the parks, bike tracks, skateparks and recreational opportunities. Young people value Mitchell Shire for its people, good neighbours and helping each other, however the least important attribute for young people was opportunities to volunteer in local groups.



Broadford had a larger proportion of young people interested in volunteering and has the largest amount of young people involved in Youth Council and FReeZA Committees (Volunteer Positions in Mitchell Youth Services)

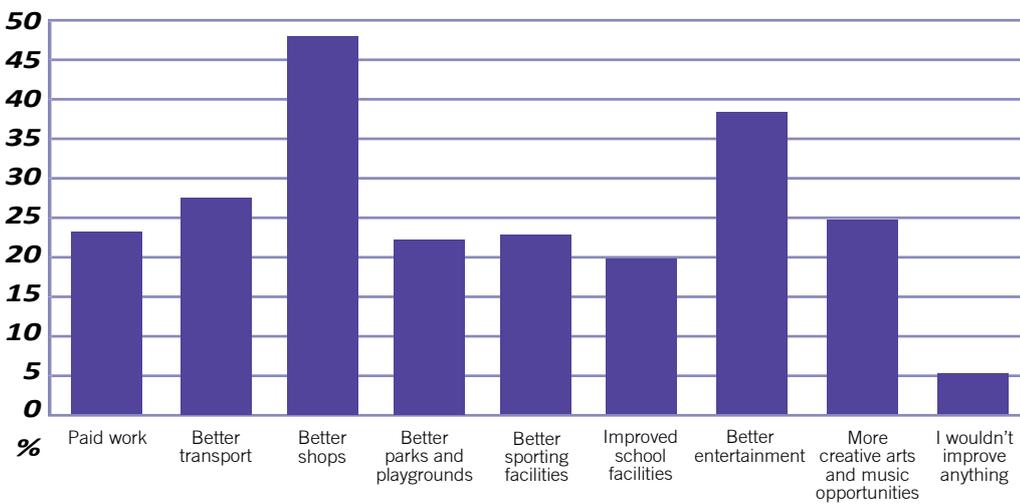




# 8.1. Youth Consultation.

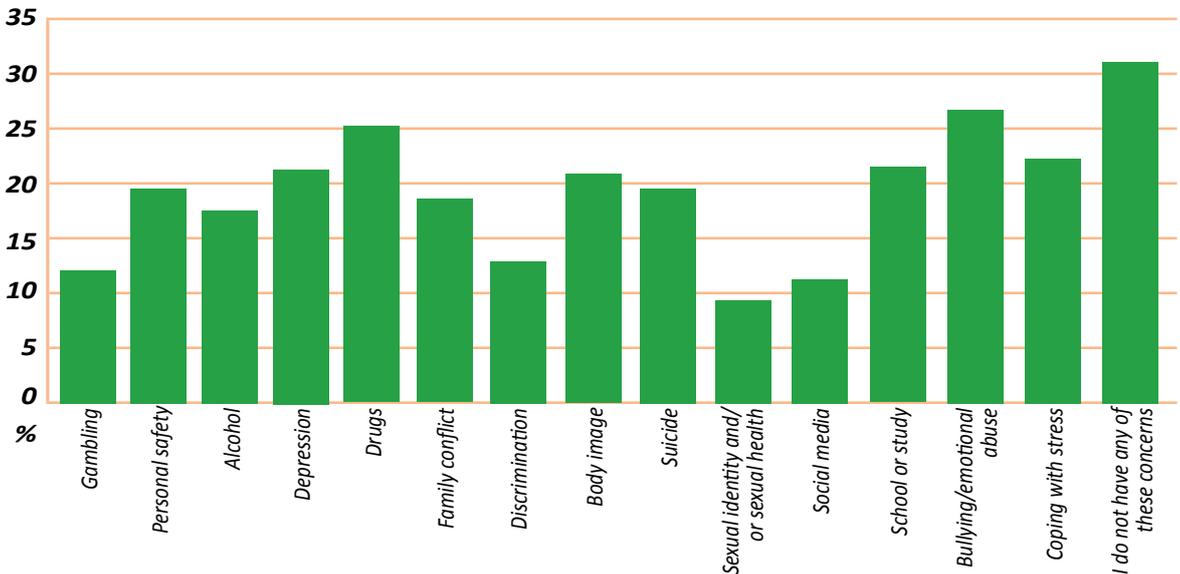
## What would improve life in the area for you?

Better shops and better entertainment were identified as ways to improve the lives of young people in Mitchell.



## What are you concerned about?

- > 25% of young people in Mitchell Shire were concerned about Drugs
- > 25% of young people were concerned about Bullying/emotional abuse
- > 22% of youth identified coping with stress and school or study was also of concern
- > This data is relevant to findings from the Service Providers Survey where local youth service providers also rated these 3 as the most significant concerns for young people in Mitchell Shire



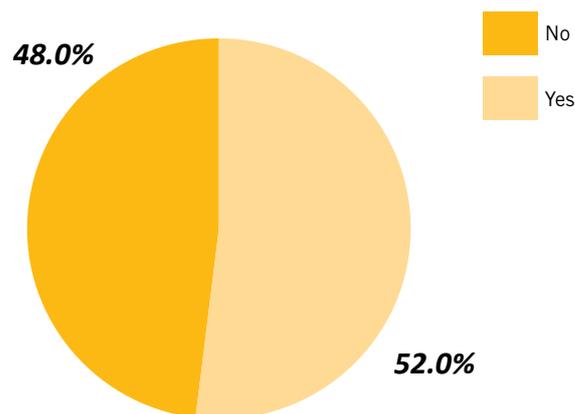
# 8.1. Youth Consultation.



## Have you ever consumed alcohol?

- > 52% young people have declared they have consumed alcohol
- > 19% of those young people drink at Social Events
- > 15% of young people acknowledged that they occasionally drink for the purpose of getting drunk

Figure 7: Have you ever consumed alcohol?



- > Heavy drinking among Victorians aged 16-25yrs has increase from 26% in 2002 to 42 per cent in 2009
- > One in five Victorians aged 18-24 years drink at a risky level (i.e. four or more drinks in one sitting) at least once a week



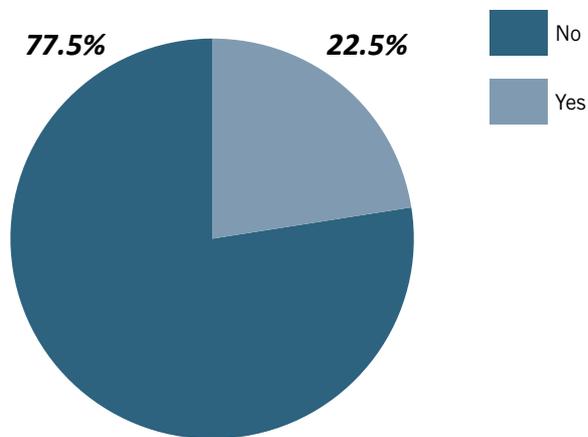


# 8.1. Youth Consultation.

## Have you ever taken drugs?

> 22.5% of young people indicated they had taken drugs

Figure 8: Have you ever taken drugs?



