



# HORSHAM YOUTH STRATEGY

AUGUST 2018

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## Acknowledgement of Country

The Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali people.

We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

We pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present, and commit to working together in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect for the benefit of the broader community and future generations.

## Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in another format, please contact reception at the Civic Centre Municipal Office on telephone (03) 5382 9777 or email [council@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@hrcc.vic.gov.au).

If you require an interpreter service, please contact the Translating and Interpreter Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to contact Horsham Rural City Council Reception on telephone (03) 5382 9777. Our business hours are 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

## Thank you

This Strategy has been prepared by Cred Consulting and Horsham Rural City Council.

The Strategy was developed through engagement with local young people, community services and schools.

Horsham Rural City Council and Cred Consulting would like to thank all local young people, local high schools, community service providers, parents and carers, and community members who contributed their time and insights into the development of this Youth Strategy. The Project Control Group and Council staff who have contributed to the development of this Strategy are also acknowledged.

## Horsham Rural City Council

Civic Centre Municipal Office 18 Roberts Avenue  
(PO Box 511) Horsham Vic 3402

P: (03) 5382 9777

F: (03) 5382 1111

E: [council@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@hrcc.vic.gov.au)

W: [www.hrcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au)

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



I am proud to present the Horsham Rural City Council Youth Strategy.

This important document contains Council's strategic directions for the delivery of contemporary youth services that meet the needs of our diverse regional city population.

Young people are our future. Listening and acting on what they have to say is crucial to the success of this strategy and making Horsham municipality a more youth-friendly place to live, work, study and play. Our young people have told us they are proud to live in Horsham municipality. We need to foster this sense of pride in our community.

Some of the issues identified are difficult, such as concerns around alcohol and drug abuse and use, bullying, mental and physical health and high rates of teenage pregnancy, but there are also many positives we can build on together. There is the Wimmera River, open spaces and a strong sense of community and feeling safe.

There will be changes. Changes in the way we deliver Council services, changes in how we engage with young people and changes to our advocacy platform. These changes are necessary for Horsham municipality to continue to grow and evolve as a vibrant, inclusive and youth-friendly community.

Thank you to the young people, parents, carers, services, schools, Council staff and my fellow Councillors, who provided valuable insight and knowledge into the development of the Youth Strategy.

On behalf of the Horsham Rural City Council, we look forward to working with you to implement this important strategy in our community.

Cr Pam Clarke

*Mayor, Horsham Rural City Council*

# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS A YOUTH STRATEGY AND WHY HAVE ONE?

Young people aged 10 to 25 years are an important asset to our community, making up around 19% of our population. The Horsham Youth Strategy is Horsham Rural City Council's (Council's) plan to empower and engage young people in Horsham municipality over the next 10 years and provides the strategic directions for the delivery of contemporary youth services that meet the needs of a diverse regional city population. It outlines a vision for Council to work alongside services, schools, young people and the community and to guide Council in engaging and empowering young people in decision making.

## HOW THE STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED

This strategy was developed through engagement and collaboration with local young people, Council staff, services, schools, parents and carers, and the community. A Project Control Group with representatives from Council, Council staff, and local services coordinated the process.

Background research included:

- Horsham Rural City Council youth profile and demographics
- Review of national, state and Council plans and policies relating to young people
- Review of Council's current youth services delivery and comparison with neighbouring councils
- Audit and mapping of current services that are available to young people in Horsham municipality, and comparison with other Victorian councils, and
- Review of best practice youth service delivery and youth engagement.



Participants at the workshop with young people

## CALL TO ACTION

This strategy is a high level, 10 year document developed with four objectives:

- Provide Council with a service delivery map of the current services that are available to young people in Horsham and surrounds
- Identify opportunities for young people to be empowered to make decisions on service delivery that suits their needs
- Increase meaningful engagement opportunities for young people with Council, and
- Provide Council with contemporary and future facing models for youth service delivery that reflects the needs of a diverse regional city population. These models must take into consideration equity and access.

The strategy is also responsive to the emerging priorities of our young people. Community engagement highlighted two key priorities as important concerns for young people and the community and a call to action for Council and services. These are:

- Alcohol and other drug use and abuse, and
- Bullying.

## HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL MUNICIPALITY

This strategy applies to the whole of the Horsham Rural City Council municipality, including Horsham Township and rural areas.

