

## Regional Youth Futures



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**A strong responsive youth sector;  
resilient healthy young people**



## Executive Summary

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) became involved in youth activities in 1999 when the Eastern Metropolitan Local Authorities Group (EMAG) was folded into the EMRC. One of the first projects undertaken by the EMRC was the development of a Regional Youth Strategy, adopted in 1999.

The EMRC is seeking to clarify its role with regard to youth activities and in 2010 developed a Regional Youth and Education Discussion Paper. The Discussion Paper included input from member Councils and suggested five key focus areas for consideration:

- Youth capacity building and leadership;
- Regional collaboration;
- Youth in environmental management;
- Creative and engaged youth; and
- Supporting youth.

On 21 June 2012 the Council determined further consultation with key stakeholders was required and resolved to:

1. Undertake a workshop to identify and prioritise relevant regional youth projects for incorporating into existing EMRC strategies, in partnership with member Councils and key stakeholders; and
2. Employ a regional youth coordinator to undertake workshops and facilitate the development of agreed project plans.

Subsequently a consultant was employed to coordinate the engagement of stakeholders and the development of a Report. The project brief was to:

- Undertake consultations with member Councils and key stakeholders to identify regional priorities;
- Seek input from Member Councils and key stakeholders on emerging priorities and the role the EMRC and member Councils in addressing these priorities;
- Assess and prioritise potential focus areas and projects;
- Undertake detailed scoping, costing and the identification of investment/partnership opportunities for agreed regional projects; and
- Develop a report for presentation to the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee (CEOAC).

This Report provides an overview of the outcomes of the consultations, highlighting the priorities – for both young people and the workers in youth focused agencies across Perth’s Eastern Region. It provides comment on projects suggested in the Discussion Paper and illustrates some emerging opportunities which build on the strengths already evident in Perth’s Eastern Region. Key points made in relation to each of the Focus Areas are as follows.

### Youth Capacity Building and Leadership

Participants in the stakeholder workshop agreed that opportunities which promote team work and civic engagement as well as individual development were more likely to support the development of young leaders who were willing and able to make valuable contributions to their communities both now and into the future. They indicated there was benefit in providing opportunities for young people to be involved in practical programs or the planning and development of activities where they can test their skills and learn through working with others.

## Regional Collaboration

The emphasis of the workshop participants when considering Regional Collaboration was on the collaboration and partnerships already in existence between their agencies and partner organisations in the Eastern Region. One of the key strengths was identified as the SaSSY (Swan and Surrounding Suburbs Youth) Network, although they agreed this would probably benefit from a name change if it was to be fully inclusive of the Eastern Region. They identified where agencies were working well together, with the Midland Headspace development listed as an example of the benefits of strong collaboration.

Regional Collaboration was seen as critical to the development of a robust and viable youth sector. Workshop participants identified the support and facilitation of regional collaboration as one of the key roles of the EMRC, but it was not considered necessary for the EMRC to **drive** this collaboration.

## Youth in Environmental Management

There is an opportunity to build on the EMRC's Bush Skills for the Hills program to provide workshops specifically for young people to foster their interest in and responsibility for local bushland conservation. Whilst the EMRC has previously applied (unsuccessfully) for funding, preliminary discussion with Lotterywest as part of the consultation process has indicated potential interest in Bush Skills programs. Such funding would be based on the assumption that the project encourages youth volunteering in local environmental projects and facilitates the ongoing engagement of young people in community initiatives.

## Creative and Engaged Youth

Many local governments have made strong commitments to engaging their local communities and Western Australian Department of Local Government's Integrated Planning Framework requires Councils to engage as part of their Strategic Community Planning processes. Meaningful participation of young people is however not always considered as part of the process.

Participants in the Consultation workshop highlighted the need for meaningful consultation with, and participation of, young people as part of the planning and delivery of local government services. Councils have a unique role to play in the lives of young people and a robust and relevant process for engaging young people will ensure local government resources are used in the most effective way for the community as a whole and young people in particular.

## Supporting Youth

Consultation with stakeholders identified an increasing number of young people with complex needs. These needs go across spectrums and require interventions and supports from those within the health sector, education, training and employment as well as youth workers. A 'joined up approach' to the provision of services is therefore essential.

Young people indicated there is a need for additional support services to help them to deal with issues such as relationships, alcohol and other drugs, family issues, mental health, sexual health and identity. When surveyed, a significant proportion (72%) identified this as either the most important or second most important issue.

Participants agreed the importance of additional or improved therapeutic and specialist services.

They reported that many areas within Perth's Eastern Region have few specialised services for young people and access to services is often hampered by poor public transport. Access to services which support young people with mental health problems was considered to be of the highest priority. Whilst the establishment of the Midland Headspace Centre, due to open in January 2013, will help, access for young people outside of Midland remains an issue.