If you have taken drugs, what were these drugs?

|                        | No.        | %     |
|------------------------|------------|-------|
| Marijuana              | 76         | 16.5% |
| Heroin                 | 7          | 1.5%  |
| Cocaine                | 12         | 2.6%  |
| Pharmaceutical drugs   | 82         | 17.7% |
| Ecstasy                | 18         | 3.9%  |
| Speed                  | 17         | 3.7%  |
| Ice                    | 13         | 2.8%  |
| GHB                    | 7          | 1.5%  |
| Depressants            | 20         | 4.3%  |
| Prefer not to say      | 12         | 2.6%  |
| Not applicable         | 320        | 69.3% |
| Other (please specify) | 7          |       |
| <b>Total Responses</b> | <b>462</b> |       |





Real education.  
Real skills.



# 9. Education.

## Youth Education and Disengagement

An alarming proportion of young Australians who are not in work, education or training are from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly low socio-economic families, Indigenous youth, young people with a disability or health problems. People living outside of metropolitan areas are also less likely to remain in school to Year 12 and have fewer pathways post-school. Disengagement from work, education and training can be debilitating, isolating and incur social, economic and personal costs – for individuals and the communities in which they live, but also for the broader Australian economy.

Year 12 attainment is regarded as a key factor in the formal development of an individual's skills and knowledge. Those with Year 12 have a greater likelihood of continuing with further study, particularly in higher education, as well as entering into the workforce. Year 12 attainment contributes to the development of a skilled workforce, and in turn, to ongoing economic development and improved living conditions.

## On Track Survey 2013

The On Track Survey obtains data on post school pathways and is published annually. In Mitchell Shire, 246 young people leaving year 10, 11 or 12 were surveyed in 2013. Figure 9 demonstrates that Mitchell Shire is below the Victorian average for the percentage of Year 12 leavers that go on to attend University, 40.2% and 53.2% respectively.

Of the total number of Year 12 leavers surveyed in Mitchell Shire, the highest proportions have gone into part-time employment (15%) or full time employment (12.2%).

**Figure 9: Destination of 2012 Year 12 or equivalent completers**

| Destination        | Mitchell   |            | Victoria      |            |
|--------------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|
|                    | n          | %          | n             | %          |
| University         | 99         | 40.2       | 17,981        | 53.2       |
| VET Cert IV+       | 22         | 8.9        | 4,095         | 12.1       |
| VET entry level    | 9          | 3.7        | 1,237         | 3.7        |
| Apprentice         | 26         | 10.6       | 1,609         | 4.8        |
| Trainee            | 6          | 2.4        | 791           | 2.3        |
| Employed Full Time | 30         | 12.2       | 2,088         | 6.2        |
| Employed Part Time | 37         | 15.0       | 3,971         | 11.8       |
| Looking for work   | 15         | 6.1        | 1,622         | 4.8        |
| NILFET             | 2          | 0.8        | 364           | 1.1        |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>246</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>33,771</b> | <b>100</b> |

# 9. Education.



Reasons for not continuing with education in 2011 are provided in figure 10.

(NB: The data in figure 9 includes all school leavers who are not in education or training, including those who deferred a place at university or TAFE, as well as those who did not apply for study.)

The reasons for not continuing with education in 2013 varied slightly between those young people in Mitchell who completed year 12 and those who were early school leavers. The most common reason for year 12 leavers deciding not to continue with further education was that they wanted to start earning their own money. More than half also identified that they needed a break from study. Early school leavers also identified wanting to start working.

**Figure 10: Reasons for not studying**

| Reasons for not studying  | Mitchell % | Victoria % |
|---|------------|------------|
| <b>Year 12 or equivalent completers</b>                                 |            |            |
| Needed a break from study   | 65.5       | 67.2       |
| Wanted some other experience, like travel, before continuing with study | 32.8       | 26.1       |
| Wanted to start earning own money                                       | 82.8       | 80.2       |
| Would have had to move away from home                                   | 27.6       | 20.5       |
| <b>Early school leavers</b>   |            |            |
| The courses you were interested in available locally                    | 46.2       | 26.3       |
| Needed a break from study   | 61.5       | 56.9       |
| Never planned or intended to study                                      | 23.1       | 22.0       |
| Wanted to start working   | 69.2       | 80.7       |





# 9. Education.

52.6% of young people aged 15-24 years completed year 12 or its equivalent in 2011.

**Figure 11: Highest level of secondary school completed, 2011.**

| LGA      | Population group     | School Completion     |                       |                  |                      |                                   |      |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
|          |                      | Year 12 or equivalent | Year 11 or equivalent | Year 10 or below | Did not go to school | Highest year of school not stated |      |
| Mitchell | Males                | 15-24                 | 47.4%                 | 14.9%            | 28.7%                | 0.5%                              | 8.6% |
|          | Females              | 15-24                 | 59.5%                 | 10.8%            | 20.0%                | 0.2%                              | 9.5% |
|          | Total                | 15-24                 | 52.6%                 | 13.1%            | 25.0%                | 0.4%                              | 9.0% |
|          | Total population 15+ |                       | 36.9%                 | 16.4%            | 37.6%                | 0.4%                              | 8.6% |

**Figure 12: Further Education**

|                | University/Other Tertiary Institution | Technical/Further Educational | Other Education Institution |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mitchell Shire | 7%                                    | 8%                            | 6%                          |
| Rural Victoria | 9%                                    | 9%                            | 2%                          |
| Victoria       | 21%                                   | 8%                            | 3%                          |

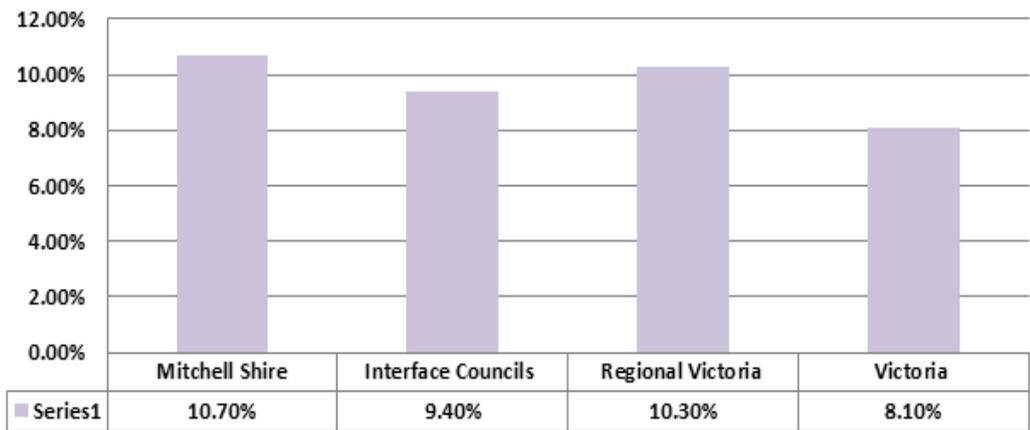


# 10. Employment.



The Interface areas have a significant deficit in the provision of local employment opportunities with approximately 1 job for every 2 labour force participants (compared with a ratio of 1:1 in non-Interface areas). There is also a notable lack of diversity in the local job opportunities available to interface areas, especially the proportion of professional jobs (Essential Economics 2012).