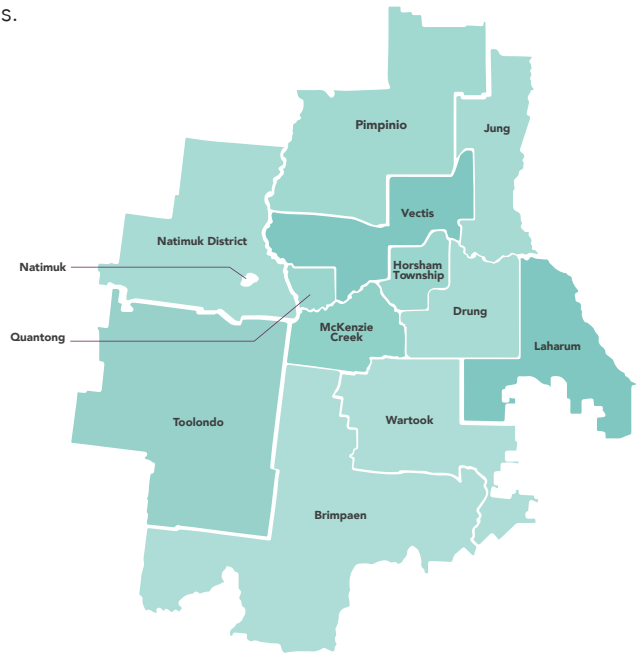


Figure 1 - Horsham Rural City Council municipality



Horsham Rural City Council's rural and urban areas

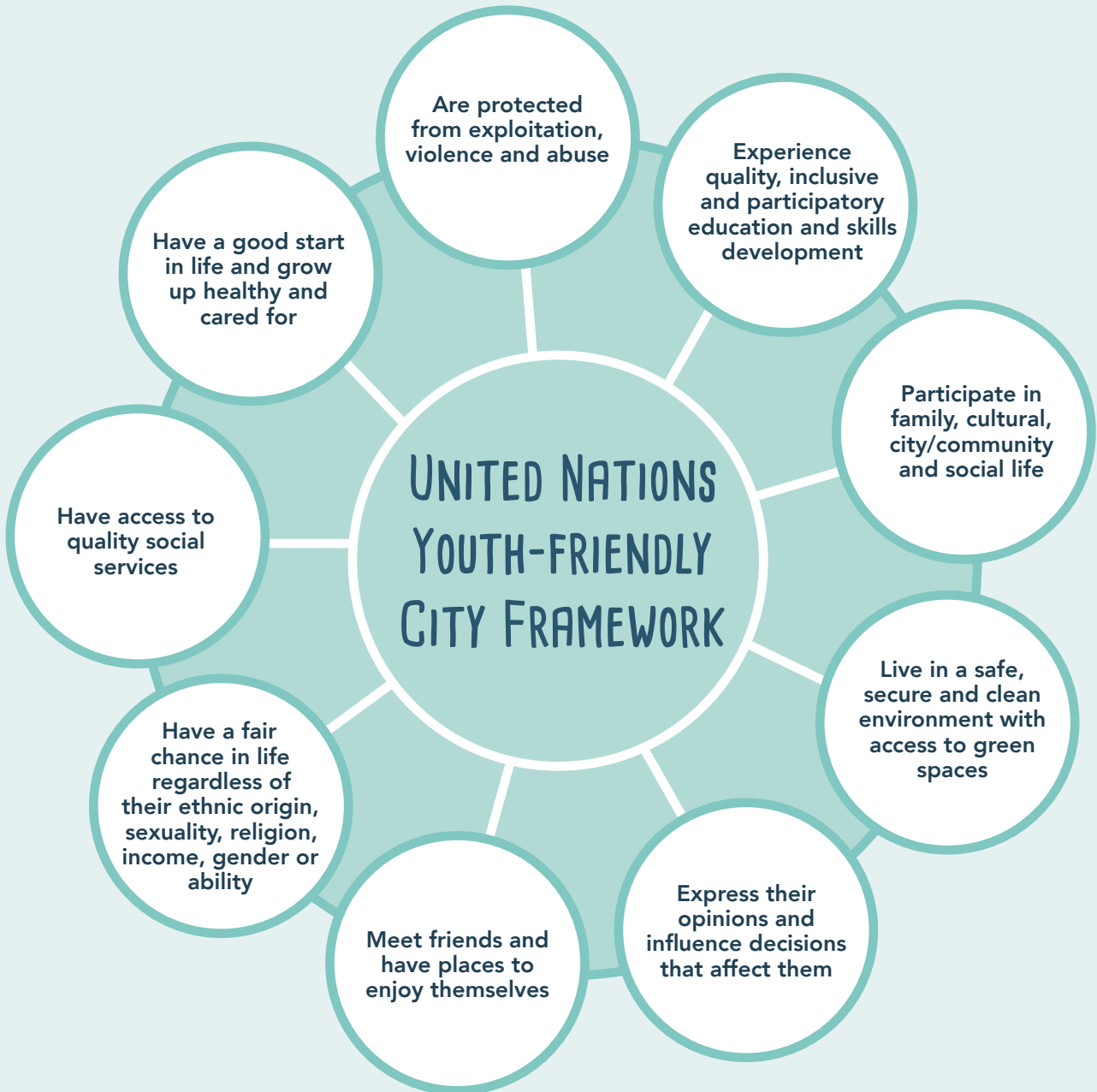
# YOUTH-FRIENDLY CITIES

This strategy is based on a rights-based, youth-friendly city framework.

Youth-friendly cities are committed to improving the lives of young people by realising their rights as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In practice, a youth-friendly city is a city in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of young people are an integral part of public policies, programs and decisions. It is a city where young people:

Youth-friendly city frameworks identify engagement with young people as a central activity in creating youth-friendly cities. Where young people are active agents and their voices and opinions influence decision making processes.



# BACKGROUND

## GOVERNMENT FOCUS AREAS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Australian and Victorian Government have key policy and funding initiatives that influence outcomes for young people in Horsham.

Nationally, there is a focus on mental health through the headspace centres.

At the State Government level there is a focus on:

- Youth engagement, education, and health and wellbeing
- Empowering young people to input into government services, policies and programs through innovative youth engagement programs, and
- Programs and services for young people in regional and rural areas, including through funding initiatives relating to engagement, crime prevention, alcohol and other drug use and abuse, health and wellbeing, work readiness, recreation and youth week.

Council has existing community and strategic planning that influence outcomes for young people, including:

- Attracting and retaining young people in the municipality through economic development activities
- Engaging with and considering the needs and interests of all people in decision making, including young people, and
- Protecting, improving and promoting the health and wellbeing of young people, particularly in the areas of mental health, preventing family violence, improving sexual and reproductive health and strengthening education and economic development.

## WHAT DOES COUNCIL DO NOW?

Across all its departments, Council delivers (either directly or indirectly) services and programs, facilities, infrastructure and advocacy that support outcomes for young people. Council is also an employer of young people, and provides work experience and volunteering opportunities.