The overall priorities for the consultation workshop participants were:

- Exploring genuine youth engagement through, volunteering and embedding youth engagement into Community Engagement initiatives, including the planning of facilities and public spaces where young people will congregate;
- Communication and support to enable ALL young people to access programs and services offered by Member Councils;
- Building on and adding value to existing programs to enable improved youth participation;
- Advocating and lobbying for appropriate resources to support the development and delivery of quality programs, services and facilities to support young people across Perth's Eastern Region;
- Identifying, developing and resourcing models of Regional and local collaboration; and
- Professionalising the sector – supporting networking, professional development and the discussion of emerging issues across the Region.

The report makes recommendations regarding projects which respond to these priorities and other concerns expressed by consultation participants, suggesting ways in which the EMRC can support member Councils and community based agencies to respond more effectively to the needs of young people in Perth's Eastern Region.

It is recommended that the EMRC considers:

1. Supporting the development and maintenance of strong regional networks.
2. Supporting a regional approach skills development for those engaged in providing services to support young people in Perth's Eastern Region.
3. Encouraging the participation of young people in community based environmental projects.
4. Advocating on behalf of member Councils and the non-government sector to garner support from State and Federal Governments for increased programs, services and facilities for young people in Perth's Eastern Region.
5. Advocating for improved access to safe and reliable transport for young people across Perth's Eastern Region.
6. Supporting the organisation of a Regional Youth Forum in 2014 to coincide with National Youth Week.
7. Supporting Member Councils and other key stakeholders to develop a program of activities to celebrate Regional Youth Week in 2015. This program of activities would build on the Regional Youth Forum held in 2014.

In some instances the recommendations can be implemented by expanding or modifying the focus of existing EMRC activities. For example the EMRC can advocate for improved access to safe and reliable transport as part of the *Regional Integrated Transport Strategy* and for a general improvement in the allocation of Government resources to support young people as part of its ongoing *Regional Advocacy* program.

To deliver on other recommendations, partnerships between the EMRC, Member Councils and other stakeholders will be required.

There is an opportunity for the EMRC to build on the networks and collaborative projects already emerging in the Region through the allocation of funds through its Sponsorship and Grants Program. Utilising seed funding and providing small grants to leverage funding from other providers is also an option.

Such collaborative approaches are in line with the EMRC's 10 Year Strategic Plan as they will contribute to the development of regional cultural and recreational activities for young people and will enhance the overall quality of programs and services in the Region.

The EMRC may also choose to tailor its Environmental programs to support the recruitment of young people into environmental groups and projects in the Eastern Region. This supports the EMRC in its implementation of the Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program and could provide a vehicle for the identification, investigation and development of new environmental and sustainability initiatives.

Discussions with potential funding partners as part of the consultation process indicated an interest in such an approach.

In addition to the possible projects identified for the EMRC, opportunities were also suggested for individual member Councils' consideration, including:

1. Exploring ways of improving online engagement and embedding youth friendly engagement mechanisms into ongoing community engagement processes.
2. Participation in Regional Networks such as the SaSSY Network, seeking to expand this network to be truly inclusive of the Region.
3. Supporting their staff and those working in partner agencies to access Regional professional development programs to assist them to work more effectively with young people.
4. Supporting the development of youth peer education programs such as Youth Educating Peers, in conjunction with YACWA and local youth services.
5. Exploring opportunities to support outreach services from Midland Headspace and other therapeutic or specialist services to facilitate access for young people from their jurisdictions.
6. Participating in Regional planning and lobbying activities, convened by the EMRC, which seek to increase the funding for programs, services and facilities to support young people across the Region.
7. Supporting youth and community staff to develop linkages with schools and alternative education providers.
8. Investigating opportunities to work in conjunction with Partnership Broker Service providers and others involved in supporting young people in their transition from school to further training and/or employment.
9. Supporting youth arts opportunities by working with young people and youth arts organisations to develop a range of art/music projects in local communities.
10. Exploring the development of alternative models of volunteering to attract young people to volunteer in community projects.
11. Participate in the organisation and delivery of a Regional Program of youth activities to support the celebration of National Youth Week on a Regional basis in 2015.
12. Exploring partnerships with agencies such as Act-Belong-Commit to promote improved mental wellbeing for young people through active community participation.