**Figure 13: 15-24 year olds not in employment or education (2011 Census)**



- > Mitchell Youth Unemployment Rate – 11.8% (ABS 2011)
- > Year 12 or equivalent leavers – 20.2% not in employment (On Track Survey 2013)
- > Early school leavers – 46.7% not in employment (On Track Survey 2013)

Figure 14 demonstrates an increase in the number of unemployed young people from 2006 until 2011 in Mitchell.

**Figure 14: Unemployment (Persons looking for full or part time work), 2006 and 2011.**

| LGA      | 2006                 |     | 2011   |     | % Change |      |
|----------|----------------------|-----|--------|-----|----------|------|
|          | Number               | %   | Number | %   |          |      |
| Mitchell | Males                | 125 | 5.5%   | 169 | 6.3%     | 0.8% |
|          | Females              | 95  | 5.0%   | 165 | 7.4%     | 2.4% |
|          | Total 15-24 yr olds  | 220 | 5.3%   | 334 | 6.8%     | 1.5% |
|          | Total population 15+ |     | 4.7%   |     | 5.2%     | 0.5% |





## 10. Employment.

Figure 15: Income statistics on Mitchell Shire

|  | 2006  | 2008  | 2009  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Income   |       |       |       |
| Average wage and salary (taxable and nontaxable persons) | 36919 | 39476 | 41651 |
| Wage and salary earners by certain age groups %          |       |       |       |
| 15-24  | 17.4  | 18.0  | 17.6  |
| 25-34  | 20.3  | 18.7  | 18.3  |
| 35-44  | 26.0  | 25.1  | 24.9  |
| Wages and salary earners by gender                       |       |       |       |
| Males  | 53.9  | 53.0  | 52.7  |
| Female   | 46.1  | 47.0  | 47.3  |

Source: ABS, National Regional Profile, Mitchell, 2011

The attraction of the Shire is partially explained by the pull (especially for young families) of the rural setting combined with the attraction of lower land and house prices, compared with those available in much of Melbourne.

Recently announced changes to the Melbourne urban growth boundary will result in significant population growth and increased demand for services and products particularly in Mitchell Shire. It can be expected that this will be an on-going trend and may result in significant long-term growth in the south of Mitchell Shire. This in turn will directly impact on the number of young people seeking to enter education at all levels and directly challenges the capacity of stakeholders in the area (and associated areas) to facilitate strong educational and training pathways for young people to employment.



# 11. Indigenous Young People.

0.4% of young people in Mitchell Shire identified as being Indigenous at the 2011 Census. This is below the Victorian average (0.7%).

However, some parts of the Shire are the same or above this average. Pyalong (1.2%), Broadford (0.7%) and Heathcote Junction (0.7%), register as having the highest proportion of Indigenous young people of the Mitchell Shire townships.

**Figure 16: Indigenous statistics on Mitchell Shire**

| 2011 ABS Census Data | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander total population % | Total population |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Mitchell Shire       | 416                                   | 1.2  | 34,184           |
| Victoria             | 37,699                                | 0.74   | 5,307,025        |

Of the total Youth Survey respondents, 4.7% identified with being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. This is significant considering it is much higher than the proportion captured by the 2011 Census.

Mitchell was ranked 34 out of 77 LGAs in terms of the proportion of Aboriginal population aged 10 to 17 years. A rank of 1 was assigned to the LGA with the highest proportion of Aboriginal adolescents. Only LGAs with more than five Aboriginal adolescents in the area were included in the ranking.

**Figure 17: Indigenous population by age structure.**

| Indigenous Population, Central Ranges LLEN region, 2011 |                |          |             |       |
|---|----------------|----------|-------------|-------|
|   | Macedon Ranges | Mitchell | Murrindindi | Total |
| 0-4 years   | 15             | 42       | 9           | 66    |
| 5-14 years  | 51             | 97       | 11          | 159   |
| 15-24 years   | 25             | 91       | 20          | 137   |
| 25-44 years   | 53             | 91       | 23          | 167   |
| 45-64 years   | 40             | 66       | 27          | 133   |
| 65+ years   | 10             | 16       | 8           | 33    |
| Total   | 194            | 403      | 98          | 695   |

Source: ABS 2011, Census of Population and Housing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Profile

# 11. Indigenous Young People.



The percentage of the population of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background living in the Hume region is twice the Victorian average and the second highest out of 8 regions within Victorian.

In 2011, there were 4,521 people who identified as being Aboriginal, 1.82% of the total Hume region population. In Mitchell Shire there were 143 young people who identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, making up 1.9% of the total youth population of the Mitchell Shire.

**Figure 18: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Profile.**

| Area           | Population % |
|----------------|--------------|
| Mitchell Shire | 1.23%        |
| Strathbogie    | 0.97%        |
| Murrindindi    | 0.79%        |
| Hume Region    | 1.82%        |
| Victoria       | 0.74%        |

Source: Hume Region Health Profile 2013.





# 11. Indigenous Young People.

**Figure 19: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Town Profile.**

| 2011 Census        |                          |                        |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
|                    | Indigenous Youth (10-24) | Total disclosed (2011) |
| Tallarook          | 0                        | 0.0%                   |
| Tooborac           | 0                        | 0.0%                   |
| Reedy Creek        | 0                        | 0.0%                   |
| Pyalong            | 9                        | 1.2%                   |
| Seymour            | 35                       | 0.5%                   |
| Broadford          | 28                       | 0.7%                   |
| Heathcote Junction | 6                        | 0.7%                   |
| Kilmore            | 18                       | 0.3%                   |
| Wallan             | 21                       | 0.2%                   |
| Beveridge          | 0                        | 0.0%                   |
| Wandong            | 5                        | 0.4%                   |
| Puckapunyal        | 3                        | 0.3%                   |
| Mitchell Shire     | 143                      | 0.4%                   |
| Victoria           |                          |                        |
| Total population   | Indigenous               |                        |
| 535,4042           | 37,991                   | 0.7%                   |

Source: Hume Region Health Profile 2013.





