SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN

SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN
YOUTH STRATEGY

2024/25 - 2029/30

CONTENTS

CONTENTS 2
STRATEGY SUMMARY 3
INTRODUCTION 4
BEYOND 2020 – WA YOUTH ACTION PLAN 4
SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 4
YOUTH FRIENDLY COUNCIL 5
PURPOSE 6
THE CURRENT SITUATION 6
Our Community 6
Our Young People 7
HOW WE DEVELOPED THIS PLAN 7
THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE 8
THE VOICE OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS 8
STRATEGY 1 - A VOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 9
STRATEGY 2 - REACHING YOUR POTENTIAL 10
STRATEGY 3 - JOBS 11
STRATEGY 4 - MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING 12
STRATEGY 5 - A SECURE PLACE TO LIVE 14
STRATEGY 6 - WHERE HELP IS NEEDED MOST 15

STRATEGY SUMMARY

A summary of key strategies in this plan.

Key Strategy	Key objectives
A Voice for Young People	✓ Continue to invest, support, and engage with the Youth Council ✓ Implement succession planning for members on the Youth Council ✓ Grow the profile of the Youth Council ✓ Provide a Youth Development Officer in the Shire
Reaching Your Potential	✓ Provide local access to training, education and extra-curricular activities and support ✓ Support young people to volunteer in the community
Jobs	✓ Promote local career pathways and employment opportunities ✓ Facilitate local access to higher education and specialist education
Mental Health and Wellbeing	✓ Cricket nets, basketball court and swimming pool developments ✓ Offer formal and informal sporting competitions ✓ Facilitate local access to mental health resources and support services ✓ Delivery of mental health awareness and wellbeing activities
A Secure Place to Live	✓ Town and place activation
Where Help is Needed Most	✓ Dedicated youth space ✓ Offer professional development in youth services / support

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first Youth Strategy for the Shire of Cunderdin which was developed in partnership with the Cunderdin Youth Council, young people in Cunderdin and Meckering as well as key stakeholders. This Strategy demonstrates commitment by the Shire of Cunderdin to be a proactive, inclusive, and responsible leader in the provision of facilities, infrastructure and services for the community, including young people, now and into the future. Funding from the Department of Communities Youth Engagement Grant made this project possible.

BEYOND 2020 – WA YOUTH ACTION PLAN

The 'Beyond 2020 – WA Youth Action Plan' pulls together actions across State Government that are aimed at assisting young people aged 10-25 years. It outlines a range of actions across seven priority areas aimed at ensuring that young people in Western Australia are supported and provided with opportunities they need to flourish. The Shire of Cunderdin Youth Strategy has been aligned to the 'Beyond 2020' plan.

SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

The Shire of Cunderdin Strategic Community Plan is an important document that helps guide the next decade of decision making for Council, leading them closer to achieving the community's vision and priorities. The Youth Strategy will be a key informing document to the Strategic Community Plan 2022 – 2032 and has been guided by the priority areas outlined in it.

PILLAR	Alignment to Youth Strategy
Community and Social	1.1 Community members have the opportunity to be active, engaged and connected 1.2 A healthy and safe community is planned for 1.3 Advocate for the provision of quality health services, health facilities and programs in the Shire
Economy	2.3 Build economic capacity 2.4 Encourage local workforce participation
Built Environment	3.3 Enhance public spaces and townscapes
Civic Leadership	5.2 Forward planning and implementation of plans

YOUTH FRIENDLY COUNCIL

Currently the Shire of Cunderdin provides a number of services, activities and infrastructure for young people:

Planning	Service Provision	Facility Provision	Facilitation	Advocacy
Work with local and regional service providers, community stakeholders and Youth Council to work towards integrated services	Providing a Youth Development Trainee and Community Development Officer	Providing facilities such as sport and recreation facilities	Administration and leadership support to the Youth Council	Youth Council engagement with the Shire of Cunderdin Council

The Cunderdin Youth Council is administered and supported by the Shire of Cunderdin. It is open to young people aged between 12-20yrs.

The role of the Youth Council is as follows:

- *Representation:* To be the voice of the youth community and represent their interests to the Shire Council.
- *Learning and Skills Development*: To provide young people with opportunities for personal growth, leadership, and skills development.
- *Event Planning*: To plan and execute youth group events and community/youth-oriented activities that benefit the Shire.
- *Shire Council Engagement*: To foster a deeper understanding of the Shire Council's functions and encourage active involvement in local governance.

PURPOSE OF THE YOUTH STRATEGY

The focus of this plan is on young people from Pre-Primary to 24yrs of age.

