



Municipal Youth Plan 2014 to 2018

Appendix 3 – Government Policy

Funded by Whitehorse Council.

Prepared by the Whitehorse MYP Reference Group.

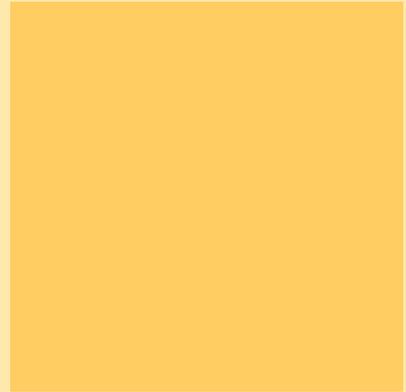
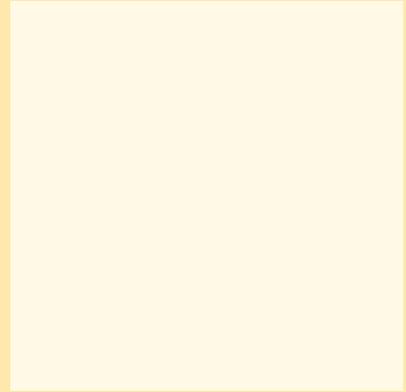
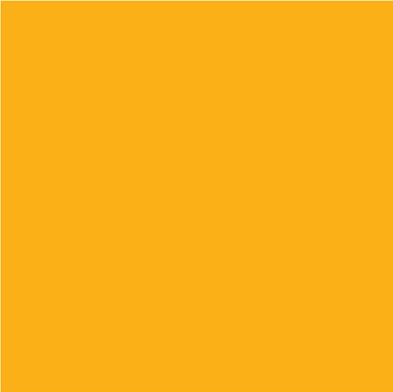


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Policy Review

Local Policy

City of Whitehorse Vision 2013 - 2023

Year: 2013

Publisher: Whitehorse City Council

Primary focus:

Provides a broad set of statements about the type of city the community wants to see in 10 years including high level goals that describe how this might be achieved

Key findings:

The aspirations of Councillors, community and staff of the City of Whitehorse following extensive consultations are represented in the strategic directions and goals which have been articulated in the Vision statement: 'We aspire to be a healthy, vibrant, prosperous and sustainable community supported by strong leadership and community partnerships.'

These aspirations form the basis of five key strategic directions in the Council Vision which commits Whitehorse City Council to a set of priorities for future action. Each Strategic Direction is supported by a set of Strategic Goals and Guiding Principles.

The Council Vision should be read in conjunction with the Council Plan, which is the instrument through which the Council Vision is translated into strategic objectives, strategies, strategic indicators and actions. It is more specific and focused on what might be achieved in a four-year timeframe that contributes to or helps to achieve the aspirational statements in the Council Vision.

The key strategic directions are:

- Support a healthy, vibrant, inclusive and diverse community.
- Maintain and enhance our built environment to ensure a liveable and sustainable city.
- Protect and enhance our open spaces and natural environments
- Strategic leadership and open and accessible government.
- Support a healthy local economy.

City of Whitehorse Council Plan 2013-2017

Year: 2013

Publisher: Whitehorse City Council

Primary focus: The Council Plan identifies Council's strategic priorities and key actions for the next four years. It outlines 5 strategic objectives and 43 strategies.

Key findings: Council uses strategic directions from the Vision to inform the preparation of its four-year Council Plan and Council's annual budget.

The Council Plan 2013-2017 has five strategic objectives and 43 strategies that will be applied over the next four years. The strategic objectives are:

- Appropriate multipurpose programs, services, facilities and initiatives that promote and deliver wellbeing and inclusive connected communities.
- Maintain, develop and enhance our built environment.
- Increase in the amount of quality open space and improvement in the sustainability of our natural environment.
- Strong leadership and governance in partnership with the community and supported through regional collaboration and cooperation.
- A dynamic local economic environment that is regionally connected.

The plan also incorporates a Strategic Resource Plan that identifies the resources required over the next four years.

Thriving in Whitehorse Young People's Strategy 2009 - 2013

Year: 2009

Publisher: Whitehorse City Council

Primary focus: Strategy that outlines Council's direction for youth services in the City of Whitehorse and identifies 5 key indicators.