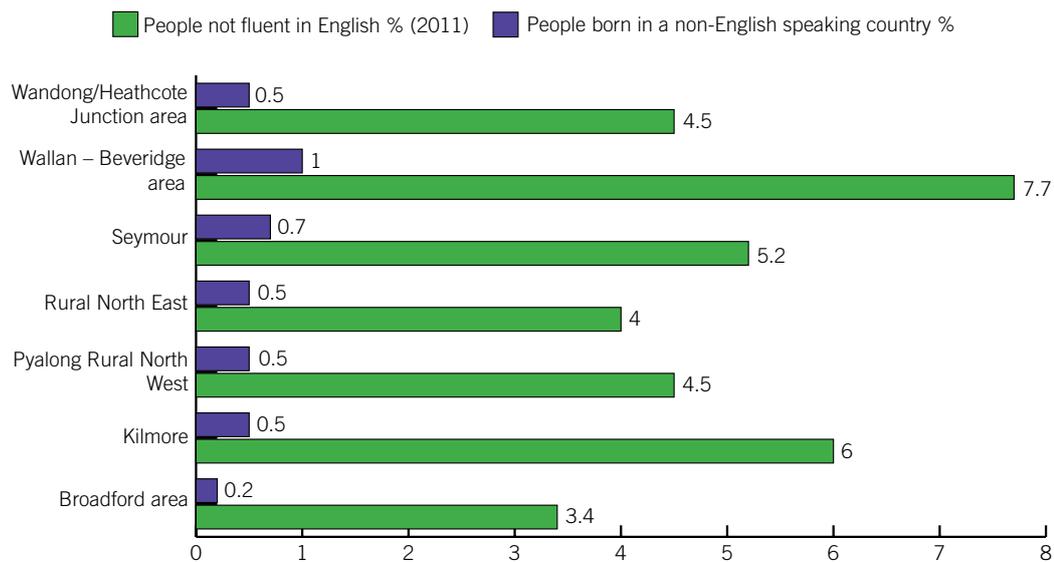
## 12. CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse).

'Individuals from a CALD background are those who identify as having a specific cultural or linguistic affiliation by virtue of their place of birth, ancestry, ethnic origin, religion, preferred language, language(s) spoken at home, or because of their parents' identification on a similar basis' (Department of Human Services, Multicultural Strategy Unit).

In these profiles, two variables have been used to describe the CALD of the LGA:

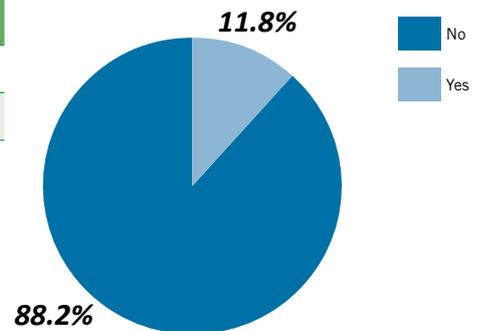
- > Language other than English (LOTE) spoken at home
- > English language proficiency

**Figure 20: Language other than English (LOTE)**



**Figure 21: Is there another language beside English spoken at your home?**

|     | Number | %     |
|-----|--------|-------|
| Yes | 75     | 11.8% |
| No  | 558    | 88.2% |



Amongst the many languages young people identified speaking in Mitchell Shire the most common were Japanese, Italian, Afrikaans, Samoan, Greek and Macedonian.







## 13. Key Theme Areas.

During the various consultations undertaken by Mitchell Youth Services as part of the development of this Strategy, participants were asked what was currently working well and the opportunities for improvement in delivering youth services in Mitchell Shire.

In a process led by a purposefully formed Youth Steering Committee dedicated to researching and developing a Youth Strategy reflecting the diversity and geographical spread of young people across the Mitchell Shire, the ensuing document was created. Five key focus areas were highlighted through this process.

### **What did we do with this information?**

From the consultation process, local trends and gaps in the current service provision were identified and five key themes emerged, these are detailed below. These themes provide a clear structure for the implementation of the Strategy and a number of actions have been developed for each theme. This framework will be used to inform decisions and continually assess the delivery of the Strategy over the next 3 years.

**Key Themes 1: Being Safe, Being Healthy** focuses on bullying; alcohol and other drug use; mental, physical and sexual health and the planning and delivery of programs to support these areas.

**Key Themes 2: Learning and Earning** recommends a multitude of strategies, all with the purpose of improving career and education opportunities for young people. These strategies included: Improving access to education, employment and training opportunities, increasing the availability of work experience opportunities; increasing flexible learning options and implementing initiatives which encourage retention rates for young people's education.

**Key Themes 3: Places to go, Things to do** promotes the involvement of young people in the design and delivery of activities and events; planning and developing a collaborative calendar of events; sourcing sustainable funding to allow for successful programs to be run and expanding the range of art and cultural activities available for young people across the Shire.

**Key Themes 4: Have your say, Be Involved** addresses the need to utilise websites and social media for effective communication with young people in the community; promote linkages to connect young people to volunteer organisations and community groups to strengthen relationships across generations and formally recognise and celebrate youth leadership and achievements.

**Key Themes 5: Who, What and Where? Effective Youth Services** plans to investigate opportunities to provide a partnership approach to better support young people; strengthening opportunities to improve parent engagement and examine other local government projects to garner learning's around school and community partnerships.

# 13. Key Theme Areas 1.



## KEY THEME 1: BEING SAFE, BEING HEALTHY

**GOAL 1.1:** Improve the health and wellbeing of young people in Mitchell Shire.

**OUTCOME:** Young People report improved Health and Wellbeing within Mitchell Shire.

**STRATEGY:** In partnership with young people and key stakeholders, agencies and networks, lead and undertake projects that encourage health and wellbeing.

| Actions  | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures  |
|--|----|----|----|--|
| <p>Deliver healthy education programs that facilitate awareness and support for mental, physical and sexual health issues for young people.</p> <p><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, Youth Groups, MSC</b></p>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | <p>Increase in number of education programs.</p> <p>Survey results demonstrate increased awareness and support.</p>    |
| <p>Stakeholders and schools to work with each other and young people to identify issues that could benefit from additional specialist support from agencies.</p> <p><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, Youth Groups, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b></p> | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | <p>Identification of issues and evidence of strategies implemented which increase support.</p>                         |
| <p>Build strong relationships with health providers to advocate for greater support for young people.</p> <p><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b></p>  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | <p>Increased access for young people to support services relevant to their needs within the Shire.</p>                 |
| <p>Provide relevant and effective information on services, supports and programs for young people (and their families).</p> <p><b>Who: Nexus</b></p>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | <p>Increased availability of relevant information for young people.</p>  |
| <p>Provide wellbeing information (addressing mental, physical and sexual health) accessible to young people at MSC Youth Drop in Centres.</p> <p><b>Who: Nexus, Youth Service Providers, MSC</b></p>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | <p>Increase in available resources in Youth spaces and increased awareness of local support services and programs.</p> |



## KEY THEME 1: BEING SAFE, BEING HEALTHY

**GOAL 1.2:** Reduce harm associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs for young people in Mitchell.

**OUTCOME:** Reduction in the uptake and utilisation of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs for youth in Mitchell.

