



Youth Strategy

2019-2024





Mayor's foreword

Our Youth Strategy focuses on the wellbeing of young people in the City of Karratha. It provides us with an overarching guide on how we should engage with stakeholders in the youth sector and support young people to be happy, healthy and have a positive impact in our community.

In the City of Karratha, young people aged 10 to 24 years make up approximately 18 per cent of our population. This is a significant proportion of our community, and one that is expected to increase in the next 20 years. A large number of entertainment, education and development opportunities already exist in our city however, as we grow we need to work closely with the youth sector and the community to ensure we are meeting the current and future needs of our young people.

The City is regarded as a leading provider of youth services in the local area and over the past eight years significant investment has been made to improve community infrastructure, social services and recreational opportunities.

I am very pleased to present the 2019-2024 Youth Strategy, a strong set of guiding principles and action areas that focus on building on the existing relationships we have with young people in our city while aligning with Council's vision to become Australia's most liveable regional city.



Cr Peter Long
Mayor
City of Karratha

Our strategy in summary

The City of Karratha Youth Strategy 2019-2024 sets out a road map for our approach to supporting and engaging with youth, ensuring we continue to be a local government that values our young people. This strategy provides a reference point for improved engagement with youth sector stakeholders and outlines potential for collaborative partnerships in service delivery.

Results from the City of Karratha annual community survey show that year on year more people are choosing to call the City of Karratha home. Of those surveyed in 2019, 41.9 per cent indicated they had no plans to leave the area, compared to 14 per cent in 2011. Our population figures show there are over 7,500 people under the age of 25 living in the City of Karratha with approximately 50 per cent of that total aged between 10 and 24 years. As our city continues to grow this number is also expected to increase with estimates indicating a population growth of up to 60 per cent over the next 20 years. With this in mind the City of Karratha has developed a holistic set of principles and outcomes that will guide future activities and engagement with the youth sector.

This strategy was developed after an extensive consultation period that captured feedback from young people, the wider community and youth sector stakeholders. The result is a strategy that is built on improving the wellbeing of young people in our community.

Our work will be reviewed regularly to ensure we are delivering on the initiatives outlined in this strategy and periodic evaluation will ensure we adapt our approach as necessary to ensure we remain a relevant contributor to the local youth sector.

It is also an important consideration to note that our youth engage in activities and services through many different avenues:



Recreation services



Arts & culture



Leisure, clubs & community associations



Community services



Events



School & education



Youth services



Health services

The above list is not exhaustive but rather an indication that while the City has a role to play in the youth sector locally, there are a number of other community groups, state and national departments, health and service providers and commercial sector operations that can have a positive impact on young people. Each of these options also presents an opportunity for meaningful and considered collaboration.



Demographic breakdown

Statistics from the 2016 census show there are a total of 3,834 young people aged between 10 and 24 years living in the City of Karratha. The large majority of this group is located in Karratha and the distribution is consistent across age brackets.

The following information is a snapshot of the demographic profile of young people living in the City of Karratha:

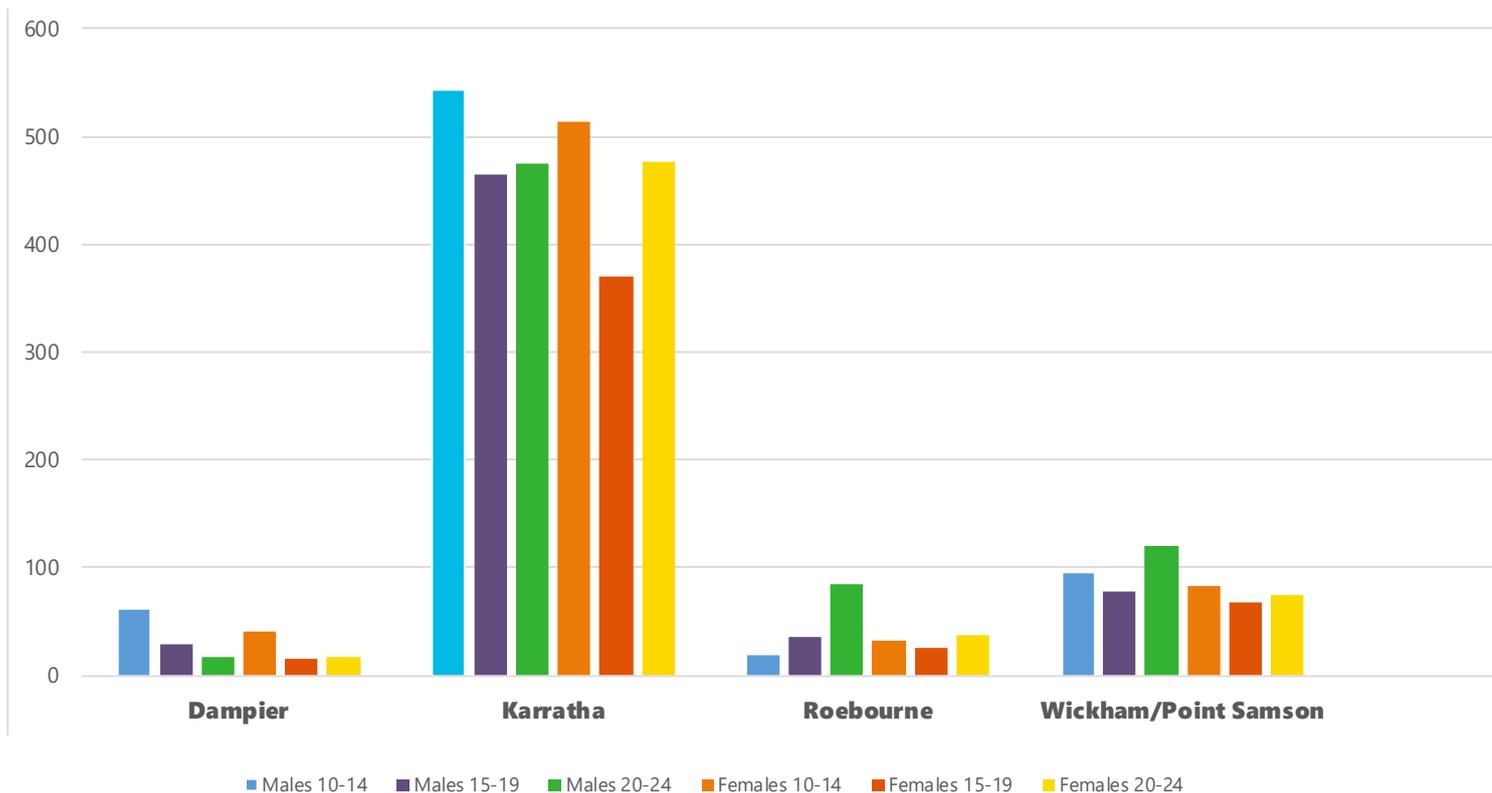
Where do young people live?



What does this look like in terms of age brackets?



Distribution of youth by gender, age and location



Why we need a new strategy

Council has an ongoing commitment to young people living in the City of Karratha. In order to deliver best outcomes across the youth sector this commitment needs to be captured in a clear and innovative strategy that encompasses the views of our young people and guides our work moving forward.

The City of Karratha Youth Strategy 2019-2024 will assist the City in planning and developing services and facilities that best meet the needs of the community. It will inform the allocation of resources and provide a conduit for collaborations and partnerships within the youth sector.

Young people are a vibrant and vital part of our community and play an important role in social, cultural, economic and community life. It is important that Council provides support and opportunities for young people that allow them to achieve their goals and assist them in reaching their full potential.

This strategy is Council's commitment to young people in the region. We have a leadership role in understanding and responding to the needs of young people in our community and representing their interests in broader government and community settings.

The City of Karratha Youth Strategy 2019-2024 gives us an opportunity to create positive change and a stronger voice for the youth sector locally by:

- Providing a holistic, shared vision and framework
- Describing the principles by which we will operate and make decisions
- Providing guidance for Council in its advocacy with all levels of government and industry
- Providing clarity in the pursuit of funding and other resources to address service gaps, priority areas for action and maintain alignment with community expectation and need
- Enabling a better understanding for stakeholders and the wider community about the issues facing young people within our region

Young people have been surveyed annually by the City of Karratha over the past four years with the aim of identifying their interests, values and those issues most important to them. After ongoing discussions with local youth and community stakeholders these surveys have been broadened to include the aspirations of young people and the identification of key issues or barriers to these goals.

With the City's historical involvement and experience in Youth Services, this is an ideal time to establish a clear strategy for working with young people as Council works toward becoming Australia's most liveable regional city.



How does this strategy work?