Key findings: The information gathered through community consultation, policy and demographic research identified several key priorities. Some themes and issues were unique to young people in the City of Whitehorse, while many were also relevant for young people nationally, and worldwide.

Overall, the collected information identified five key priority areas that could indicate how well the Whitehorse community is fulfilling its responsibility to be the best possible place it can for young people to live, work, study and play. The five indicators came about as a result of a collaborative in-depth processing and analysis of all the information gathered through consultations and research.

For this plan, these five 'indicators' serve as measures of how well the community is fulfilling the needs of the many young people that live, work and play in Whitehorse.

Indicator 1: I'M RESPECTED

Our young people are respected, valued and supported by the greater community

Indicator 2: I BELONG

Our young people feel connected and have a sense of belonging in our community

Indicator 3: I LIKE WHERE I LIVE

Our young people are proud of where they live, work and socialise, and feel safe in these surrounds

Indicator 4: I LIKE WHO I AM

Our young people feel good about themselves and each other

Indicator 5: I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW

Our young people have access to a diverse range of options, activities and opportunities

City of Whitehorse Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2014 - 2017

Year: 2014

Publisher: Whitehorse City Council

Primary focus: Whitehorse City Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan describes the work Council will undertake in partnership with the community and with key State and local organisations over the next four years to improve the health and wellbeing of the municipality.

Key findings: The development of *Health and Wellbeing in Whitehorse 2013-2017* (the Plan) provides the framework for Council and key local organisations to deliver creative, innovative and tailored strategies for the Whitehorse population to enable people to lead healthier lives.

The five priorities below were identified by Council through a consultation process, as well as by using research and analysis of the available data on health and wellbeing and taking into consideration Federal, State and local policy context. These priorities are not exclusive; they are interconnected and overlap in their impact on health and wellbeing. The priorities are also aligned with several priority health issues at the state and federal level. The priorities are:

1. Creating Safe Environments
 - Safe public spaces
 - Family violence
 - Injury prevention

2. Reducing Harm from Alcohol and Other Drugs
 - Alcohol
 - Other drugs
 - Smoking
3. Increasing Active Living
 - Physical activity
 - Active transport
4. Supporting Healthy Eating
 - Healthy eating behaviours
 - Food security
 - Obesity
5. Promoting Mental Wellbeing
 - Mental health
 - Feeling part of the community
 - Volunteering
 - Citizen engagement
 - Participation in the arts
 - Internet access
 - Housing

Childhood Matters Early Years Strategy for Children 0-12 Years, Parents, Services and the Community 2009-2013

Year: 2009

Publisher: Whitehorse City Council

Primary focus: *Childhood Matters* identifies significant directions for the City of Whitehorse that are closely linked and integrated with other strategies, plans and directions within Council. The actions in *Childhood Matters* aim to support the lives of children and families in the Whitehorse community.

Key findings: Six key directions emerged from the data collected through the planning process.

These are:

- A Community Around Children
- Learning and Creativity
- Being Healthy & Active
- Parents / Carers
- Partnerships for Action
- Inspirational People at Work

Goals and actions have been identified in relation to these key directions.

This plan also has close links to both the Community Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 and the Young People's Strategy 2009-2013.

Whitehorse Disability Policy and Action Plan 2012-2016

Year: 2012

Publisher: Whitehorse City Council

Primary focus: The plan will assist Council to understand the aspirations, interests and needs of people with disability who are working, living, learning, taking part in recreational activities or visiting the municipality

Key findings: People with a disability and/or mental illness are valued members of the Whitehorse community, with the same rights and responsibilities as all other community members. Whitehorse City Council recognises, however, that people with a disability and/or mental illness continue to experience barriers that may prevent the full realisation of their rights as equal members of the community.

To develop the Action Plan component of this Plan, Council consolidated information from the review of current research, legislation and policy directions, demographic information and most importantly the information gained through community consultation.

This process enabled Council to identify the following five priority areas:

- Changing Attitudes
- Social Connectedness
- Information and communication
- Accessible built environments
- Employment, training and volunteering

These areas are broken down into 22 objectives with strategic actions identified for each one.