It is understood……

Young people in the Shire of Cunderdin are disadvantaged through their geographic location, access to services, employment and education,

So…..

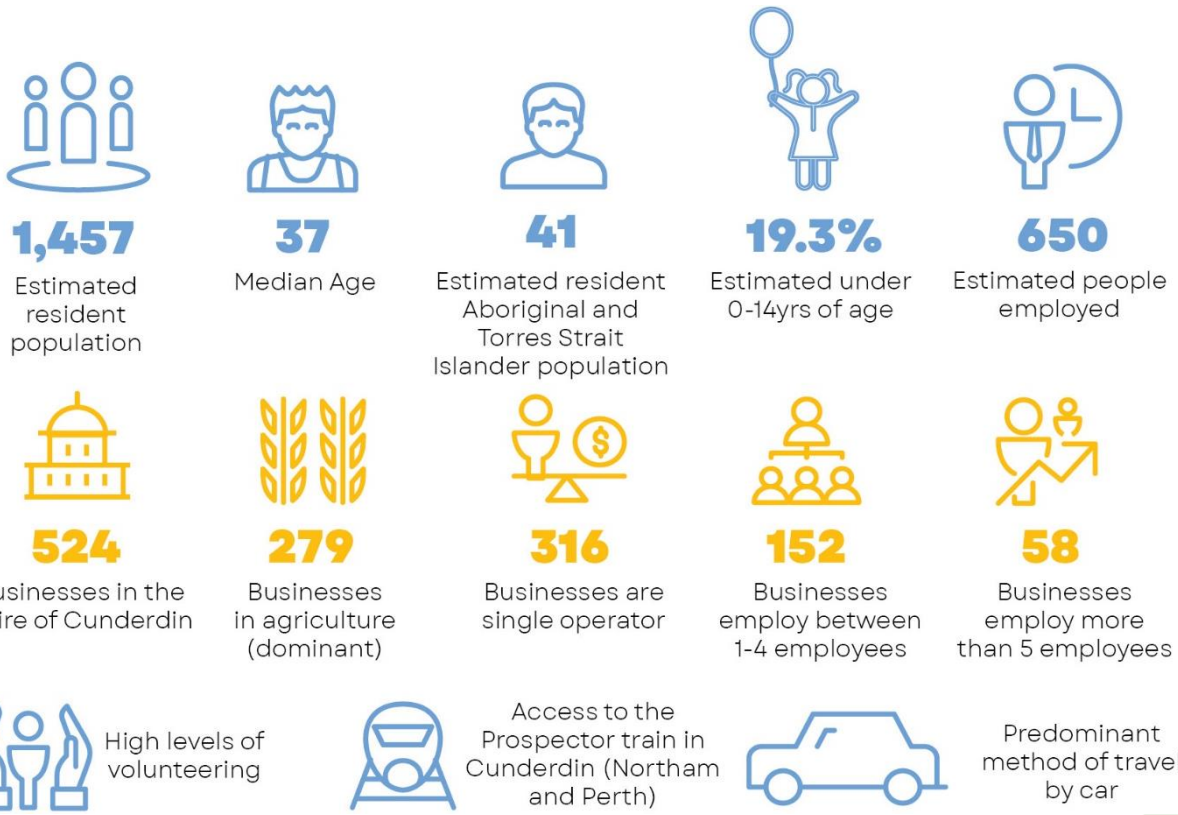
The Shire of Cunderdin has developed the Youth Plan as a key informing document for the Shire's Strategic Community Plan to coordinate and forward plan investments.

Which will lead to…..

Young people feeling supported, to study and be employed locally, engaged in an interest, have local support, a safe and friendly community, have a voice and positive mental health.