City's Integrated Strategic Planning Framework

We believe in planning for a bright future that fulfils the needs of current and future generations. To ensure the best outcomes for our community at each stage of our journey to becoming Australia's most liveable regional city, we have developed strategies for the short, medium and long term. These plans are integrated so when we are working on short term projects we are also contributing to the long term strategies we have in place and ensuring the best use of resources in all of our activities.

Our Strategic Community Plan 2016-2026 provides a vision for the future of the local government area and outlines how the City and community will achieve that vision over 10 years. It states our aspirations and objectives, regards the current and future resource capacity and demographic trends of the region and is adopted by an absolute majority of Council.

Our **strategic themes**

Our **goals**

<p>Our Community <i>Diverse and Balanced</i></p>	<p>To create safe, healthy and liveable communities</p>
<p>Our Economy <i>Well Managed and Diversified</i></p>	<p>To attract diverse and sustainable business and employment opportunities</p>
<p>Our Natural and Built Environment <i>Thriving and Sustainable</i></p>	<p>To protect our natural and built environment</p>
<p>Our Leadership <i>Responsive and Accountable</i></p>	<p>To provide accessible, transparent and responsive leadership</p>

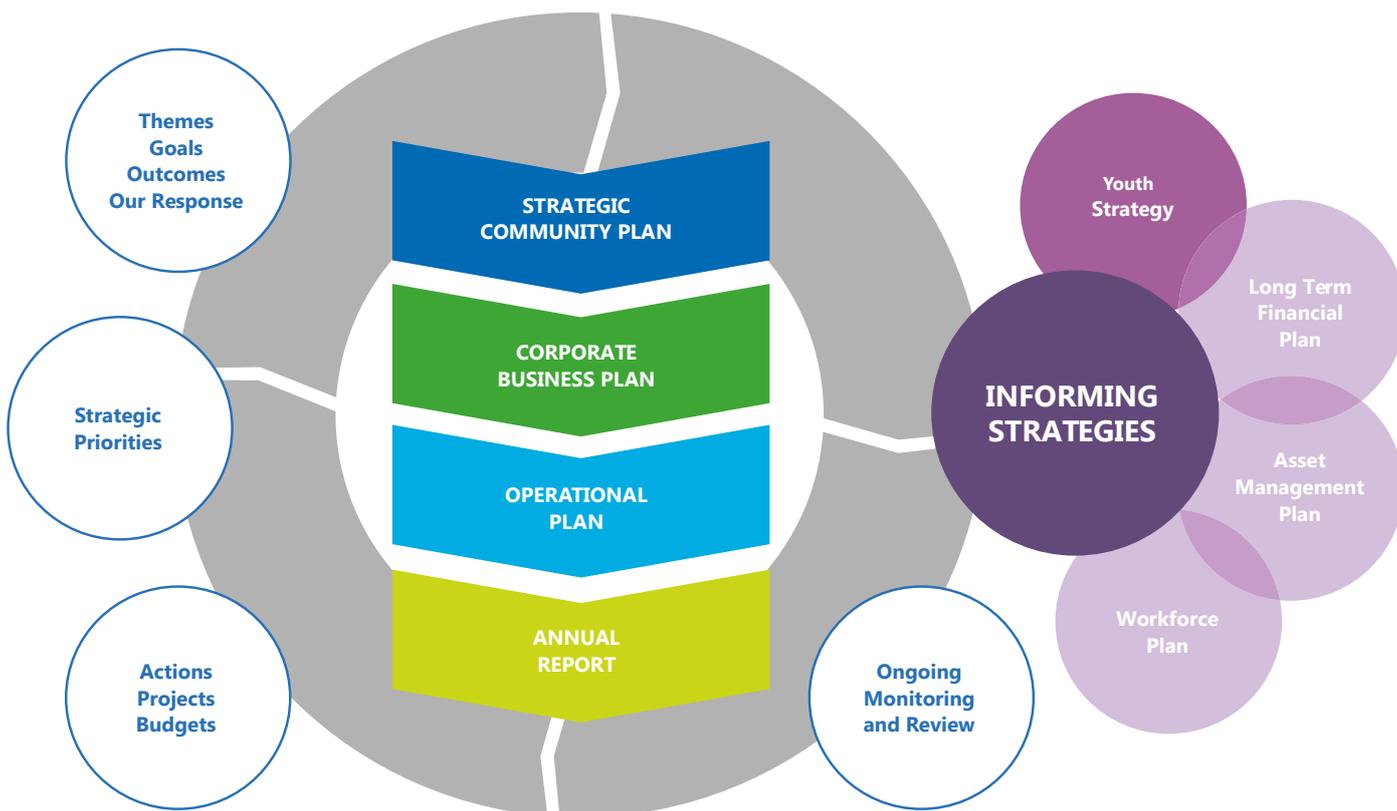
Embedding the strategy into our operations

The Youth Strategy works to guide specific actions, projects and budgets within the organisation to achieve the goals of the Strategic Community Plan.