- Infrastructure includes bridges, bike paths, streets and street furniture, CCTV and lighting, and free WiFi in the town centre.
- Council's advocacy work includes work around homelessness, telecommunications infrastructure improvements, transport, domestic violence and alcohol and other drugs.
- Facilities include sports and recreation facilities, skate parks, pools, libraries, parks, Horsham Town Hall, and playgrounds.
- Services and programs include maternal health support, programming at Horsham Town Hall, arts programs, homework clubs and learner driver programs.

Council's Community Services department also has a specific role in delivering services for young people including:

- Council's Youth C.A.N. program which seeks to influence norms around parental supply of alcohol to teenagers, and
- Under the "Nexus" brand, Council owns and maintains a youth centre building and contracts Grampians Community Health to deliver generalist youth services for Horsham's young people. These services include youth groups (FReeZA and Young G), recreational events, art programs, youth workshops and hospitality training, volunteering opportunities, and traineeships.

Figure 2 compares Council's youth service model with neighbouring councils.

# WHAT ARE NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS DOING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?



## Legend

-  Youth Worker  
\* Youth worker is outsourced to Grampians Community Health
-  Youth engagement
-  Youth Award
-  Youth Strategy or Charter
-  Youth Centre

Figure 2 - Neighbouring councils' engagement with young people



# YOUNG PEOPLE IN HORSHAM

## HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE IN HORSHAM MUNICIPALITY?

There are 3,725 young people aged 10 to 25 years living in Horsham municipality (or 18.9% of Horsham municipality's population). This includes:

- 3,231 young people aged 12 to 25 years, and
- 494 people in the transition age group, aged 10 to 11 years.

## DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

Horsham municipality's young people are a diverse group, with many different interests, backgrounds, lifestyles, plans and needs. According to 2016 census data:

- 30% of Horsham municipality's young people aged 12 to 24 live in rural towns and areas
- 27% of Horsham municipality's young people aged 12 to 24 are volunteers, higher than the Victorian average
- Young people make up a large part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community: 27% of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are young people aged 12 to 25
- Some young people live with disability, with at least 3% of young people aged 10 to 25 needing assistance with core activities
- There are increasing numbers of young people from culturally diverse backgrounds and young people who speak a language other than English at home, and
- Some young people identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Intersex (Youth Survey 2018).



# WHERE DO YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE?

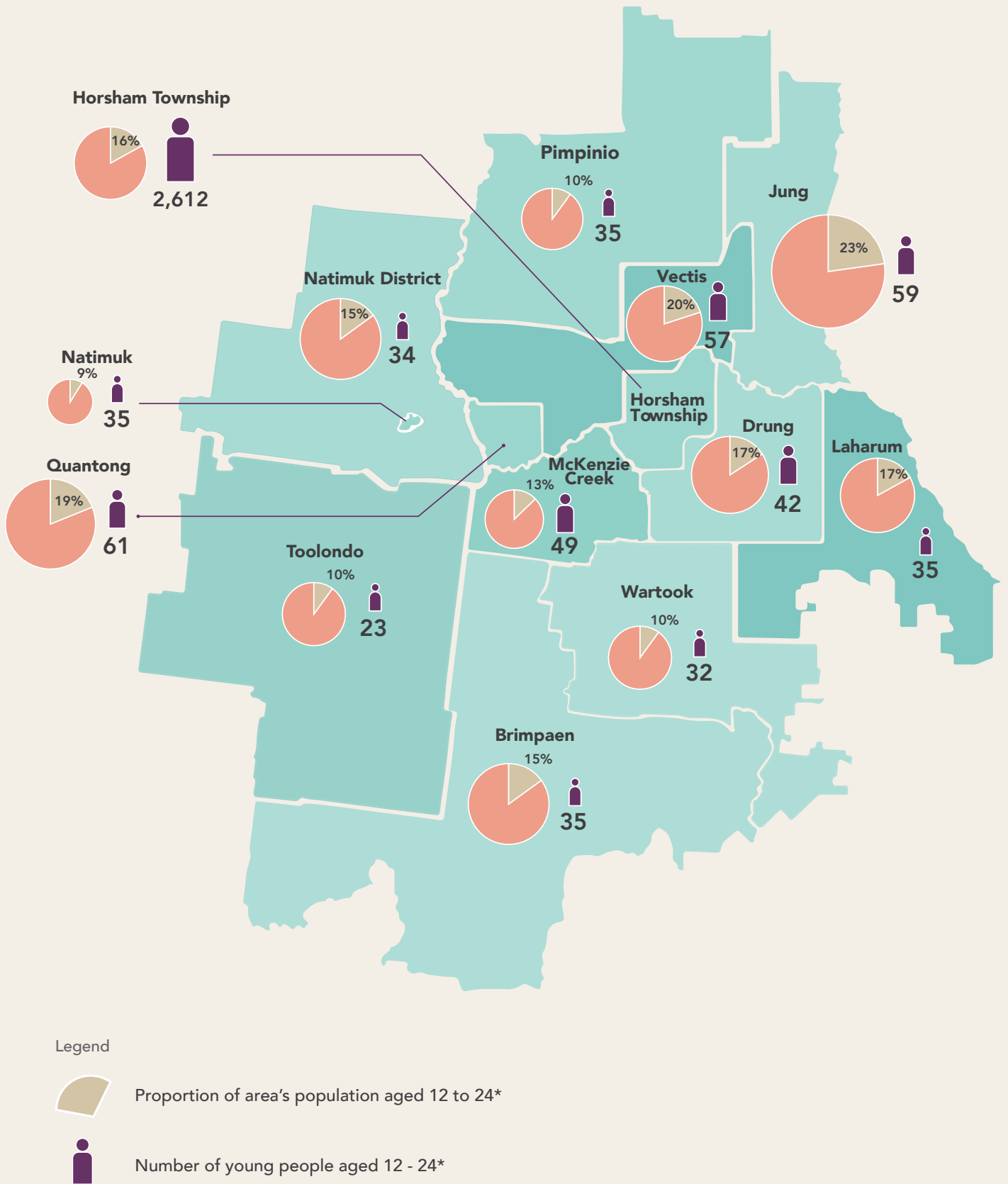


Figure 3 - Distribution of young people in the Horsham area

\*Population distribution data is only available for the 12 to 17 and 18 to 24 year old age groups.