## EMRC Role and Opportunities

**Table 1: EMRC Role and Opportunities**

<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT</b>	<b>ROLE/RESOURCING</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Supporting the development and maintenance of strong regional networks	<p>EMRC 10 Year Strategic Plan – Objective 2.1 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational opportunities: 2.1.3 Define and develop the role of the EMRC in assisting member Councils to achieve social outcomes for the Region. and; 4.2 to Manage partnerships and relationships with stakeholders</p> <p><i>Supporting and maintaining strong regional networks will improve social outcomes for young people across the Region and will foster and enhance relationships with and between stakeholders.</i></p> <p>Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010 – 2015 – Responsible Leadership: Objective 7.3 Encourage collaboration between all stakeholders</p> <p><i>Supporting and maintain regional networks will encourage collaboration between stakeholders.</i></p>	<p><b>Facilitation &amp; Partnership</b> (Funding from Regional Development budget) – provide seed funding to support the inclusion of Member Councils in the Regional Network. This can be linked with the project above.</p> <p><b>Facilitation</b> of quarterly network meetings for Member Councils’ youth and community development managers and coordinators. This will include the provision of a venue and basic catering and allocation of a staff member to be responsible for convening the meetings.</p> <p><b>Allocation of funds</b> in accordance with Regional Project Summary – Regional Youth Projects (\$36,909 salaries budget)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the cooperation of member Councils, support the ongoing development of the SaSSY network (currently Bassendean, Mundaring and Swan) in an expanded form to include the local government areas of Belmont, Bayswater and Kalamunda.</li> <li>• Explore the reestablishment of network meetings for youth and community development coordinators and managers of member Councils (as per Economic Development Officers meetings)</li> </ul>
Supporting a regional approach skills development for those engaged in providing services to support young people in Perth’s Eastern Region	<p>EMRC 10 year Strategic Plan - Objective 2.1 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational opportunities: 2.1.3 Define and develop the role of the EMRC in assisting member Councils to achieve social outcomes for the Region.</p> <p><i>Supporting and facilitating the professional development of those working with young people will enhance the quality and reach of programs and services in the Region.</i></p>	<p><b>Facilitation &amp; Partnership</b> – working with the Swan NEST group to access additional funding for a Regional Training Calendar.</p> <p><b>Lobbying</b> – St John of God have expressed an interest in funding. Approximately \$12,000 required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Swan NEST project to support the establishment of a professional development series of activities across Perth’s Eastern Region</li> <li>• Explore funding opportunities to help extend and sustain the Swan NEST project. This could involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the provision of funds through the EMRC Sponsorship and Grants program</li> <li>○ matched funding with external agency, for example St John of God Health Service or Lotterywest</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT</b>	<b>ROLE/RESOURCING</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Encouraging the participation of young people in community based environmental projects	<p><i>EMRC 10 Year Strategic Plan – Objective 1.5 To contribute towards improved regional air, water and land quality and regional biodiversity conservation:</i></p> <p>1.5.3 Implement the Eastern Hills Catchment Management Programme 1.5.5 Identify, investigate and develop new environmental and sustainability opportunities.</p> <p><i>Involving young people in the EHCMP will benefit both young people and the environment. Encouraging young people to participate in environmental programs can promote the development of new innovative initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>Regional Environment Strategy 2011 – 2016 – Biodiversity Conservation: Objective 3.3 – To continue to support member Councils and community groups in their bushland management activities.</i></p>	<p><b>Program development and delivery</b></p> <p>The EMRC Environmental Services Team will be responsible for this project.</p> <p>EMRC to develop and facilitate the delivery of a program linking young people with environmental groups.</p> <p><b>EMRC to coordinate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local groups to offer participation opportunities.</li> <li>Member Councils support for projects on public land.</li> <li>Funding of \$40,000 to be sought from Lotterywest</li> <li>Big Help Mob – liaison for volunteers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the Bush Skills for Youth environmental program</li> <li>Liaise with Lotterywest regarding funding for the program</li> <li>Develop and submit application for Lotterywest funding for Bush Skills for Youth.</li> <li>Liaise with relevant Member Councils and local catchment groups to gain support for the proposed project</li> <li>Work with local catchment groups to support them to develop volunteering opportunities which are attractive to young people</li> <li>Explore opportunities to work with Useful Inc. and their Big Help Mob to involve young people in targeted volunteer projects</li> </ul>
Advocating on behalf of member Councils and the non-government sector to garner support from State and Federal Government for increased programs, services and facilities for young people in Perth's Eastern Region	<p>EMRC 10 Year Strategic Plan – Objective 4.1 To Provide advice and advocacy on issues affecting Perth's Eastern Region</p> <p>4.1.1 Implement the Regional Advocacy Strategy.</p> <p><i>Advocacy on behalf of Member Councils and the Sector will promote enhanced Regional services for young people</i></p>	<p><b>Advocacy</b> – Liaise with Member Councils to develop an Advocacy plan to support the lobbying of State and Federal Governments for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional funding for existing youth services and funding for new services</li> <li>Funding for the development of facilities</li> </ul> <p>Nil additional resourcing required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include advocacy for improved services for young people in the annual advocacy program</li> <li>Convene a meeting of Member Councils to explore a regional approach to facilities provision, including service hubs for young people</li> <li>Identify and lobby for the resources to support the development of priority regional facilities</li> </ul>