To implement the strategy and achieve the outcomes identified, projects will be planned, budgeted and delivered, taking into consideration the most appropriate role for Council to play.

The strategy will be embedded into operational plans and key actions to ensure that what is planned is delivered.

Reporting of progress and performance is captured in the quarterly and annual reports and the strategy is continually reviewed to ensure it is up to date and relevant to the changing environment in the city and broader region.





Key steps in strategy development

City's Integrated Strategic Planning Framework

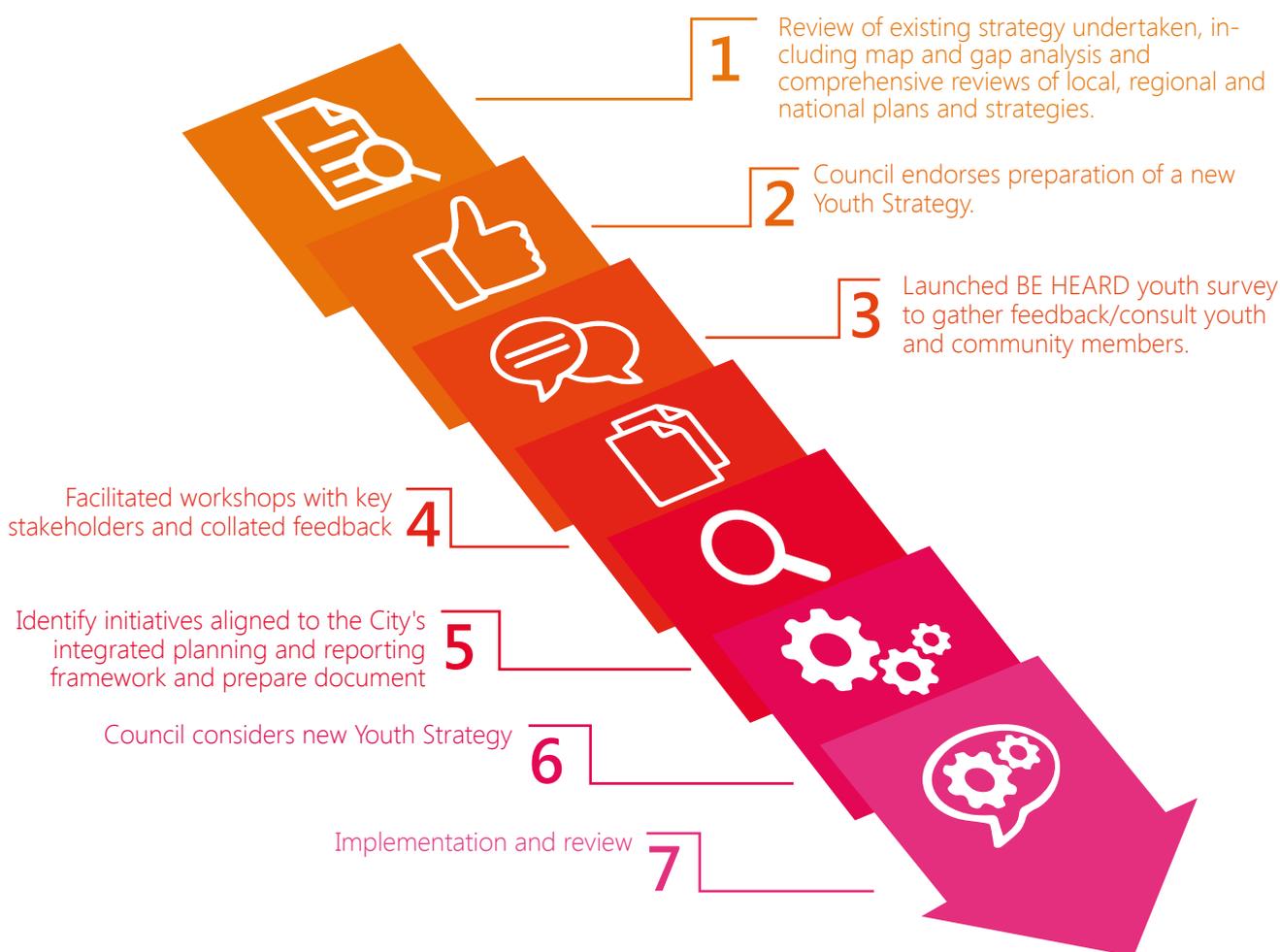
Work to develop this strategy included a number of consultations with youth sector stakeholders and the wider community, reviews of industry literature and research around best practice approaches in the youth services industry. This process allowed us to identify relevant themes and map the views and aspirations of our local youth and community against wider sector experiences.

