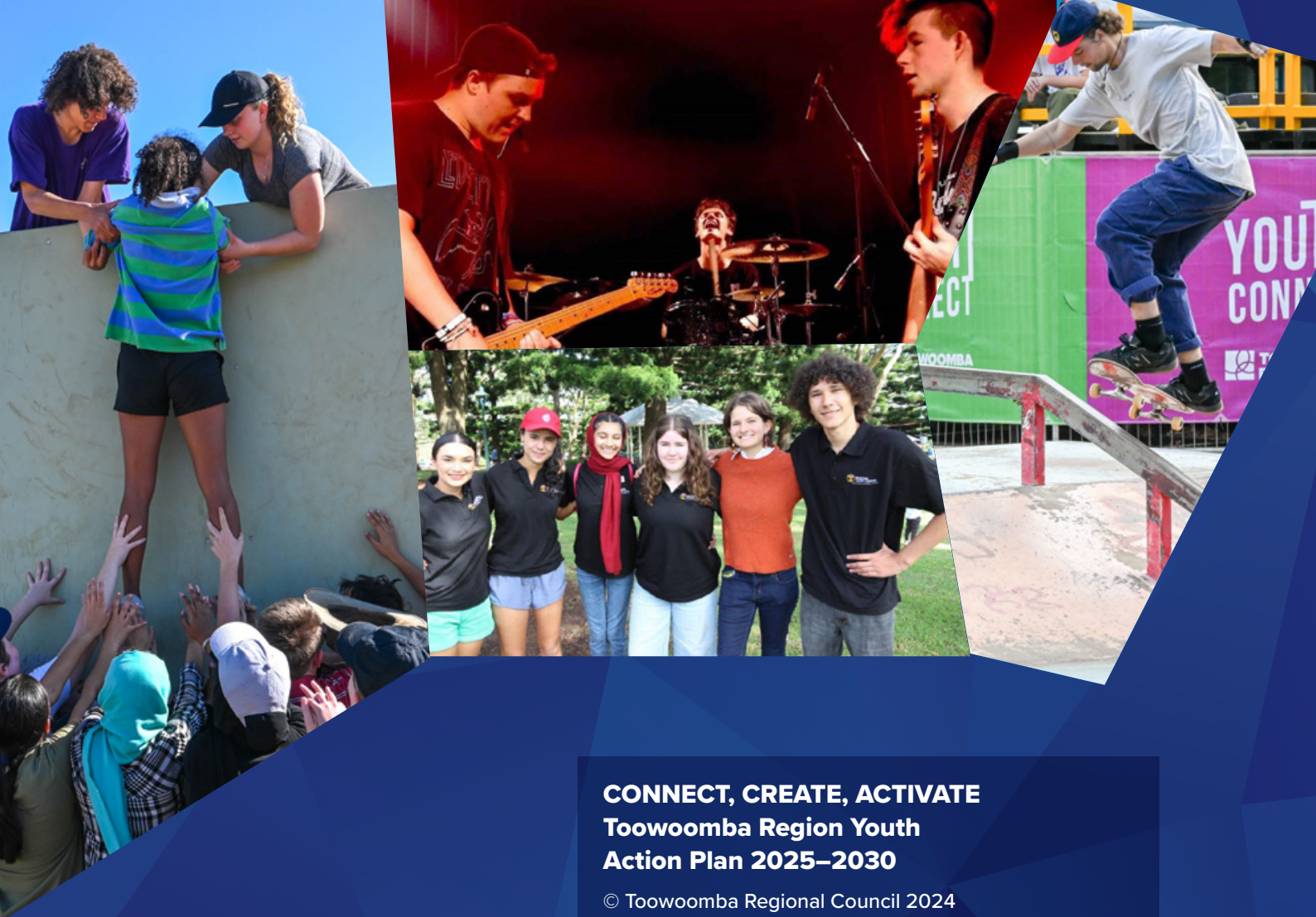


Connect, Create, Activate

APPENDIX

Toowoomba Region Youth Action Plan 2025–2030





CONNECT, CREATE, ACTIVATE Toowoomba Region Youth Action Plan 2025–2030

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Toowoomba Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Toowoomba Region whose song lines traverse these lands and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the knowledge, rich traditions and bold ambitions of Australia's First Peoples.

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Toowoomba Regional Council is proud of our unique and diverse communities. We are committed to upholding human rights based in principles of dignity, equality, mutual respect and the inherent value of each person.

Companion Document

The *Youth Action Plan 2025–2030* is supplementary material and should be read alongside the *Toowoomba Region Youth Strategy 2025–2030*. The research, consultation and strategic priorities set out in the strategy form the basis of the actions outlined herein.

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ABOUT THE YOUTH ACTION PLAN

The *Youth Action Plan 2025–2030* is a companion document to *Connect, Create, Activate*, our five-year strategy for engaging the many young people aged 12–24 who live, learn, work and play across our communities.

Drawing together our vision, role as a local government, existing practice and new initiatives, the Youth Action Plan is structured around four interlinked goals. Each goal governs a dimension of our strategic priorities for youth engagement, grounded in principles of developmental practice, early intervention and community self-determination.

Together, the goals of the Youth Action Plan will guide how we support young people to actively shape the development of our communities, achieve their aspirations and enrich the civic, economic, cultural and social life of the Region.

Our vision

A connected, creative Toowoomba Region where young people actively shape the future of our communities.

Our role



Engage



Facilitate



Deliver



Advocate

Youth Strategy 2025–2030 goals



1. Inclusion and participation



2. Connections and wellbeing



3. Experiences and diversity



4. Services and support systems

Our principles



Community self-determination



Early intervention



Developmental practice



1. INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

Our young people bring energy, ideas and have asked to be included in decisions that affect their lives. We will value and listen to their voices, and plan for liveable, sustainable communities which support their participation. More than that, we will empower young people to take a lead role in the development of communities, nurturing their confidence, skills and potential as active citizens.