**STRATEGY:** In partnership with key stakeholders, agencies and networks, identify and implement proactive approaches to prevention and reduction of harm associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

| Actions  | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures  |
|--|----|----|----|--|
| Work with young people to develop 'youth-led' initiatives to address issues of concern e.g. sexual health, mental health, bullying, and drug and alcohol awareness.<br><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b>  |    | ✓  |    | Number of youth led initiatives provided and evaluated as meeting need.                        |
| Undertake youth consultation to identify ways to increase awareness of alcohol and other drugs and their impacts on young people.<br><b>Who: Nexus, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b>   | ✓  |    |    | Consultation process completed and informs ongoing planning and service delivery.              |
| Implement a resource to inform young people on the effects of binge drinking.<br><b>Who: Nexus, MSC, Youth Council</b>   | ✓  |    |    | Resource accessed by young people.   |
| Provide alcohol and other drug information accessible to young people at MSC Youth Drop in Centres.<br><b>Who: Nexus, Youth Service Providers, MSC</b>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Increased availability of relevant information for young people in youth spaces.               |
| Stakeholders and youth providers work collaboratively to identify ATOD issues and continue to investigate and facilitate programs and initiatives that support and empower young people in Mitchell Shire.<br><b>Who: Nexus, Youth Service Providers, MSC, Schools</b> | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Young people engage in appropriate programs and initiatives to assist ATOD issues for support. |

## KEY THEME 1: BEING SAFE, BEING HEALTHY



**GOAL 1.3:** Improve the safety and wellbeing of young people in Mitchell Shire.

**OUTCOME:** Young People report improvement in Safety and Wellbeing within Mitchell Shire.

**STRATEGY:** In partnership with young people and key stakeholders, agencies and networks, create a community where young people feel safe and are respected providing activities that promote feelings of safety.

| Actions   | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures  |
|---|----|----|----|--|
| Promote access to driver safety programs such as the L2P program for young people in Mitchell Shire.<br><b>Who: Berry Street, Police, MSC, Volunteers, JSA, WLC (CVGT)</b>  | ✓  | ✓  |    | Increase in number of young people enrolled in the L2P program. Survey results demonstrate increased awareness in driver safety. |
| Schools, Victoria Police and other agencies work together to engage young people on issues that relate to Bullying in our Community.<br><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, Youth Groups, MSC, Youth Service Providers, Police</b>                                      | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Young people engage in appropriate programs and initiatives to assist education and support around the topic of Bullying.        |
| Provide programs to address current safety issues that have been identified through the youth consultation with young people and service providers.<br><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Survey results demonstrate increased awareness in relation to personal safety.   |
| Source new and existing funding for programs to deter anti-social behavior in Mitchell Shire.<br><b>Who: Nexus, MSC, Youth Service Providers, Police</b>  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Number of new and existing programs funded recurrently.  |
| Provide additional training for Youth Workers to be able to continue to assist young people who are experiencing bullying at school and/or cyber bullying using the latest strategies and techniques available.<br><b>Who: MSC, Youth Service Providers</b> | ✓  | ✓  |    | Young workers appropriately equipped to assist young people to address/assist with safety issues in our community.               |
| Promote innovative initiatives that youth are participating in, encouraging a positive image, respect and community connectedness.<br><b>Who: Nexus, Youth Service Providers, MSC, Police</b>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Increase in recognition of young people to the broader community.  |



# 13. Key Theme Areas 2.



## KEY THEME 2: LEARNING AND EARNING

**GOAL 2.1:** Increase opportunities for young people to access and participate in learning activities.

**OUTCOME:** Improved access, availability and engagement with education opportunities.

**STRATEGY:** In partnership with key stakeholders, agencies and networks, identify and implement initiatives which encourage learning for young people.

| Actions   | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures   |
|---|----|----|----|---|
| Identify local champions to work with stakeholders to create a campaign to increase community understanding of the value of education and local employment/training.<br><b>Who: CRLEN, Councillors, Local Business, Schools, MSC, Youth Council, Youth Service Providers, JSA</b> | ✓  |    |    | Champions identified and lead community initiatives.  |
| Evaluate the existing 'Flexible Learning Option' (FLO) programs and develop a resource that provides support in providing successful programs.<br><b>Who: Schools, Parents, CRLEN, Training Providers</b>   | ✓  |    |    | Resource developed and implemented.   |
| Improve access for students and early school leavers to the Trade Training Centre.<br><b>Who: CRLEN, Schools, Parents, Youth Service Providers, Lower Hume VET Cluster, Youth Training Pathways</b>   | ✓  |    |    | Increased attendance and awareness of training programs.  |
| Support and partner with training organisations to deliver local tailored programs for young people.<br><b>Who: Schools, CRLEN, MSC, Youth Service Providers, WLC</b>   | ✓  |    |    | Increased funding for and range of programs aimed at young people.                                    |
| Strengthen and expand the membership of current education and training networks.<br><b>Who: CRLEN, Schools, MSC, Youth Council, Youth Serv Providers</b>  | ✓  |    |    | Increase in access, awareness, information sharing and membership of education and training networks. |



## KEY THEME 2: LEARNING AND EARNING

**GOAL 2.1:** Increase opportunities for young people to access and participate in learning activities.

**OUTCOME:** Improved access, availability and engagement with education opportunities.

**STRATEGY:** In partnership with key stakeholders, agencies and networks, identify and implement initiatives which encourage learning for young people.

| Actions   | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures  |
|---|----|----|----|--|
| Implement initiatives which encourage retention rates for young people in secondary school or the equivalent.<br><b>Who: CRLEN, Schools, Youth Service Providers, DEECD, WLCProviders, WLC</b>                      | ✓  |    |    | Increase in the amount of young people complete qualifications of year 12 or equivalent. |
| Support schools to offer 'Hands on Learning' programs with the assistance of external service providers.<br><b>Who: CRLEN, Schools, MSC, Youth Service Providers, Trade Training Centre, Lower Hume VET Cluster</b> | ✓  | ✓  |    | Increase in number of 'Hands on Learning' programs.                                      |





## KEY THEME 2: LEARNING AND EARNING

**GOAL 2.2:** Improve career and employment opportunities for young people.

**OUTCOME:** Young people in Mitchell Shire have increased opportunities to engage in the workforce.

**STRATEGY:** In partnership with key stakeholders, agencies and networks, identify and implement initiatives which promote work opportunities for young people.

| Actions   | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures   |
|---|----|----|----|---|
| Build partnerships with the commercial sector to provide opportunities for young people to access employment.<br><b>Who: CRLLEN, Councillors, Local Business, Schools, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b>   | ✓  |    |    | Evidence of partnerships and increase in employment opportunities for young people.                           |
| Work in partnership with education providers and industry to promote work experience, traineeships and other opportunities including culturally diverse projects.<br><b>Who: CRLLEN, YMCA, Local Business, Schools, MSC, Youth Service Providers, WLC</b>     | ✓  |    |    | Increase in uptake of work experience, traineeships etc.  |
| The FReeZA program will encourage and enable young people through access and participation in training opportunities in art, music and culture.<br><b>Who: MSC, FReeZA Committee</b>  | ✓  |    |    | Increase in young people involved and participating in FReeZA.  |
| Mitchell Youth Council Program will provide young people with the opportunity for specific education and learning possibilities relevant to local government whilst advocating for youth in Mitchell Shire.<br><b>Who: MSC, Youth Council, Senior Council</b> | ✓  |    |    | The Youth Council Program will be supported and provided with relevant training to assist them in their role. |

> Due to insecure funding for the CRLLEN/WLC, all actions have been identified as being completed in Year 1. If the role of the CRLLEN is refunded these measures will then be reassessed to reflect the ongoing work of CRLLEN.