A key piece of consultation included the BE HEARD online survey, one survey tailored specifically for our youth and another for the wider community. We also conducted one-on-one stakeholder interviews and workshops facilitating survey completion, encouraging verbal input into strategy development from the region's Youth Stakeholder Network.

In total, 629 stakeholders provided us with input, including:

- 359 young people (aged 10 – 24 years)
- 208 community members (defined as aged 25 years+)
- 65 youth sector personnel

All feedback was collated and coupled with industry practice and literature reviews to formulate a set of guiding principles and outcomes that will inform our activities in the youth sector and accompany the City's integrated planning framework. This strategy is designed as a guide, identifying priority areas for action and associated measures in the youth space but also broad enough in order to be responsive to the changing needs of our young people.



What have we heard?

After carefully analysing all feedback received during consultation we have identified emerging and common themes to focus on locally. These closely mirror the themes identified by state and national agencies within the youth sector and their focus areas moving forward. Highlights from respondents that guided development of the strategy are identified as follows:

Youth

- Family relationships coupled with physical and mental health is what our young people valued most, slightly above employment opportunities and social/friendship circles
- Top concerns were how to cope with stress, issues at school and with study, bullying, relationships and mental health
- When asked what they wish for, youth across all age groups made statements around access to recreational activities, improving their health, feeling valued and heard, and access to employment, education and training

Wider Community

- Alcohol and drugs were rated as the number one issue for young people, followed by their mental health
- When asked what they would like to see happen for young people statements pertained to provision of recreation activities, improved health and wellbeing, education and access to development opportunities

Industry Stakeholders

- Issues identified in the youth sector related to funding and provision of services for our young people and the number of trained and qualified staff locally
- Addressing the under 11 year old service gap
- Improving collaboration at all levels within the youth sector locally
- Summary of some common themes being Empowered Youth, Education, Training and Employment and Health



Our strategy's guiding principles

Throughout the planning process we have been able to identify a number of common values held by stakeholders within the youth sector, that complement the City's desired approach in working with our young people. The identified values are considered the starting point for our continued servicing of and engagement with young people and stakeholders. These principles will guide our activities and initiatives as we work toward improving the wellbeing of our young people:

- Safe and secure – our spaces, places and services allow youth to be and feel safe
- Meaningful engagement – we respect, value and empower the opinions, contributions and skills of all young people within our community
- Outcomes-focused – initiatives are measurable and deliver meaningful results
- Partnerships and collaboration - we will work in a coordinated and collaborative way to complement existing services and leverage networks to achieve our outcomes
- Accessibility and inclusivity – we make it easier for young people to access facilities and services
- Empowerment and advocacy – young people will be supported to be heard and influence matters that affect them and the community they live in

Priority areas for action

Guided by the above principles and our research, the overarching focus of this strategy is the wellbeing of our young people. In this strategy wellbeing is considered to be the state of being comfortable, healthy and happy in both a personal and community sense.

Within the wellbeing focus, four priority areas have been identified when working with our young people. The priority areas are listed in the diagram below:



Priority areas and outcomes

Under each of the priority areas we have identified our desired outcomes. These outcomes have been developed so that they are measurable and can directly guide specific initiatives. The initiatives will be reviewed and revised as part of our normal annual planning process.