Diversity Policy and Action Plan 2012-2016

Year: 2012

Publisher: Whitehorse City Council

Primary focus: The plan provides a framework for the planning and delivery of Council services and initiatives that meet the needs of diverse communities in Whitehorse.

Key findings: The *Diversity Policy and Action Plan 2012-2016* outlines the ways Council will support, promote and celebrate diversity in the municipality. It plan attempts to ensure the community is inclusive, recognises differences and similarities, and is a place that welcomes everyone. The Plan was developed in consultation with the Whitehorse community, state government departments, residents, local services and Council.

Key themes and action areas are:

1. Strengthen Council's capacity to work with diverse communities
2. Support, promote and celebrate diversity
3. Improve access to information, services and facilities
4. Partnership and advocacy

The plan outlines objectives and actions for each of these priority areas.

State Policy

Victoria's Vulnerable Children – Our Shared Responsibility (Strategy 2013- 2022)

Year: 2013

Publisher: Victorian Government

Primary focus: The strategy is designed to drive the broad-based change required across government(s) and in the community generally over the next decade. The strategy sets out a clear and overarching aspiration and three high-level, long-term goals as its central framework

Key findings: The circumstance of vulnerable children and families is a shared responsibility. Accordingly, the strategy represents a shared commitment across Victorian Government departments, including the Departments of Education and Early Childhood Development; Health; Human Services; Justice; Premier and Cabinet and Victoria Police. It was developed by relevant Ministers, with the support of the Children's Services Coordination Board – all of whom will continue to oversee its implementation.

The strategic goals are high level and interconnected :

- 1: Prevent abuse and neglect
2. Act earlier when children are vulnerable
- 3: Improve outcomes for children in statutory care

Over the life of the strategy seeks to demonstrate the following impact:

- Better health outcomes for vulnerable children.
- Improved participation and attainment of children in universal services, especially school.
- Earlier and appropriate attention by adult services to the needs of children.
- Reduction in the impact of parental risk factors that contribute most to child abuse and neglect.
- Lower rates of abuse and neglect.
- Lower rates of children requiring out-of-home care.
- Improved placement stability for children and young people in out-of-home care.
- Improved life outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care.

To achieve this impact and to ensure a sustainable, long term, whole of community reform program the following must be in place:

- A shared understanding – of the nature and scope of vulnerability.
- A shared responsibility – including joining up government and community effort.
- A performance and accountability framework – with clear goals, measurable outcomes and monitoring and reporting at both state and local levels.
- A collaborative governance structure – that demonstrates our shared responsibility.

Finally, the strategy highlights what needs to be done differently and articulates a clear commitment to achieve change and to strengthen the accountability of departments and the practice of adult service providers.

The strategy provides government departments and service providers with a shared definition of vulnerability (a precursor to collaboration) and direction on how disadvantaged families can be more effectively supported. It sets out stronger oversight, including the new Commission for Children and Young People, clearer expectations regarding collaboration for heads of departments, improved performance monitoring and accountability, and new mechanisms to drive collaborative service delivery.

Engage, Involve, Create – Youth Statement

Year: 2012

Publisher: Victorian Government

Primary focus: Engage, Involve, Create outlines Government’s vision that all young Victorians experience healthy, active and fulfilling lives and outlines strategies to support the future aspirations of young Victorians.

Key findings:

Engage, Involve, Create outlines the Government’s vision for all Victorian young people.

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:

1. Getting young people involved

Supporting the full and active participation and engagement of all young people to ensure:

- Social participation
- Community participation
- Economic participation

2. Services that meet the needs of young people

Creating better outcomes by allowing young people to access services that are:

- Young person focused
- Integrated
- Provided at the right time

3. Create new ideas and partnerships

Families and young people, government, business, community, and philanthropic organisations all working in partnership to deliver a range of outcomes for young people.

Engage, Involve, Create outlines the Government's commitment to achieving better outcomes for young Victorians.

It provides clear direction across government in how they will support young people, and brings together young people, families, communities, the youth services sector, business and philanthropy so that they can all work towards common aims and priorities. It aims to create more opportunities for new partnerships to be developed that will encourage innovative ideas and ways to deliver services.