## A SPECTRUM OF INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES

Young people across the 10 to 25 year age group have a spectrum of interests and priorities across life stages from primary school to young adulthood. They have changing needs and aspirations, and experience different levels of access to resources and services. Recognising and responding to these varying needs is key in developing appropriate and meaningful community engagement and services for Horsham municipality's young people.

TABLE 2 - SPECTRUM OF INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES

AGE GROUP	LIFE STAGE	POPULATION (2016 CENSUS)	INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES
10-11	Primary education / Transition	494 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This age group is straddling childhood and adolescence. Friendships are starting to become more important and complex, but peer pressure may also be stronger. There is a focus on the transition to secondary school.</li> <li>In this age group, people may participate in organised extra-curricular activities.</li> <li>Key priorities for the Youth Strategy are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullying</li> <li>Alcohol and other drug use and abuse</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Youth-friendly public places and spaces, and</li> <li>Feeling safe in public places.</li> </ul> </li> <li>In this age group, people find out information through Instagram, school, parents and carers, Snapchat and Facebook.</li> </ul>
12-17	Secondary education	1,413 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people this age are experiencing increasing independence from parents, and exploring their identity as a young adult. Some young people in this age group will be learning to drive and starting their first relationships.</li> <li>While organised extra-curricular activities remain popular for ages 12-15, after age 15 young people may be leaving organised extra-curricular activities such as sport.</li> <li>Young people may be starting casual work, with 44% of young people in Horsham municipality aged 15 to 17 working.</li> <li>Secondary school is a focus, with 1,224 secondary school students in Horsham municipality.</li> <li>Top priorities for the Youth Strategy are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alcohol and other drug use and abuse</li> <li>Bullying</li> <li>Mental, physical and sexual health</li> <li>Things for young people to do, and</li> <li>Youth-friendly places and spaces.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Young people this age group want to find out information through Facebook, school, Instagram, Snapchat, and the local papers.</li> </ul>
18-25	Tertiary education and young workers	1,818 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career paths are a priority, with 70% of young people 18-25 working.</li> <li>Tertiary education is a focus, with 551 TAFE or university students in Horsham municipality.</li> <li>Census data shows many young people this age are moving to Ballarat, Geelong and Melbourne– this reflects general trends in Australia where rural areas lose young people to cities with more tertiary education and employment opportunities.</li> <li>Top priorities for the Youth Strategy are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alcohol and other drug use and abuse</li> <li>Things for young people to do</li> <li>Employment</li> <li>Bullying, and</li> <li>Mental, physical and sexual health.</li> </ul> </li> <li>People find out information through Facebook, Instagram, school, Snapchat and local and community groups.</li> </ul>

## HORSHAM'S YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE MANY STRENGTHS AND ASSETS

Local services, schools, Councillors, Council staff, community members and young people identified the strengths and assets that young people contribute to the Horsham Rural City Council community.

- Young people are students, studying at local primary and high schools, VCAL, Longerenong College and Federation University.
- Young people are workers. Many local young people work casually while at school, and most work part time or full time when they leave school. They work in retail, food services, health care and social assistance; as well as in family businesses and farms.
- Young people are highly engaged in their community. More young people are volunteers in Horsham municipality than the Victorian average. Young people contribute their time and talents to creative and performing arts organisations and events.
- Young people are highly involved in sports and recreation and are leaders in local clubs and organisations, many going on to play at an elite level.
- Young people bring creativity, vibrancy and new perspectives to the community. They are optimistic and open-minded.
- Young people make up a large proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Horsham municipality.
- Young people are resilient through adversity. They are adaptable to change and support each other. Young people are welcoming and accepting of diversity and change.

## BUT THEY ALSO FACE SOME CHALLENGES

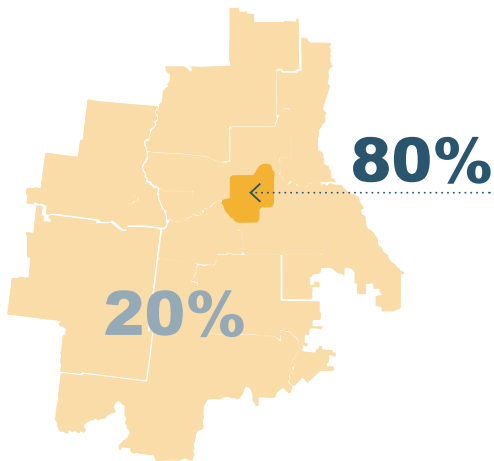
While Horsham municipality's young people have many strengths, they also face a number of challenges:

- Some areas of Horsham municipality have concentrations of disadvantage, in particular parts of Horsham North affecting young people across all age groups 10 to 25 years.
- There are high rates of teenage pregnancy. Horsham municipality has the third highest teenage birth rate in Victoria.
- Horsham municipality has high rates of sexually transmitted infections, particularly among young people aged 15 to 24 years.
- Horsham municipality has the third highest rate of bullying in Victoria. This is particularly an issue for young people aged 10 to 17 years.
- While young people said that they find Horsham municipality a safe place to live, some young people, particularly young women, identified feeling safer in public places and at home as an important priority.
- Young people in Horsham municipality are much more likely to witness or be a victim of domestic violence, with family violence incidents occurring at twice the rate of Regional Victoria.
- There are high rates of young offenders in Horsham municipality. Youth crime is linked to disengagement from school, mental health issues, experiencing violence or abuse, low income levels and poor family support networks.
- Some young people have unstable living situations, and may be homeless, couch surfing or living in an unsafe situation. In particular, there are no crisis accommodation beds for young people under 18.
- There are limited local and regional public transport options. Young people without access to a car face significant transport barriers which can affect work and employment opportunities.
- Some young people live in households without broadband internet connections, which can limit their access to education, employment, social connections and digital services.
- There are limited career paths and tertiary education options available for young people in Horsham municipality. Many young people aged 18 to 24 leave for Ballarat, Geelong and Melbourne seeking education and employment opportunities.
- While there are services for young people in Horsham, many are not open after hours or on weekends, or in locations that are ideal for young people.
- While young people are valued by the community, some young people such as LGBTQI young people and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds face judgement and negative perceptions.

# HOW WE ENGAGED

## WHO PARTICIPATED?

Community engagement for the Youth Strategy took place between April and May 2018.



80% of participants live in Horsham and 20% live in surrounding areas (including Haven, Natimuk, Quantong and Toolondo).



Over **325 young people**, community members, services, Council staff and Councillors contributed to the conversation.



&



The two most popular methods of information delivery were **face to face conversations in public places** and sponsored **Facebook posts**.



The highest number of participants were aged between **12 and 17 years**.



Participants at the workshop with young people

## HOW DID THEY PARTICIPATE?

Community members helped shape the Youth Strategy in various ways.



**280**

280 people did the **online survey**  
(200 young people and 80 community members)

**100**

100 people spoke to us at **pop ups** and **intercept surveys**



14 **services** participated in **interviews**



**264**

264 people visited the **project website**



**21**

21 **services** did the **services survey**



**26**

26 people attended the **youth workshop**



**7**

7 **Councillors** participated in **interviews**



**25**

25 **Council staff** attended a **workshop**



**#Horshamyouth** - 33 photos and 3 videos were posted on Instagram



**20**

20 young people participated in **focus groups**



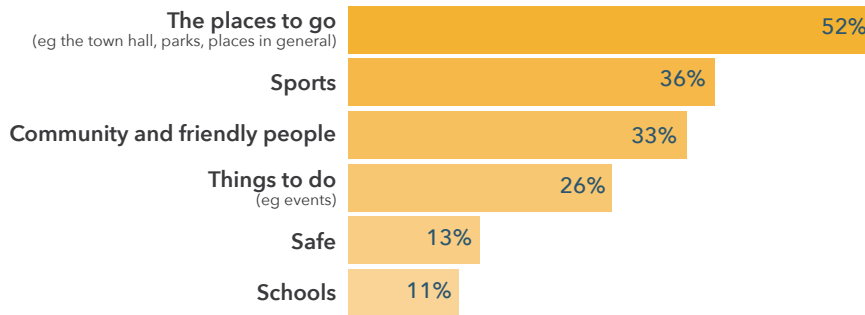
**16**

16 **services** attended the **services workshop**

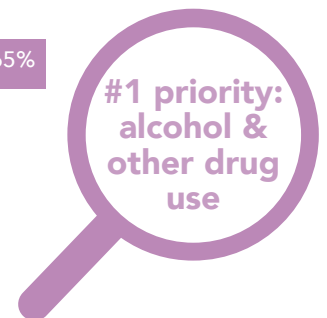
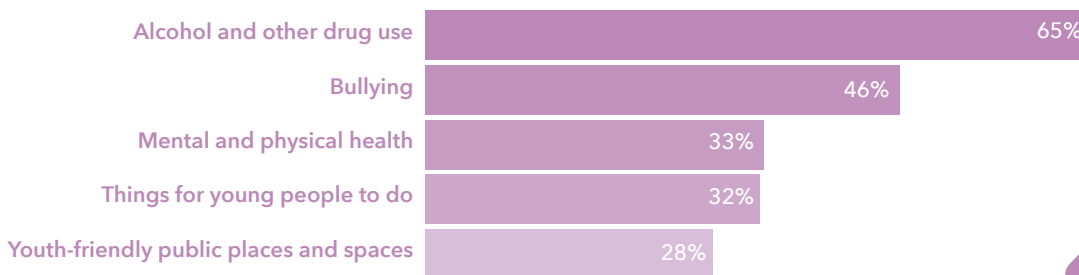
# KEY FINDINGS

These are the top priorities for the Youth Strategy as identified by young people in the online survey.

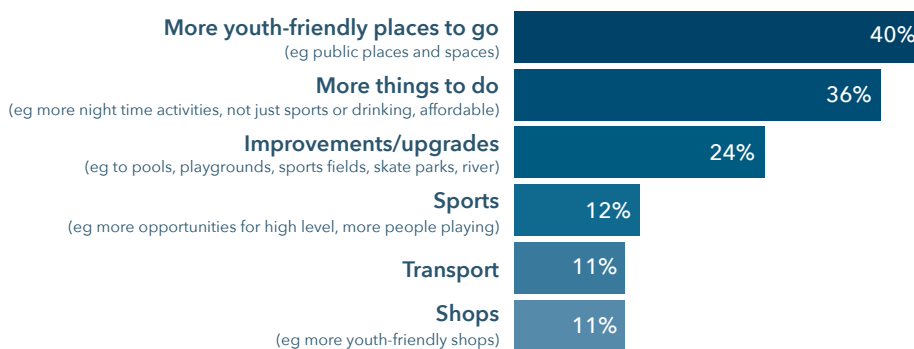
## WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT HORSHAM



## TOP 5 PRIORITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HORSHAM



## WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD CHANGE ABOUT HORSHAM



## WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE HANG OUT



## HOW YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO BE ENGAGED





Participants at the workshop with young people

## WHAT SERVICES SAID

21 services participated in the development of the Youth Strategy through surveys, interviews, the Project Control Group and a services workshop.