Personal development

Outcomes:

- Youth have opportunities to gain skills and experiences
- Youth have pathways for employment
- Youth have opportunities to enhance and improve their wellbeing

Measures:

- Number of youth employed at the City of Karratha
- Number of youth training and education opportunities
- Number of youth employed in the City of Karratha
- Number of opportunities youth have for work experience and volunteering
- Number of Life Skills programs delivered
- Program of activities delivered in each school term and each holiday period

Community safety

Outcomes:

- Youth have access to safe places and spaces in the community
- Youth are considered in facility and service design
- Stakeholders collaborate to provide a coordinated approach to improving safety for young people

Measures:

- Percentage score in annual Youth Survey – youth safety in public spaces (specific places)
- Amount of engagement in facility and spaces design
- Collaboration with WAPOL, YCIO, Community Safety Advisory Group and Safer Community Partnership to facilitate addressing of youth specific behaviours and outreach programs
- Number of youth referred to other support agencies
- Commencement of co-located youth services within the City of Karratha



Accessibility to services

Outcomes:

- Facility use and operations have considered and adapted to youth requirements
- Youth's connection and access to services is enhanced/improved
- Youth participation in the community has increased

Measures:

- Percentage satisfaction of facilities/programs – City of Karratha Annual Community Survey
- Number of youth utilising transport services throughout city
- Services for youth are co-located
- Policies and procedures guiding staff engagement with youth are in place
- Number of Outreach programs and events delivered and/or attended by Youth Services staff
- Number of youth that are members in community groups
- Youth have access to a Directory of Services
- Term and school holiday programs are delivered in various locations within the City of Karratha
- Use of and engagement with (reach) social media platforms relevant to youth

Empowerment and advocacy

Outcomes:

- Youth have mechanisms to be heard on issues and decisions that affect them
- The achievements of our young people are recognised and celebrated
- Youth are advocated for and their best interests are positively represented

Measures:

- Youth Advisory Council in place, active, and has Councillor participation
- Youth surveys conducted
- Youth recognised and awarded for their achievements (Walkington Award and introduction of other awards)
- City Youth Services staff involvement in local youth sector networks e.g. Regional Youth Stakeholder Network
- City of Karratha contributions to school awards
- Number of positive youth stories released
- Minimum of two events per year are delivered by young people
- Develop youth services website
- Develop and release youth specific marketing and social messaging material to enhance community perception of our youth



Summary of our initiatives 2019-2020

From the priority areas listed in this strategy, the City has identified 17 initiatives. In the table below these initiatives are listed as well as the priority area(s) they address. The intention is that these initiatives will be reviewed annually as part of the City's planning process.

Initiative	Wellbeing			
	Personal development	Safety	Accessibility	Empowerment & advocacy
Develop and implement an annual youth survey to measure performance of programs and services	✓	✓	✓	✓
WiFi available at City venues			✓	
Integrate youth consultation processes into the City's decision making through the establishment of a Youth Advisory Council (YAC)	✓			✓
Develop and implement targeted life skills programming for 16 - 24 year olds	✓		✓	
Investigate opportunities for the inclusion of parents and guardians in youth programming	✓			
Investigate opportunities and advocate for an integrated and expanded public transport network		✓	✓	✓
Provide casual and structured in-term and school holiday programming for youth within the City of Karratha	✓		✓	
Collaborate with and have a City Youth Services presence at youth events and programs delivered by external agencies and organisations in the City e.g. EPIC Careers Expo, NAIDOC Week etc.			✓	✓
Develop and implement a marketing and social media strategy relevant to young people to better communicate City services			✓	✓
Positively promote our City's youth to the wider community through implementation of promotional campaigns, community events and awards	✓		✓	✓
Develop and maintain a City of Karratha Youth Services Directory			✓	
Support student work placements, traineeship and junior employment opportunities across the City of Karratha	✓			✓
Continue advocacy for establishment of alternative and tertiary education establishments within the City of Karratha	✓		✓	✓
Relocate Indoor Play Centre to allow for co-location of Youth Services at the Youth Shed		✓	✓	✓
Advocate and lobby State and Federal Government on key issues affecting the community and the youth sector				✓
Support local clubs and community groups to increase youth participation	✓		✓	
All City facilities consider our youth access and safety as part of development and design		✓	✓	





The Youth Shed: Hillview Rd, Karratha
(08) 9186 8576
www.karratha.wa.gov.au/youth-shed



The Base: Wickham Community Hub, Wickham
(08) 9186 8045
www.karratha.wa.gov.au/the-base

 @kcityteens  City of Karratha

If you have any queries, comments or contributions regarding the Youth Strategy, please email us: yscas@karratha.wa.gov.au or give either facility a call.