1.1	Build creative, inclusive environments within which young people can actively shape the development of the Toowoomba Region.
1.1.1	Engage, support and empower local young people as Regional Youth Leaders to nurture their inclusion, connections, skills, self-determination and development as active citizens.
1.1.2	Plan, facilitate and support forums between young people and decision-makers to develop their knowledge of government, enable them to advocate for young people's interests and contribute to community decision-making.
1.1.3	Create a Youth Leaders alumni program to provide ongoing support for emerging Youth Leaders and strengthen program participation, continuity and sustainability.
1.1.4	Maintain and develop internal human resources opportunities for young people to support their access to work experience, traineeships, internships, employment and procurement.
1.2	Consult young people in decisions affecting their lives and consider their needs, values and wellbeing when planning for regional communities.
1.2.1	Engage meaningfully with young people and promote opportunities for them to have a say when planning local centres, townships, infrastructure, facilities and services.
1.2.2	Strengthen strategic partnerships with key stakeholders across our diverse communities to ensure the voices of all young people are heard.
1.2.3	Plan and advocate for development of liveable, accessible and sustainable communities which support young people's connectivity, transport options, housing choice and participation in community life.



2. CONNECTIONS AND WELLBEING

Youth marks a critical time for health, development, relationships and transitions to adulthood, but too many of our young people are isolated, disconnected or disengaged. We will partner with a range of stakeholders to deliver youth-friendly programs, support young people's social connections, and improve their education, employment and volunteering opportunities.

2.1	Create, sustain and enhance visibility of opportunities for young people to connect and belong in their local communities.
2.1.1	Plan and deliver an annual region-wide program of place-based activities to support young people's connections, networks and social fabrics.
2.1.2	Develop, support and promote youth-friendly library, arts and cultural programs to engage young people in the creative and cultural life of the region.
2.1.3	Develop, promote and market youth-friendly events, festivals and tourism experiences to engage, attract and support young people's sense of place, connection and community.
2.1.4	Develop, activate, support and promote youth-friendly public spaces and active lifestyles, including parks, facilities and health programs.
2.2	Partner with the community, business and government sectors to support young people's health, development and socio-economic wellbeing.
2.2.1	Provide a point of human-centred contact, information, advice, referrals and connections to young people and families to support their health, development and wellbeing.
2.2.2	Develop, support and promote initiatives which enhance young people's education, employment, training and volunteering opportunities, including mentoring, upskilling, networking and industry development programs.
2.2.3	Explore opportunities to enable young people's involvement in environmental sustainability, disaster resilience and community recovery initiatives.



3. EXPERIENCES AND DIVERSITY

Our young people are profoundly diverse, each an individual bringing unique human experience, perspectives and culture. We will endeavour to promote improved representation of young people across a range of settings, and actively work to support the inclusion of our most marginalised young people in community life.

3.1	Support the participation of young people from diverse backgrounds and promote understanding, inclusion and humanisation of young people in marginalised groups.
3.1.1	Engage Youth Leaders each year who represent a diverse range of backgrounds, experiences and regional communities.
3.1.2	Deliver the Mayoral School Achievement Medals each year to recognise the achievements of young people who reach their educational goals despite adversity.
3.1.3	Promote and facilitate opportunities for young people's inclusion and participation in nationally significant events.
3.1.4	Facilitate, support and deepen connections, understanding, collaboration and resource sharing between youth groups operating across the region.
3.2	Identify and promote opportunities to improve representation of young people in the wider community.
3.2.1	Ensure representations of young people in Council publications and promotional materials reflect their diversity.
3.2.2	Collaborate with young people, families and the regional youth sector to promote positive youth-centred stories within Council, the media and the wider community.
3.2.3	Support and contribute to research projects, in partnership with the University of Southern Queensland, to elevate young people's voices, needs and experiences of regionality.



4. SERVICES AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS




To achieve long-term outcomes for young people and families, our regional youth sector is calling for intergenerational, trauma-informed and place-based models of practice. We will work together with our sector on coordinated approaches to young people's support systems, and facilitate platforms for practitioners to channel local intelligence and advocacy.

4.1	Facilitate, sustain and support platforms for youth sector practitioners to advocate, collaborate and coordinate in the interests of young people.
4.1.1	Maintain the Regional Youth Advisory Committee as an advisory body providing advice to Council on the interests of local young people, the regional youth sector and emerging issues, opportunities, trends and best practice.
4.1.2	Facilitate opportunities for the Regional Youth Advisory Committee to engage, coordinate and collaborate with functional areas, decision-makers and external stakeholders.
4.1.3	Explore potential to strengthen youth sector networks across South West Queensland which provide platforms for strategic planning, sector development and dialogue between young people, practitioners and sector stakeholders.
4.1.4	Work with state-level peak bodies to build youth sector coalitions, amplify local voices, improve data collection, strengthen sector representations and advocate effectively for young people's interests.
4.2	Work together with the regional youth sector to deliver coordinated approaches to youth services, support systems and long-term outcomes for young people, families and communities.
4.2.1	Maintain an active, participatory presence in local youth sector networks, share intelligence, enhance sector dialogue and support coordination, capacity building, multidisciplinary approaches and communities of practice.
4.2.2	Develop, sustain and support digital platforms that enhance cross-agency links, collaboration and resource sharing across the regional youth sector.
4.2.3	Collaborate with regional sector partners and decision-makers to fund and implement intergenerational, early intervention models which promote long-term population wellbeing outcomes for young people and families.



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