Priority areas for the Youth Strategy, identified by services across engagement types, were:

- Improving engagement with young people, and inclusive engagement
- Alcohol and other drug use and abuse; changing the drinking culture
- Mental health
- Things to do, and safe public places for young people to go
- Improving transport connections both within and out of the area
- Providing better employment and education opportunities to retain young people in the area
- Domestic violence
- Homelessness, and
- Bullying and building resilience.

Services identified a need for improved collaboration to deliver coordinated outcomes for young people. The main service gaps and opportunities identified by services included:

- Outreach service delivery including through online channels (eg skype, social media, websites)
- Local and regional transport services
- Sexual and reproductive health services
- Crisis beds for young people under 18, and
- Programs, services and activities for young people including out of hours programs.

Services identified improved engagement with young people as a priority and identified that future youth engagement models for Council could include a Youth Forum or Youth Council, or integrating consultation with young people in Council's existing strategic planning. Priorities for engagement were that it is inclusive, accessible and representative of all young people, that it includes outreach engagement 'on the streets,' and that there is accountability from Council to young people. Young people should also be involved in all of Council's engagement with the community including other committees, strategic planning and consultation.



## HOW THIS STRATEGY WILL WORK

This Strategy will guide how Council works with young people, services, schools and the community to support better outcomes for young people in Horsham.

The Strategy is responsive to the emerging priorities of young people and the community as they change over the next ten years.

Council's roles in delivering the Strategy include:

- Direct service delivery (providing infrastructure, facilities, programs and services directly)
- Facilitator (coordinating collaboration between partners and the community to deliver on outcomes)
- Funder (funding programs, facilities and places)
- Planner (planning for better outcomes), and
- Advocate (advocating to other levels of government and business).



Above: Intercept surveys at the River  
Below: Youth Week Skate park event

# THE STRATEGY

## VISION:



**Horsham municipality will be a youth-friendly rural city, with engaged and empowered young people who have access to the services and opportunities they need for a healthy, safe and happy life.**



## OBJECTIVES:

### OBJECTIVE 1.

Address service gaps as identified through service mapping of current services available to young people in Horsham municipality and surrounds.

### OBJECTIVE 2.

Identify opportunities for young people to be empowered to make decisions on service delivery that suits their needs and increase meaningful engagement opportunities for young people with Council.

### OBJECTIVE 3.

Identify and develop opportunities for youth-friendly places in Horsham municipality.

### OBJECTIVE 4.

Provide Council with contemporary and future facing models for youth service delivery that reflect the needs of a diverse regional city population and take into consideration equity and access.

# OBJECTIVE 1.

## ADDRESS SERVICE GAPS AS IDENTIFIED THROUGH SERVICE MAPPING OF CURRENT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN HORSHAM MUNICIPALITY AND SURROUNDS.

Youth-friendly cities are places where young people can be healthy and cared for, have access to quality social services, education and skills development, and a fair chance in life regardless of their background.

While young people in Horsham have many strengths, community engagement and background research identified a number of challenges facing young people and emerging priorities for the Youth Strategy to address.

Service mapping of current services available to young people in Horsham and surrounds, and comparison to neighbouring and similar councils, also identified some service gaps. These emerging priorities and gaps will change over time as Horsham municipality's community and young people change.

STRATEGY		AGE GROUP		
		10 TO 12	12 TO 17	18 TO 25
1.1	Maintain a comprehensive map of services available to young people in Horsham municipality and surrounds and promote to young people online and in hard copy at services and schools. Monitor ongoing and changing service gaps over time. A current services map is provided at Appendix 1.	X	X	X
1.2	Address identified service gaps through advocacy and partnership including as identified in strategies 1.3 to 1.9.	X	X	X
1.3	Advocate for a local sexual health service specific to young people, emphasising ease of access and confidentiality, and including providing condom vending machines in public bathrooms.		X	X
1.4	Advocate for increased provision of higher education programs in Horsham municipality, including additional courses at Federation University.			X
1.5	Continue to advocate for a more frequent timetable of train services to/from Melbourne and Adelaide.		X	X
1.6	As part of Council's advocacy program, continue to advocate for improved broadband and telecommunications services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support young people who live in households without broadband connections and in rural areas</li> <li>To enable services to deliver digital outreach services (eg skype consultations), and</li> <li>To enable people to access study and work opportunities such as online courses.</li> </ul>		X	X
1.7	Advocate for crisis housing beds for young people under 18 years old in Horsham municipality.		X	
1.8	Continue economic development actions to promote Horsham municipality as a great place to live and work.			X
1.9	Continue to offer employment, volunteering opportunities, mentoring, traineeships and apprenticeships to young people at Council including in partnership with local services.		X	X

# OBJECTIVE 2.

## IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE DECISIONS ON SERVICE DELIVERY THAT SUITS THEIR NEEDS AND INCREASE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH COUNCIL.

Young people are experts in their own lives, and care about their communities. They bring creativity, optimism and new ideas. In a youth-friendly city, young people are active agents; their voices and opinions influence decision making processes. Involving young people in decision making is important from a social justice perspective, and to create effective policy, programs and places. The Victorian Government and Council have a focus on engaging with and considering the needs and interests of all people in decision making, including young people.

In community engagement for this Strategy, young people and services wanted to see more involvement of young people in Council and community decision making. Young people and services want to see engagement that is ongoing, provides leadership opportunities, is inclusive, accessible, and representative of all young people, and includes outreach activities.