# 13. Key Theme Areas 3.



## KEY THEME 3: PLACES TO GO THINGS TO DO

**GOAL 3.1:** Provide accessible, sustainable, inclusive and culturally diverse recreational and entertainment opportunities for young people within the Mitchell Shire.

**OUTCOME:** Increase incidence of participation and involvement in recreational and entertainment opportunities in Mitchell Shire.

**STRATEGY:** In partnership with key stakeholders, agencies and networks, lead and implement recreational and entertainment opportunities for youth in Mitchell Shire.

| Actions   | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures   |
|---|----|----|----|---|
| Promote School Holiday activities and programs in partnership with youth organisations and MSC Departments.<br><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, Youth Groups, MSC, Youth Service Providers, OSHC providers</b> | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Increase in number of activities and participation rates.                     |
| Source new and existing funding opportunities for youth programs.<br><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, Youth Groups, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Number of new and existing programs funded recurrently.                       |
| Develop an annual calendar of youth events (across youth service providers) and examine opportunities for collaboration and improved promotion.<br><b>Who: MSC, Youth Service Providers, Schools</b>  | ✓  |    |    | Calendar developed and promoted widely.                                       |
| Advocate for improved transport options targeting young people.<br><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Evidence that young people have transport options.                            |
| Examine, expand and support a range of art and cultural activities available for young people across the shire.<br><b>Who: Schools, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b>                                  |    |    |    | Increase in art and culture activities available to young people in Mitchell. |



### KEY THEME 3: PLACES TO GO THINGS TO DO

**GOAL 3.1:** Provide accessible, sustainable, inclusive and culturally diverse recreational and entertainment opportunities for young people within the Mitchell Shire.

**OUTCOME:** Increase incidence of participation and involvement in recreational and entertainment opportunities in Mitchell Shire.

**STRATEGY:** In partnership with key stakeholders, agencies and networks, lead and implement recreational and entertainment opportunities for youth in Mitchell Shire.

| Actions   | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures   |
|---|----|----|----|---|
| Identify and create additional 'youth friendly' spaces within the shire e.g. Libraries, Youth Centres, Skateparks.<br><b>Who: MSC, Youth Service Providers</b>                        | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Increase in attendance and youth friendly spaces available in Mitchell Shire.             |
| Provide clear and transparent processes to empower, include and encourage young people to participate in youth focused programs and events.<br><b>Who: MSC, Youth Council, FReeZA</b> | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Increase in awareness and participation in events and programs throughout Mitchell Shire. |



# 13. Key Theme Areas 4.



## KEY THEME 4: HAVE YOUR SAY, BE INVOLVED

**GOAL 4.1:** To increase opportunities for young people to be heard and their opinions valued.

**OUTCOME:** Youth participation and stronger connection with community and young people.

**STRATEGY:** Engage meaningfully with young people, enabling them to have a say in decision making.

| Actions  | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures   |
|--|----|----|----|---|
| Utilise websites and social media for effective communication with young people in the community.<br><b>Who: MSC, Youth Council</b>  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Increased availability of social media and evidence of increasing access to social media by young people.             |
| Introduce processes which include and consult with young people to better develop programs, services, activities and events specific to youth.<br><b>Who: MSC, Youth Council</b>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Evidence of engagement and consultation with young people in planning, implementation and evaluation of programs etc. |
| Encourage young people to participate in community engagement activities, and develop youth focus groups around youth specific issues.<br><b>Who: Schools, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b>  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Increase in youth participation in engagement and consultation activities.  |
| Celebrate and recognise the achievements and community participation of young people across the shire.<br><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, Youth Groups, MSC, Youth Service Providers, Youth Council, FReeZA</b>  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Number of events/awards/media articles which recognise contribution of young people in shire.                         |
| Promote linkages between young people, volunteer organisations and community groups to create volunteering opportunities that will build understanding and strengthen relationships across generations.<br><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, Youth Groups, MSC, Youth Service Providers, Youth Council, FReeZA</b> | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Increase in youth volunteering throughout Mitchell Shire.   |



## KEY THEME 4: HAVE YOUR SAY, BE INVOLVED

**GOAL 4.2:** Provide Leadership opportunities to young people in Mitchell Shire.

**OUTCOME:** To develop leaders from within the youth community.

**STRATEGY:** Provide opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills and qualities.

| Actions  | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures   |
|--|----|----|----|---|
| Promote and support the facilitation of existing and potential leadership opportunities such as the Mitchell Shire's 'Youth Council Program' and FReeZA throughout Mitchell Shire youth service networks.<br><b>Who: MSC, Youth Service Providers, Schools</b> | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Number of leadership opportunities provided for young people in Mitchell. |
| Build capacity of youth participation through facilitation of youth sector meetings and forums.<br><b>Who: Youth Service Providers, Volunteer Organisations, Community Groups</b>  | ✓  |    |    | Increase in participation/attendance at forum and information sharing.    |



# 13. Key Theme Areas 5.



## KEY THEME 5: WHO, WHAT AND WHERE? EFFECTIVE YOUTH SERVICES

**GOAL 5.1:** Coordinated youth provision and services throughout Mitchell Shire.

**OUTCOME:** Organisations linking together to create a more collaborative approach to youth services.

**STRATEGY:** To develop collaborative partnerships with the youth sector, agencies and young people to support the development, implementation and evaluation of programs which increase the young people's capacity through skills acquisition, knowledge and learning.

| Actions   | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Proposed Impacts/Measures   |
|---|----|----|----|---|
| <p>Investigate opportunities to provide integrated 'partnership' approaches that would better support young people (especially young people experiencing complex issues).</p> <p><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, Youth Groups, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b></p> | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Evidence of partnerships which support services for young people.   |
| <p>Strengthen opportunities for schools and youth services providers to connect for the purpose of networking, information sharing, combined training and joined up work.</p> <p><b>Who: Schools, Nexus, MSC, Youth Service Providers</b></p>               | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Youth organisations meet and discuss priorities and opportunities for young people across Mitchell.                 |
| <p>Examine the Yea High School Project to garner learning around school and community partnerships that could be replicated in secondary schools across Mitchell Shire.</p> <p><b>Who: Schools, CRLLEN</b></p>  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Information on 'Yea High School Project' has been investigated and recommendations made about new opportunities.    |
| <p>Investigate re-establishing the parent engagement committee to explore opportunities and strategies for improved parent engagement.</p> <p><b>Who: Schools, CRLLEN</b></p>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | Parent/Kinship Care engagement committee re-established and opportunities and strategies identified and acted upon. |



## 14. Monitoring Progress and Achievements.

On finalisation of the Youth Strategy the steering committee will become the 'Youth Focused Advisory Group' for Mitchell Shire, comprising of cross-sectorial membership at decision making level committed to guiding strategic direction that improves outcomes for young people.