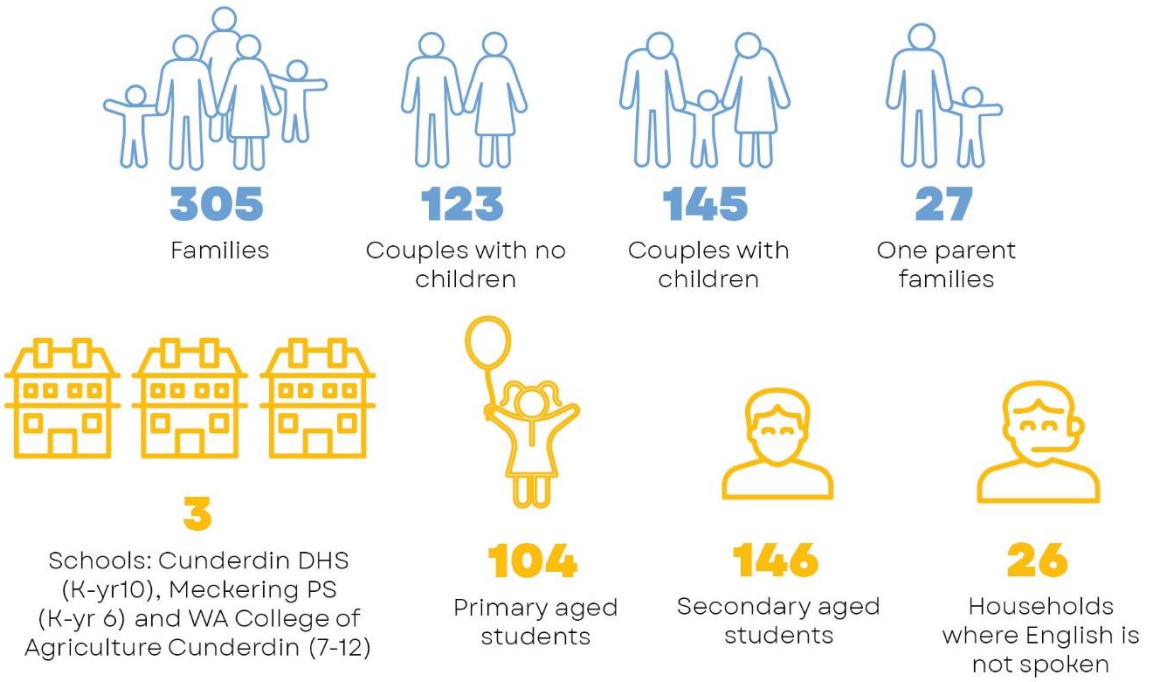
THE CURRENT SITUATION

Our Community



Our Young People

5-9yrs	10-14yrs	15-19yrs	20-24yrs
88	93	144	56



Source: CENSUS 2021 and INSIGHT

HOW WE DEVELOPED THIS PLAN

This plan was an initiative of the Shire of Cunderdin and actively supported by the Youth Council.

- 3 Youth Council Planning sessions
- 90 Youth survey responses
- 12 Parent and Guardian survey responses
- 7 In school sessions at two schools with activities led by the Youth Council

The priority areas reflected in this plan align with feedback received from young people across the Shire of Cunderdin and themes in the Beyond 2020 WA Youth Plan.

THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

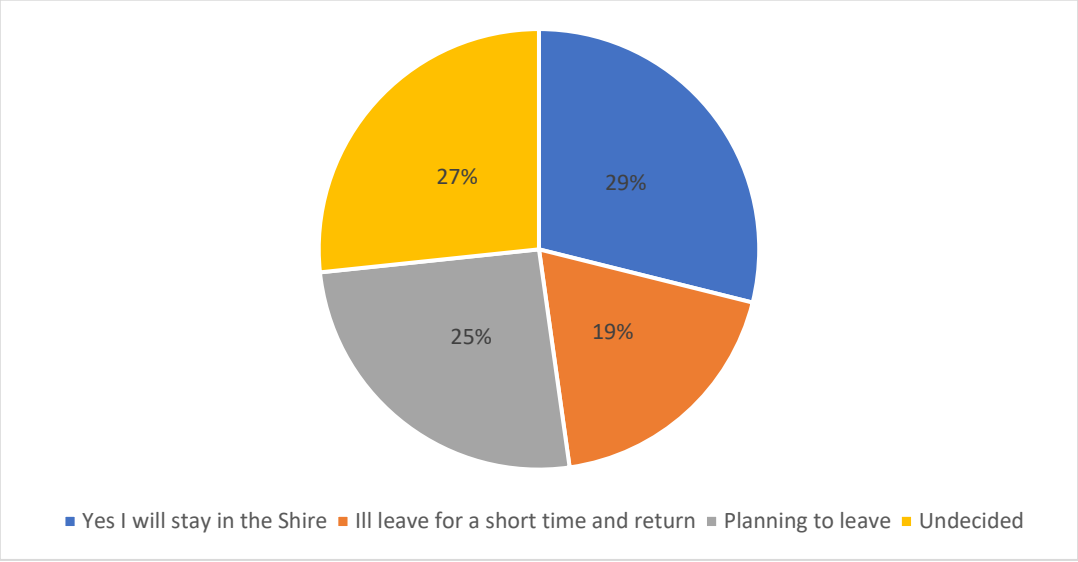
A total of 90 responses from young people were received to the youth survey. The majority of respondents (41%) were aged 8-10yrs. Approximately equal numbers of respondents were male (51%) and female (48%). Of those who responded to the question of whether they identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, 9.2% (8) said “yes” and 90.8% (79) said “no”.