Community engagement should recognise that young people are a diverse group including different genders, sexualities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, people with disability, young parents, workers, students, low income young people and young people living in rural areas.

Best practice models of youth engagement include ongoing formal engagement such as youth councils; working with young people throughout a project in a co-design process; and empowering young people to make decisions. It is important that models include accountability from Council to listen and respond to young people's input.

STRATEGY		AGE GROUP		
		10 TO 12	12 TO 17	18 TO 25
2.1	<p>Establish a representative group of young people to respond to and advocate for issues relevant to young people, and support Council's engagement with young people including outreach and social media engagement. The Terms of Reference for the group could include that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is made up of young people aged 12 to 25, who reflect the diversity of young people in Horsham municipality</li> <li>Meets on a regular basis, with a Councillor present</li> <li>Has a focus on outreach and digital engagement, to represent all young people in Horsham municipality</li> <li>Delivers grassroots projects to deliver on emerging priorities, and advocate to Council on priorities for young people, and</li> <li>Provides directions on Council's Community Engagement Strategy and activities.</li> </ul>		X	X
2.2	<p>Establish an annual Youth Forum where young people's ideas and issues can be heard, and they can provide feedback to Council staff on projects relating to them. The Youth Forum should ensure that Council, schools and local services have an understanding of emerging priorities for local young people.</p>	X	X	X
2.3	<p>Include targeted engagement with young people for all major Council projects, including engagement across the IAP2 spectrum. Engagement activities should consider different ways to engage with young people across the age spectrum ie. 10 to 11 years, 12 to 17 years, and 18 to 24 years. Council should report back to the community on how engagement with young people has informed decision making.</p>	X	X	X

# OBJECTIVE 3.

## IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH-FRIENDLY PLACES IN HORSHAM MUNICIPALITY

Young people, like all community members, have a right to public space. Participation in community life, living in a safe environment, and having places to meet with friends and socialise are all part of a youth-friendly city. Council provides many facilities and spaces that young people use, such as the riverfront, skate parks, parks, streets, the Nexus building and the Horsham Town Hall – and the places to go and things to do in the Horsham area are some of the things that young people like best about living here.

However, young people and services identified that more youth-friendly places, and things for young people to do, are needed in the area. In particular, affordable places and activities for young people aged 15 and older, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and young people

who are not involved in sport. There is a need for public spaces that are welcoming to young people where they can spend time in positive but unstructured activities, and a need for after hours recreation activities.

Best practice models include empowering young people to design places, services and activities; reflecting the diverse needs of young people, and offering flexible hours and out of hours activities and services.

STRATEGY		AGE GROUP		
		10 TO 12	12 TO 17	18 TO 25
3.1	Co-design with young people youth-friendly public spaces in Horsham Town Centre and in our rural towns that address a range of age specific needs. Including spaces and facilities such as seating and spaces to hang out with friends, affordable cafes, multipurpose courts, play/parkour equipment, interactive and colourful public art, table tennis/games, food trucks, and spaces for events.	X	X	X
3.2	Co-design with young people youth-friendly public spaces on the Wimmera River foreshore. Including spaces and facilities such as seating and spaces to hang out with friends, affordable cafes, multi-purpose courts, play/parkour equipment, interactive and colourful public art, table tennis/games, food trucks, and spaces for events.	X	X	X
3.3	Continue to create safe public places through lighting and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles, with a particular focus on creating safe places for young women.	X	X	X

# OBJECTIVE 4.

## PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH CONTEMPORARY AND FUTURE FACING MODELS FOR YOUTH SERVICE DELIVERY THAT REFLECT THE NEEDS OF A DIVERSE REGIONAL CITY POPULATION AND TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION EQUITY AND ACCESS.

Council has a role to play in delivering, facilitating, funding, partnering and advocating for youth services. Council is a generalist service and is well positioned to coordinate and advocate for youth services and build community capacity. Neighbouring councils have different youth service delivery models, some of which include an internal role working with young people.

Key trends in best practice youth service delivery include a move away from centre-based youth services to programs and services delivered in a range of locations and formats across local areas through outreach models. This also supports collective impact outcomes, which focus on collaboration between existing services to minimise duplication and promote collaborative ventures, including co-location and pooling of resources.

STRATEGY		AGE GROUP		
		10 TO 12	12 TO 17	18 TO 25
4.1	Transition away from a centre-based youth services model to an outreach and collective impact model through strategies 4.1a, 4.1b, and 4.1c.	X	X	X
4.1a	Resource an internal role within Council with a particular focus on young people, with coordination, partnership, and advocacy roles including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and monitor the comprehensive service map</li> <li>Establish communication channels that are relevant to young people</li> <li>Continue to support ongoing programs eg Freeza and Young G</li> <li>Coordinate data sharing between services, schools and Council</li> <li>Coordinate local services and schools under a collective impact model to deliver on emerging priorities for young people (particularly alcohol and other drug use; bullying; mental and physical health; things to do for young people; and youth-friendly public places and spaces)</li> <li>Coordinate the representative group of young people and Youth Forum and support engagement with young people across Council's projects</li> <li>Coordinate Youth Week with the representative group of young people</li> <li>Partner with services and schools to promote a positive perception of young people including supporting services and schools to promote good news stories about local young people in local media</li> <li>Apply for external grants and funding to support Council and partners to deliver on emerging priorities and identified service gaps, and</li> <li>Advocate to address service gaps as identified by service mapping, including at a regional level.</li> </ul>		X	X
4.1b	With Engage funding, in a range of locations across the Horsham municipality, auspice/partner with local services and schools to deliver affordable and free generalist recreation activities, events and programs for young people with a focus on after hours activities (eg Friday and Saturday nights).		X	X
4.1c	Review the future role of the building at 16 Pynsent St, Horsham (currently Nexus) as a multipurpose space accessible to the community to deliver programs and services including for young people and out of hours services.		X	X
4.2	Introduce a youth stream of Council's Community Development Grants Program to provide funding to support projects, activities and programs that support the emerging priorities of the Youth Strategy. Consider including selection of winning projects as part of the Youth Forum activities.		X	X

# KEEPING TRACK OF CHANGE

It's important to report back to the community on the Youth Strategy's progress, and to keep track of how activities completed as part of this Strategy make a difference in young people's lives.