Victorian Child and Adolescent Outcomes Framework

Year: 2008

Publisher:

Primary focus: The Victorian Child and Adolescent Outcomes Framework was developed in the context of the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 to support the required functions of the Children's Services Coordination Board and to provide an evidence-based structure for ongoing monitoring and reporting of child and adolescent outcomes to inform planning and policy decisions and intervention.

Key findings: The framework incorporates a life-course perspective from pregnancy through to transition to adulthood. It brings together the interrelated domains of health, safety, learning, development and wellbeing, and reflects an ecological model of childhood and adolescence. This model seeks to understand the relationships between a child's wellbeing and development and the environment in which they live.

The framework creates a common foundation from which to develop government policies and programs and to set goals in relation to children and young people. It aims to both identify and describe the 35 most important outcomes for Victoria's children and young people and for our communities and society.

Through the development of the framework, four priority population groups of Victorian children and young people were identified. The best available evidence suggests that these groups face more complex challenges than other Victorian children and young people and require additional monitoring efforts to better understand their needs. The priority groups are:

- Aboriginal children
- children living with a disability or developmental delay
- recent or high-need immigrant children
- children suffering chronic disadvantage (including those in Out-of-Home Care within the child protection system, homeless young people or those in the juvenile justice system).

The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS) is the comprehensive monitoring system that enables measurement and reporting against the outcomes for Victorian children and young people articulated in the above framework. It comprises 150 evidence-based indicators (or measures) of how Victorian children and young people are faring.

Office for Youth Victoria - Website

Year: current

Publisher: Office of Youth Victoria

Primary focus: The Office for Youth is the key agency driving a whole-of-government agenda in relation to Victorians aged 12 to 25. It is responsible for policy advice, research and strategic planning relating to government policies, programs and service delivery for young Victorians.

Key findings: The Office delivers programs and initiatives that support the social, civic and economic participation of young people, which has a positive and long-lasting effect on society's development. These programs and policies aim to give young Victorians the opportunities they need to develop their skills, confidence and connections to their communities to help them make the most of their futures. In addition to this, the Office for Youth partners with Community and Economic Participation to deliver further youth programs.

The Office is working to build productive whole-of-government relationships and stronger linkages between its own programs and policies and the other programs that are supported by the Department of Human Services, especially across areas such as homelessness, youth justice, disability and families.

National Youth Week Grants:

In partnership with the Australian Government and 'beyondblue', through 'Youthbeyondblue', the Victorian Government is providing NYW grants of up to \$2,000 to fund events that celebrate and recognise the contribution of young Victorians in local communities. NYW 2014 supported youth-led activities, events and projects that meet the needs and interests of young people in their local community. In addition, the Victorian Government worked in partnership with 'Youthbeyondblue' to support youth-led activities, events and projects that raise awareness of depression and anxiety and promote the 'Youthbeyondblue' key mental health messages.

Information on services, programs and initiatives to help young people be safe, grow their abilities, and become more involved in their communities are included in the following areas:

- Music and culture - Music and culture are an important part of any thriving community. Young people can get involved through many avenues including the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge and FreeZA.
- Mentoring - Mentoring aims to provide a structured and trusting relationship in which young people can receive guidance, support and encouragement.
- Community involvement - Young people can get involved in many activities in the community. This involvement builds stronger relationships across cultural and age divides and promotes wider opportunities for education, training and employment.
- Early intervention and support - Programs and initiatives to support and assist young people at risk in social situations, including living in unsafe households, or experiencing mental health problems, or drug and alcohol abuse.
- Refugee and newly arrived young people - Young people who have recently arrived in Victoria as migrants or refugees can receive support, assistance, through referrals, to services supported by Department of Human Services.
- Youth grants - Grants administered by the Office of Youth at the Department of Human Services.
- Victorian youth services contacts - Contact details for further assistance regarding Youth Services in your region and seeking support services for confidential counseling to discuss the issues that may adversely impact on your life.

Department of Human Services (DHS) Policy and Funding Plan 2012 – 2015 (Annual Update 2013-14)

Year: 2012

Publisher: Department of Human Services

Primary focus: The Policy and Funding Plan is an integral part of the Service Agreement which is negotiated by the department with funded organisations every three years for the delivery of services to Victorians. The Plan describes the department's policy framework, objectives, budget and funding initiatives as well as information in regard to the service activities.