A framework for monitoring progress and achievements will be established and consist of reporting templates, timelines and responsibilities to support routine and regular reporting of progress and achievements against planned outcomes.

Mechanisms to support effective and rigorous evaluation of the key impacts and outcomes of the youth strategy over time will include scheduled and regular measurement of key data specific to Mitchell Shire to determine progress and provide evidence of positive change for young people within the community.

Monitoring progress and outcomes achieved will allow Mitchell Shire Council to review and where appropriate refine and / or realign planned Strategies over the life of the Youth Strategy.







# Appendix 1: Glossary

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| MSC    | Mitchell Shire Council                                     |
| LGA    | Local Government Authority                                 |
| OFY    | Office for Youth   |
| CALD   | Culturally and Linguistically Diverse                      |
| YACVIC | Youth Affairs Council Victoria                             |
| GLBTI  | Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersexual           |
| CRLLEN | Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network       |
| DTPLI  | Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure |
| WLC    | Workplace Learning Coordinator                             |
| JSA    | Job Services Australia                                     |
| MAV    | Municipal Association of Victoria                          |

**Engage, Involve, Create:** Victorian Youth Statement outlines how the state government will drive exciting new partnerships assisting young people

**Staying Connected:** Solutions for addressing service gaps for young people living at the Interface

**One Melbourne or Two?** An Overview of the issues faced by people living in the Interface areas

**Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD):** People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds.

**Integrated Community Services and Infrastructure Plan (ICSIP):** The ICSIP will provide a framework for the provision of, and planning for, community facilities which incorporate organisational goals, service needs and community expectations.

**Mitchell Shire Council Plan:** The Council Plan sets out the vision, commitment and values of the Council and identifies strategies for some key objectives Council aims to achieve over a particular four year period.

**Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP):** The MPHWP is a strategic plan that sits alongside and integrates with: the corporate plan of the Council; the Council land use plan required by the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and other local plans of community partners with an interest in local public health.

# Appendix 1: Glossary



**Youth Council:** Mitchell Youth Council was established in June 2010 as an Advisory Committee with the role of representing the voice of young people aged 12 to 24 who live, work or study in Mitchell Shire. Youth Council is also a youth development program coordinated by Youth Services.

**Youth Room:** Mitchell youth room is a youth information and referral centre based at the Broadford Leisure centre.

**Young Person/Young People:** In the context of this document, a young person is aged 10-24 years and resides, works, studies or has significant connection to the Mitchell Shire.

**Outreach Services:** Services not physically located in Mitchell may provide services to Mitchell by occupying space or facilities in the municipality, or youth workers may travel around the area or base themselves at hotspots (eg skatepark, youth rooms) offering information and referral options.

**Interface Council:** A local government area at the boundary of metropolitan and rural Councils. Interface Councils characteristically have a mix of concentrated urban areas and rural townships with growth in new housing estates.





## Appendix 2: References

1. The Youth Affairs Network Qld (YANQ)  
Information on the Federal Government policies that is likely to affect young people
2. The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC)
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011
4. Mitchell 2020 Community Plan
5. Mitchell Access and Inclusion Disability Plan
6. Mitchell Shire Council Plan 2013- 17
7. Mitchell Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-17
8. Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)
9. Department of Education and Early Childhood  
Adolescent Community Profile - Hume Region 2010  
Adolescent Community Profile - Shire of Mitchell 2010  
On Track Survey 2013
10. Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc.  
Building the Scaffolding: Strengthening support for young people in Victoria
11. Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network, Environmental Scan report
12. Youth Central, Engage, Involve, Create (Victorian Youth Statement)
13. Interface Councils  
Staying Connected: solutions for addressing service gaps for young people living at the Interface  
One Melbourne or Two, An overview of issues faced by people living in the interfaced areas  
One Melbourne or Two, Implications of Population Growth for Infrastructure and Service in Interface Areas
14. Victoria Police  
Child and Youth strategy
15. Nexus Primary Health
16. Lower Hume Primary Care Partnerships

# Appendix 3: Council Youth Services



|  |  |
|--|--|
| Mitchell FReeZA                          | Program funded by State Government and Council to provide support and training for young people to organise art, music and cultural events for young people within Mitchell Shire (10-24 years).   |
| Mitchell Youth Council                   | Council Advisory Committee and Youth Development program. Youth Council provides a mechanism for youth to advocate for the needs of young people and meaningfully contribute to Council decision making.   |
| Youth Grants Program                     | An annual grants program which aims to fund Youth led projects or events. Youth Services provides support and mentoring for groups or individuals to apply for the funding and deliver the associated project.   |
| Social Media                             | Mitchell Youth Services recognise the importance of Social Media in connecting and engaging with Young People. Currently Mitchell Youth Services administrate 6 Facebook pages and 1 Instagram account.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Mitchell FReeZA (Instagram and Facebook)</li> <li>&gt; Mitchell Youth Services (Facebook)</li> <li>&gt; Wallan Skatepark (Facebook)</li> <li>&gt; Seymour Skatepark (Facebook)</li> <li>&gt; Broadford Skatepark (Facebook)</li> <li>&gt; Wandong and Heathcote Junction Youth Park (Facebook)</li> </ul> |
| Mitchell Youth Services Information Card | Wallet size information card featuring contact numbers for a range of service providers and discounts for local businesses. The card is updated annually and distributed to a database of young people also available in local shire libraries and youth service providers.  |
| Youth Centre                             | Youth specific meeting space/drop in centre located in the Broadford Leisure Centre. Currently open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.   |
| National Youth Week (NYW) Event          | Each year Youth Services provides support and mentoring to a group of young people to apply for a State Government National Youth Week grant and deliver the associated project.<br><p>In addition Mitchell Shire Council has allocated funding to provide youth programs and events throughout Mitchell Shire. Council acknowledges the importance and value of young people contributing their thoughts and ideas for Youth Week.</p>  |
| Skate Parks                              | Mitchell Shire Council currently maintains Wallan, Kilmore, Broadford and Wandong Skate Parks. Youth Services facilitate skate events and developmental programs at these locations.   |
| Street Art                               | Mitchell Youth Services supports arts and culture within our municipality. External funding together with council contribution allows Youth Services to create educational and legal Street Art workshops within Mitchell Shire.   |
| School Holiday Program                   | Council Youth Services, Leisure Centres and Libraries provide support advocacy and events during School Holiday periods.   |





# Appendix 4: Youth Survey Tool



**MITCHELL SHIRE.**  
*Youth Survey 2013*



## What Matters to Youth

Mitchell Youth Services is conducting a survey to find out what young people really think about living in our Shire. We are inviting youth aged 10 to 24 to complete this survey. Your answers will be treated confidentially and will only take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

The primary purpose of Youth Services is to actively promote, develop and encourage the physical, social, mental and spiritual wellbeing of young people through providing, facilitating, planning, funding and advocating for the needs and issues of young people, their families and the community.