Council staff will report to a representative group of young people every six months on the Youth Strategy's progress, including what actions have been completed and are underway. The group of young people will then feedback to Council their evaluation of the Youth Strategy's progress.

Council will monitor health and wellbeing indicators for young people and share findings with local services and the community to understand how Horsham's young people are doing, improvements in key areas, and any emerging issues. Indicators are based on available data collected regularly by government agencies, and where relevant are aligned with evaluation indicators in Council's existing strategic planning.

## ● **Census data**

- Reduced proportion of disengaged young people
- Increased proportion of young people in tertiary education
- Decreased number of young people aged 18 to 24 leaving the Wimmera area
- Increased range of occupations for young people aged 15 to 25

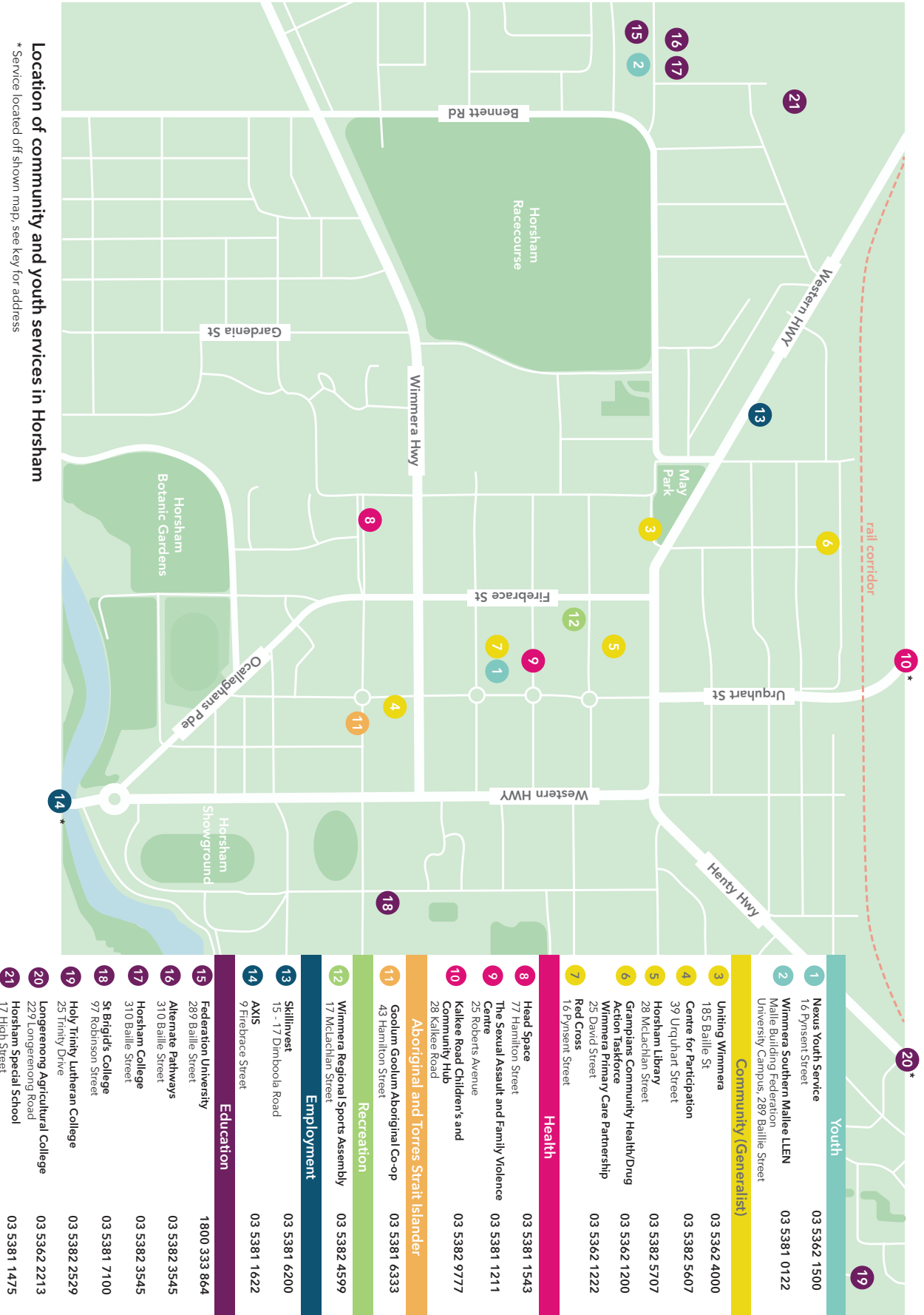
## ● **Vic Health data**

- Decreased proportion of young people who are bullied
- Decreased rate of babies/1,000 born to young mothers
- Decreased treatment episodes of care rates for alcohol for 0-14 yrs and 15-24 yrs age groups

## ● **VicPol data**

- Decreased number of family violence incidents
- Decreased number of young people on community-based supervision orders.

# APPENDIX 1: SERVICES MAP



Location of community and youth services in Horsham

\* Service located off shown map, see key for address