All of the respondents indicated that they are currently studying at Cunderdin District High School.

The majority of respondents indicated that they lived either in the Cunderdin townsite (55%) or out of town on a farm or rural property (39%). Only 5.6% of respondents (5 people) indicated that they reside in Meckering.

Top 5 Issues Facing Young People				
Bullying	Vaping	Boredom / nothing to do	Alcohol and drugs	Health and wellbeing

Future intentions of young people:



THE VOICE OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

The parent/caregiver survey was completed by 12 persons, all of whom indicated they were parents (as opposed to a caregiver or guardian). Two of the 12 responders identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Half of the respondents live in the Cunderdin townsite. Of the remaining six responders, two live in Meckering and four live out of town on a farm or rural property. An equal number of responders have four or three children under the age of 18 at home (33.3% respectively), 25% have two children at home and 8% have one child at home.

What parents / guardians like about raising children in the Shire of Cunderdin	**What the challenges are to raise young people in the Shire of Cunderdin**
Safe communities	Limited health services
Sense of community	Limited public transport
Clubs and community groups	Lack of choice in schooling
Education and Schools	Lack of recreation activities
Sport and recreation options	Lack of arts and cultural activities

STRATEGY 1 - A VOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Goal: Young people feel as if they have many ways to get involved, have their say, and make a positive change.

What Council will continue	What Council will do next	Lead
➢Provide a Youth Development Officer / Trainee ➢Support Youth Council to hold monthly meetings	1.1 Genuine engagement with young people in relevant community consultation by updating the Community Engagement Framework. 1.2 Youth Council meeting coincides with Strategic Community Plan review.	CEO CEO
	1.3 Implement actions from Youth Council when possible	CEO
	What Youth Council will do next	**Lead**
	1.4 Encourage nominations to Youth Council from Cunderdin and Meckering	Community Development Officer and Youth Council
	1.5 Increase Youth Council social media activities and awareness of what Youth Council does	Youth Council
	1.6 Develop an annual report of Youth Council activities and events	Youth Council

STRATEGY 2 - REACHING YOUR POTENTIAL

Goal: Young people have access to a range of programs and opportunities that enhance connection and confidence.

Rationale:

- Smoking, vaping and bullying were the highest challenges identified by upper primary and secondary school students at Cunderdin DHS.
- Boredom and lack of things to do were common responses across all consultation events.

What Council will continue	What Council will do next	Lead
➢ Youth holiday program ➢ Leadership Camp ➢ Youth Week activities ➢ Cunderdin Youth Council ➢ Youth Council organised community event	2.1 Increase awareness of volunteering	Community Development Officer
	2.2 Work with the Youth Council and Cunderdin CRC to offer events and activities in Cunderdin and Meckering e.g. movie nights, cooking, arts and culture	Community Development Officer
	What Youth Council will do next	**Lead**
	2.3 Seek support to deliver Wheatbelt Beyond Youth Mentoring at Cunderdin DHS	Youth Council
	2.4 Assist in supporting young people to attend training and development activities outside of the Shire that support leadership skills and increase confidence.	Youth Council

STRATEGY 3 - JOBS

Goal: Young people have access to and are able to maintain meaningful employment and education.

Rationale:

- Young people identified the lack of retail outlets in Cunderdin and Meckering as a challenge to living in their communities.

What Council will continue	What Council will do next	Lead
➢Provide opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships in Shire operations	3.1 Facilitate opportunities to activate empty shops in Cunderdin and Meckering	Community Development Officer
	3.2 Engage with Lumen Wheatbelt University to attend local community / youth events	Community Development Officer
	3.3 Work with schools and the CRC to deliver STEM outside of school hours	Community Development Officer
	3.4 Develop recruitment practices that support and prioritise current or previous young residents to work in the Shire	CEO
	What Youth Council will do next	**Lead**
	3.5 Organise young people to attend local and regional job fairs and industry events	Community Development Officer
	3.6 Host local employers at youth events to promote local career pathways	Community Development Officer

Community feedback:

- *"If there was a Uni hub or something along those lines so I can study, then I would stay. But the lack of infrastructure and job opportunities is the main problem."*
- *"Any business who are youth friendly and will provide them with casual work, will help. Youth centre/hang out spot which can provide youth training opportunities like leadership or even mental health support."*

STRATEGY 4 - MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Goal: Diversity in services and activities to support mental health and wellbeing.