The survey can also be found online at:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/mitchellyouthsurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mitchellyouthsurvey)

To return the completed survey, please place it in the attached reply paid envelope and post back to Council. Or you may wish to drop it off at the Council Office located in Wallan, Kilmore, Broadford or Seymour.

If you have any issues of concern that you would like to discuss further, please refer to our Youth Card included in this pack. The Mitchell Youth Card provides a detailed list of services and organisation to assist young people within Mitchell Shire and surrounds.

Thank you. Your feedback will be used to drive our youth strategy.

Youth Services  
Mitchell Shire Council

Contact:  
t: (03) 5734 6200  
f: (03) 5734 6222  
e: [youth@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)  
w: [www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)



# Appendix 4: Youth Survey Tool



## MITCHELL SHIRE. Youth Survey 2013

Tell us what you really think

1. Do you identify with being Male  or Female

2. What is your age group?

|                          |          |                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10yrs    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10-13yrs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14-18yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19-24yrs |

3. Do you identify with being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes  No

4. Where do you live?

|                          |                    |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wallan             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pyalong                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Beveridge          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reedy Creek             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Seymour            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tallarook               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Broadford          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tooborac                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kilmore            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wandong                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Heathcote Junction | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other in Mitchell Shire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Puckapunyal        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other                   |

5. What makes your area a good place to live?

|                          |  |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Parks, bike tracks, skateparks, recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Opportunities to volunteer in local groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Youth events, programs, projects           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Community, sporting groups                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Shops, schools, libraries                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | People, good neighbours, helping others    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | None                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other                                      |

6. What would improve life in the area for you?

|                          |                              |                          |  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Paid work                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Improved school facilities                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Better transport             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Better entertainment                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Better shops                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | More creative arts and music opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Better parks and playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> | I wouldn't improve anything                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Better sporting facilities   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other                                      |



# Appendix 4: Youth Survey Tool



**MITCHELL SHIRE.**  
*Youth Survey 2013*

7. If you go to school, what school do you attend?

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary School               | <input type="checkbox"/> Broadford Secondary College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wallan Secondary College     | <input type="checkbox"/> Seymour College             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kilmore International School | <input type="checkbox"/> St Marys College            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assumption College           | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not attend school      |
| _____ Other   |  |

8. What type of education are you currently undertaking?

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary               | <input type="checkbox"/> TAFE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary             | <input type="checkbox"/> University     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |
| _____ Other                                    |   |

9. Who do you live with?

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> With family     | <input type="checkbox"/> Alone       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> With friends    | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boarding school | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shared house    | _____ Other                          |

10. What is your family structure?

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mum and Dad   | <input type="checkbox"/> Just Dad    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent and Step Parent  | <input type="checkbox"/> Just Mum    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster care   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mum and Mum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kinship care (grandparent, aunties, uncles, brothers and sisters) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dad and Dad |
| _____ Other  |                                      |

11. Do you identify with having a disability of any sort?

Yes       No

If Yes, what type of disability?

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical       | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental         | _____ Other                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |                               |

# Appendix 4: Youth Survey Tool



**MITCHELL SHIRE.**  
*Youth Survey 2013*

12. Is there another language besides English spoken at home?

Yes       No      If yes, what language do you speak? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Are you concerned about any of these topics?

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gambling                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Body image                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal safety                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual identity and/or sexual health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depression                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs                               | <input type="checkbox"/> School or study                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family conflict                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying/emotional abuse             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Coping with stress                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have any of these concerns | _____ Other   |

14. Do you experience any of these in your home?

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gambling                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Body image                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal safety                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual identity and/or sexual health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depression                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs                               | <input type="checkbox"/> School or study                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family conflict                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying/emotional abuse             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Coping with stress                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have any of these concerns | _____ Other   |

15. Have you ever consumed alcohol?

Yes       No

16. How regularly do you drink alcohol?

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everyday         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At social events | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally with meals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every weekend    | <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all              |

17. Do you drink for the purpose of getting drunk?

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No  | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't drink |



# Appendix 4: Youth Survey Tool



**MITCHELL SHIRE.**  
*Youth Survey 2013*

18. Have you ever taken drugs?

Yes  No

If yes, what were these drugs?

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marijuana            | <input type="checkbox"/> Speed             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heroin               | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cocaine              | <input type="checkbox"/> GHB               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> Depressants       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecstasy              | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable    |

19. After school where would you hang out?

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I go straight home                 | <input type="checkbox"/> After school care program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local skatepark                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Library                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outside school                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth group               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> I go to work              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down the street, shops or takeaway | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends house             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                              |  |

20. Are you involved in any of the following?

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth groups and clubs                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sporting groups/clubs                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental groups  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious groups                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/cultural programs and activities (music, drama, dance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mitchell Shire Council youth programs and activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School/student groups                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer groups                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other   | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable                                       |

21. What is the best way to get information to you?

|                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post     | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email    | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter  | <input type="checkbox"/> SMS       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other    |                                    |

# Appendix 4: Youth Survey Tool



**MITCHELL SHIRE.**  
*Youth Survey 2013*

22. Are you a current Mitchell Shire Library member?

Yes       No

If no, why aren't you a current Mitchell Shire Library member?

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't read books                            | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't need anything the library offers         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I used to have a membership but never used it | <input type="checkbox"/> I have lost books and I am too scared to go back |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know how to become a member           | <input type="checkbox"/> I use the school library                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It is hard for me to get to a library         | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have lost my card                           | _____ Other   |

23. What would you like to see available within the Mitchell Shire Libraries?

|                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Games    | <input type="checkbox"/> Playstation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> eReaders | <input type="checkbox"/> Xbox        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DVD's    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wii         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> iPads    | <input type="checkbox"/> None        |
| _____ Other                       |                                      |

24. Do you have internet at home?

Yes       No

25. Were you aware that the library provides free internet and wireless access?

Yes       No

26. What hours of opening would suit your needs?

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The regular hours are fine                  | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like it to be open after 6pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like it to be open more on weekends | _____ Other   |

## End of the questions

Thank you for your cooperation in completing these questions.

If you have any queries regarding this survey please contact Council's Youth Services 57346 3200





**MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

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t: (03) 5734 6200  
f: (03) 5734 6222  
e: [mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)  
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**MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