Key findings: The Department of Human Services (the department) prepares a policy and funding plan every three years to inform funded organisations of the department's service funding strategies

and priorities. An annual update is prepared in the second and third years of the service agreement cycle.

The plan provides an overview of the Victorian Government's policy framework and the department's objectives, an outline of divisional strategic initiatives and an overview of the department's budget. The plan also includes descriptive information regarding service activities, performance measures, data collection requirements, service standards and guidelines. Organisations which are funded to deliver services are referred to as community sector organisations, funded organisations and organisations as relevant to the sector which is being funded.

The objectives of the policy and funding plan are to:

- provide funded organisations with detailed contextual information to support their service agreements
- encourage determination of funding parameters early in the planning cycle so as to improve the timeliness of funding decision-making
- improve transparency in budget allocation.

The department supports Victorians in need to build better lives and achieve their potential by providing housing and community services so that individuals and families are supported and can participate in their community, the economy and life.

The department supports the ministerial portfolios of Community Services, Women's Affairs, Disability Services and Reform, Youth Affairs and Housing. The department's services aim to support the personal, economic and community wellbeing of Victorians so that clients can:

- be safe and able to reach their potential
- be socially connected and able to participate in the community
- benefit from participation in education and economic opportunities
- access safe, stable and suitable accommodation for those that need it most.

The department's key objectives are to provide immediate support for people in crisis, help people build their capabilities and participation, and support people in need to enjoy a positive quality of life.

The Department of Human Services supports the portfolios of :

- the Hon Mary Wooldridge, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Disability Services and Reform;
- the Hon Wendy Lovell, Minister for Housing;
- the Hon Ryan Smith, Minister for Youth Affairs; and
- the Hon Heidi Victoria, Minister for Women's Affairs

The portfolios focus on addressing the following objectives:

Community Services:

- protecting vulnerable children
- assisting young people entering or leaving the youth justice system
- assisting Victorians recovering from emergencies

Disability services and reform:

- supporting Victorians living with disabilities and their carers
- implementing the new DisabilityCare Australia (formerly known as the national disability insurance scheme)

Housing:

- improving the range of affordable housing options
- reducing homelessness

Women:

- working to improve the quality of life for all Victorian women
- coordinating Victorian whole-of-government policies for women.

Youth:

- driving a whole-of-government agenda in relation to Victorians aged 12 to 25
- delivering programs and initiatives that support the social, civic and economic participation of young people.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan 2013-2017

Year: 2013

Publisher: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)

Primary focus: The DEECD Strategic Plan outlines a 10-year goal to become a world leader in learning and development, plus the outcomes they are seeking to deliver in the next decade, and the priorities and strategies established for 2013-17.

Key findings: The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development exists to support Victorians to build prosperous, socially engaged, happy and healthy lives. This is supported by lifelong learning, through strengthening families and helping people to gain the skills and knowledge they need to thrive and participate in a complex and challenging economy and society.

The provision of education, training, development, wellbeing and child health services (i.e. learning and development services) are central to rewarding lives for individuals and families, and for a strong society that has lower crime rates, better health outcomes, greater social mobility, and strong economic growth, productivity and employment. The goals set, the changes implemented, the systems supported, and the services offered – all lead to improved learning and development outcomes.

The Department's 10-year goal is to make Victoria a world leader in learning and development, to contribute to a vibrant economy and society and to deliver on our outcomes. To achieve this goal DEECD need to support the development of the whole person, focusing on literacy, maths and science, work and life skills, and health and wellbeing.

To deliver on goals and outcomes, the Department's focus for 2013-17 will be to:

1. Improve the opportunities for all learners without exception
2. Boost children's learning and wellbeing in their early years
3. Achieve large gains in literacy, maths and science
4. Ensure secondary schooling is more inclusive, flexible and engaging and equips young people for further study and work
5. Give Victorians relevant skills by raising the quality and economic value of vocational and higher education

Code of Ethical Practice – A First Step for the Victorian Youth Sector

Year: 2007

Publisher: The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic)

Primary focus: The Code of Ethical Practice – A First Step for the Victorian Youth Sector outlines a set of youth work principles and practice responsibilities for youth workers, identified through consultation with the youth sector.