Rationale:

- Preferred activities by young people in their spare time were identified as sport, gaming and skateboarding and biking.
- Young people identified mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and drugs and future work opportunities as their top three issues impacting them.
- Parents and guardians identified a safe community, sense of community and lots of clubs as reasons it was good to raise children in the Shire.

What Council will continue	What Council will do next	Lead
➢Youth Wellness Day ➢Youth Group events during school term ➢Tween group event during school term ➢Holiday programs ➢Christmas in the Park ➢Movie Night (Cunderdin and Meckering) ➢Provide venues for sport and culture	4.1 Enhance opportunities for young people to have access to local, affordable, and inclusive mental health services 4.2 Seek support from DLGSC to develop upper primary and secondary netball and football competitions within existing sports associations 4.3 Forward plan towards improving the Cunderdin Swimming Pool, including water play area, slide and pool toys	Community Development Officer Community Development Officer CEO
	4.4 Investigate the feasibility of a covered basketball court 4.5 Investigate the location of a mountain bike track 4.6 Offer informal and short sports programs e.g. six-week basketball comp, social netball for young people in Cunderdin and Meckering	CEO CEO Community Development Officer
	4.7 Improve Cunderdin cricket nets	CEO
	What Youth Council will do next	**Lead**
	4.8 Facilitate early intervention and primary prevention initiatives to promote positive mental health and wellbeing of young people at school and in local clubs	Youth Council
	4.10 Seek student mental health advocates to engage and present at community events	Youth Council

Community feedback:

- *"Not enough services near (e.g. you would need to drive a long way just for a good hospital), not enough job opportunities, not much to do."*

- *“I don’t enjoy that sometimes my community is excluded from the main activities that occur at Cunderdin. I also don’t like the lack of infrastructure”.*
- *“More family friendly events and sporting opportunities (especially social sports)”*
- *“The events the kids put on for toddlers are great. The events for teenagers are cool but need some aimed for a bit older 14-15ish. Cadets was fantastic.”*
- *“Just family friendly events - opportunity to spend time with family and the community”*
- *“Indoor sport facilities are a must, shouldn't even be a question to compete for people to live in our town. The direct towns either side of highway have more community sporting options, so people move there when choosing a place to live. Turf hockey pitch. Better health options, more health professionals”*

STRATEGY 5 - A SECURE PLACE TO LIVE

Goal: Parents, guardians and young people feel safe and connected.

Rationale:

- Across youth surveys and in school sessions, young people felt safe and happy in their community.
- There was a clear difference between young people's feelings towards Cunderdin and Meckering, with a majority of respondents saying there was not a lot to do in Meckering and most went to play sport or do activities in Northam.
- Parents and guardians felt the limited health services, transport options and lack of school choices locally made it difficult to raise children.

What Council will continue	What Council will do next	Lead
➢Emergency Services Day ➢Continue to support the Cunderdin Health Centre ➢Local daycare service	5.1 Townsite beautification (more rubbish bins, colourful places, trees etc) in Cunderdin and Meckering	CEO
	5.2 Support emergency service volunteers	CEO
	What Youth Council will do next	**Lead**
	5.3 Youth Council investigates becoming part of a Town Team (encompassing Meckering and Cunderdin)	Community Development Officer and Youth Council

Community feedback:

- *"I like that I feel safe, and that the community is very chill"*
- *"I like having the community where you know everybody"*
- *"I like it because its peaceful"*
- *"Access to health professionals easier. Day care options. Better facilities for elderly so they stay here to support young families (relatives don't leave town)"*

STRATEGY 6 - WHERE HELP IS NEEDED MOST

Goal: Young people have dedicated spaces and support services in their community

Rationale:

- Most respondents felt that they had been supported by their family to explore their hopes, dreams, and goals for the future. 6% indicated that they had not received any help and would like some.
- A Youth Centre was a high priority for youth and was mentioned consistently as a 'big idea'.

What Council will continue	What Council will do next	Lead
➢Provide a Youth Development Officer / Trainee ➢Youth Council	6.1 Encourage professional development opportunities to be pursued by youth and community development team members	CEO
	6.2 Investigate the location and establishment of a Youth Centre in Cunderdin	CEO
	6.3 Work with young people in Meckering to improve a current space for youth	Community Development Officer
	What Youth Council will do next	**Lead**
	6.2 Investigate presenters that can be offered in Cunderdin and Meckering to schools and clubs that will inspire young people to achieve their aspirations and intentions	Youth Council

Community feedback:

- *"A spot to hang out for teenagers and young adults only"*