Key findings: The Code of Ethical practice is an important first step towards embracing an agreed framework that will define safe, professional and ethical practice within the sector.

The youth work principles outlined in this document include:

- the empowerment of all young people
- young people's participation
- social justice for young people
- the safety of young people
- respect for young people's human dignity and worth
- young people's connectedness to important people in their lives, such as family and community
- positive health and wellbeing outcomes for young people
- the positive transitions and healthy development of young people.

The youth work principles describe what youth work achieves. All of the principles reflect key underpinning values that inform youth work practice.

The youth work practice responsibilities outlined in this document are:

- Recognition of Indigenous People's
- Young people as the primary consideration
- Duty of Care

- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Boundaries
- Transparency, honesty and integrity
- Social context
- Anti-oppressive practice non-discrimination, equity and self awareness
- Cooperation and collaboration; and
- Knowledge, skills and self care.

The youth work practice responsibilities describe key elements of what youth workers do when guided by the youth work principles. They are the essence of youth work practice and are important in youth workers fulfilling their responsibilities. The youth work practice responsibilities are not placed in order of importance, but are all of equal value.

In adopting the Code of Ethical Practice, youth workers will follow the youth work practice responsibilities. Each practice responsibility is accompanied by a section of commentary to assist in your understanding.

Youth Partnerships

Year: 2011

Publisher: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)

Primary focus: Youth Partnerships is a new initiative by the Victorian Government which will design and test new ways for the education, youth and family support, justice, homelessness and mental health sectors to work more collaboratively to support individual young people experiencing problems

Key findings:

Over three years, the Government will support service providers to work together to ensure:

- A greater focus on early intervention
- Consistent approaches to assessment and referral of young people across these sectors
- Clear entry points into the right youth services at the right time, including tailored education options

Youth Partnerships will develop new resources to support all the sectors that work with young people to identify those in need of support, assess their needs and refer them for extra support in a consistent, efficient way.

Seven demonstration sites were established, to test and refine these resources on the ground, and trial new approaches to delivering services to make sure young people receive coordinated and holistic support. Each demonstration site was governed by a local, cross-sectoral committee.

The key goals of Youth Partnerships are to:

- improve engagement in education and training; and
- reduce the escalation of social, individual and behavioural problems for vulnerable young people.

Some young people face barriers to staying in school or training, and need support to address these barriers and to find the education program that best suits them. Young people may be in touch with a wide range of agencies – for example schools, youth services, and mental health services – but often these services are not well-connected with each other, meaning young people don't always get holistic support, and have to navigate the maze of services on their own.

Youth Partnerships involves designing and testing new ways of organising services across sectors, to ensure that young people don't fall through the cracks, and so that teachers, police and other workers in touch with young people know how to identify the early signs of problems, and know who to refer a young person to for extra support.

Federal Policy

National Strategy for Young Australians

Year: 2010

Publisher: Australian Government

Primary focus: The National 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.

Key findings: The strategy is an important part of providing a youth perspective on the Government's broader agenda for building a stronger, fairer and healthier Australia, the Education Revolution, Closing the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage, and preparing for the challenges of the future. This strategy draws on a range of evidence and experience to describe how the government can build communities that equip young Australians to take on new responsibilities and to fully participate in all aspects of Australian life.

The Australian Government's vision for young people is for all young people to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and to have the opportunities and skills they need to learn, work, engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them.

The strategy provides a framework for other governments, communities and the youth sector to work with young people to make the vision a reality. The strategy aims to:

1. Empower young people to build their own lives

2. Enable young Australians to learn and to take responsibility for their actions
3. Build resilience in young Australians to navigate life's challenges
4. Build a healthier, safer and more productive Australia.

The strategy focuses on eight priorities for supporting young people to succeed and build lives of their own choosing:

1. Improving the health and wellbeing of all young people
2. Equipping young Australians to shape their own futures through education
3. Supporting young Australians within their families
4. Empowering young Australians to take part and be active in their communities
5. Equipping young Australians with the skills and personal networks they need to gain, and be successful in, employment
6. Enabling young Australians to participate confidently and safely online
7. Strengthening early intervention with young Australians to help prevent any problems getting worse and to help young people get their lives back on track
8. Establishing clear cut legal consequences for behaviours that endanger the safety of others.

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) Strategic Plan 2011 - 2015

Year: 2011

Publisher: Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

Primary focus:

AYAC's Strategic Plan identifies 5 strategic areas which will direct their work over the next four years.

Key findings: AYAC has been a part of the Australian youth landscape since 2002. Then, AYAC was a small group of people dedicated to maintain a national voice. For young people and the youth sector in Australian public life following the de-funding of the existing youth peak body. Following the Rudd Governments promise of funding to AYAC, the organisation has undergone a period of immense growth and development.

AYACS vision is for an Australia in which young people are informed, empowered, encouraged and supported to participate in their communities.

The strategic plan sets AYACS direction for the next four years and it establishes five strategic areas that they will focus their work for the next four years:

1. Build youth participation
2. Support the youth sector
3. Advocate for change
4. Drive research for better practice
5. Do things well

Headspace Strategic plan 2012 - 2015

Year: 2012

Publisher: Headspace

Primary focus: The headspace strategic plan 2012 - 2015 sets out 5 objectives to build on past achievement and fulfil their vision going forward.

Key findings: Established in 2006, 'headspace', the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, was first funded by the Federal Government to deliver youth-friendly, stigma-free services at a number of locations around Australia. Today, headspace is the major provider of clinical, early intervention services specifically targeting youth mental health across the country. Administered and supported by headspace national office, a network of 40 centres are currently contracted across every state and territory, set to scale up to 90 centres by 2015.

Since 2011, 'headspace' has also been funded to deliver a clinical e-mental health service, eheadspace, that is extending the reach of the headspace platform more broadly, particularly in harder to reach, rural and remote communities. Additionally, in 2012, headspace commenced implementation of a national initiative providing support to secondary schools affected by suicide.

Vision:

To improve young people's mental, social and emotional wellbeing through the provision of high quality, integrated services when and where they are needed.

Strategic objectives:

'headspace' has set the following five strategic objectives for 2012 – 2015 that build on our past achievements and will support fulfilling our vision going forward. These objectives are interrelated as success in one is dependent on success in another. A range of linked core activities and strategic projects will be undertaken over the life of the plan toward achievement of these objectives:

1. Awareness – Build awareness of who headspace is and what it does
2. Access – Enhance access to appropriate services for all young people
3. Integration – Provide seamless services that are responsive to the individual needs of young people
4. Sustainability – Develop a long term, sustainable funding approach with multiple funding streams
5. Effectiveness – Deliver the best, most effective model through continued research and validation

Youth Attainment and Transitions National Partnership

Year: 2009

Publisher: Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
(Now overseen by Commonwealth Department of Education)

Primary focus: The Council of Australian Governments meeting on 2 July 2009 agreed to the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions (NP). It came into immediate effect and covers the period up to 31 December 2013.

Key findings: The Partnership is a joint initiative of the Australian and State and Territory Governments and aims to increase participation of young people in education and training, increase attainment levels and improve successful transitions from school. It contains a package of elements, including:

- Strengthened participation requirements to encourage young people aged 15-20 to be engaged in education or training as a first priority;
- Lifting qualification levels with the aim of 90 per cent of young people nationally attaining a Year 12 or equivalent qualification by 2015 (Victoria's target is 92.6%) with an accompanying education or training entitlement for young people aged 15-24; and
- Support for successful transitions through the provision of youth career and transition programs.

For more information, see: www.education.gov.au/youth-attainment-and-transitions

Commonwealth Department of Education - Website

Year: current

Publisher: Commonwealth Department of Education

Primary focus: The Australian Government Department of Education is responsible for national policies and programs that help Australians access quality and affordable childcare; early childhood education, school education, post-school, higher education, international education and academic research.

Key findings: The Department of Education manages programs and initiatives to engage, support and collaborate with young people. These include:

- The National Strategy for Young Australians
- The Australian Youth Forum
- Youth Development and Support Program
- Positive Body Image Initiatives
- Transition to Independent Living Allowance
- Standing Council for School Education and Early Childhood Youth Working Group

For more information see the following websites:

www.education.gov.au

www.education.gov.au/youth-initiatives