<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT</b>	<b>ROLE/RESOURCING</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Advocating for improved access to transport for young people across Perth's Eastern Region	<p>EMRC 10 year Strategic Plan Objective 3.1 To facilitate increased investment in regional infrastructure: 3.1.1 Continue the implementation of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan 2010 – 2013 – Key Focus Area 2 – Public Transport Service Provision</p> <p><i>Young people are key users of public transport and their ability to access services is directly related to transport access.</i></p>	<p><b>Advocacy &amp; Engagement</b> – Encourage key stakeholders to engage with young people to seek their views on transport in the Region.</p> <p>Nil additional resourcing required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the needs of young people are considered in the planning for an integrated transport system for the Eastern Region</li> <li>• Consider consultation with the Region's young people as part of the implementation of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy</li> <li>• Promote and assist member Councils and their local communities to engage in TravelSmart to School, Walking School Bus, LivingSmart and TravelSmart workplace programs</li> <li>• Encourage member Councils to engage young people in the development of comprehensive travel demand management initiatives as part of the TravelSmart program</li> </ul>
Supporting the organisation of a Regional Youth Forum in 2014	<p>EMRC 10 Year Strategic Plan Objective 2.1 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational activities: 2.1.1 Continue to coordinate regional events.</p> <p><i>A Regional Youth Forum will provide the opportunity for identification of emerging issues and can also provide a vehicle for recognising the achievements of young people in the Region. The Forum could also bring together Youth Agencies to explore with young people opportunities for future Regional Youth Week activities.</i></p> <p>Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010 – 2015 – Responsible Leadership: Objective 7.3 Encourage collaboration between all stakeholders</p>	<p><b>Facilitation &amp; Partnership</b></p> <p>Encourage Member Councils to participate in the Swan NEST project to develop a truly regional network.</p> <p><b>Support</b> this group to develop a Regional Youth Forum in 2014 through the provision of seed funds to assist with leveraging of other funding.</p> <p><b>Staff support</b> – consider allocating a Regional Development staff member to participate in the Network</p> <p><b>Allocation of Funds</b> – EMRC seed funding from within Regional Development Budget as outlined in the Regional Projects Summary - \$10,000 Lotterywest – matching funding \$10,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Swan NEST to hold a regional forum for Service Providers in 2013.</li> <li>• Work with the NEST participants and other partners to use the information gathered from the Regional Youth Services Forum in 2013 to plan and deliver a Regional Youth Forum in 2014, during National Youth Week.</li> <li>• Allocate staff resources to work with the Swan NEST participants – this will be within existing resources.</li> <li>• Support the development of funding applications.</li> </ul>

<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT</b>	<b>ROLE/RESOURCING</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Supporting Member Councils and other key stakeholders to develop a program of activities to celebrate Regional Youth Week as part of National Youth Week in 2015. This program of activities would build on the Regional Youth Forum held in 2014	<p>EMRC 10 year Strategic Plan As Above</p> <p><i>Regional Youth Week could become part of the Regional Events' Calendar. It can provide an opportunity for Member Councils to host youth focused activities which can also provide a means of youth consultation/engagement and can facilitate the development of local leadership opportunities.</i></p> <p>Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010 – 2015 – Responsible Leadership: Objective 7.3 Encourage collaboration between all stakeholders</p>	<p><b>Facilitation &amp; Partnership</b> Encourage Member Councils to participate in the Swan NEST project to develop a truly regional network.</p> <p><b>Support</b> this group to develop a range of activities for a Regional Youth Week in 2015 through the provision of seed funds to assist with leveraging of other funding.</p> <p><b>Support</b> the group to explore other funding options as above.</p> <p><b>Staff support</b> – consider allocating a Regional Development staff member to participate in the Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage member Councils to work together and with members of the regional networking group to develop a program of Regional activities during National Youth Week.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for funding from Lotterywest and Healthway for the Regional program.</li> <li>• Develop a calendar of events for youth week 2015, based on information gathered from the 2014 youth forum and the commitments made by Member Councils and other agencies.</li> </ul>

## Member Council Opportunities

In addition to the opportunities outlined in the recommendations there are further opportunities for member Councils to demonstrate their commitment to young people within their jurisdictions.

**Table 2: Member Council Opportunities**

<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>LINK (to member Council strategic documents and projects)</b>
Explore ways of improving on-line engagement and embedding youth friendly engagement mechanisms into ongoing community engagement processes.	City of Bayswater – Youth Services Engagement Strategy 2012 – 14; Strategy 1 City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Participation Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Youth Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 City of Swan – Youth Charter (draft) City of Swan – Community Engagement Policy and Framework
Participation in Regional Networks such as the SaSSY Network seeking to expand this network to be truly inclusive of the Region.	City of Bayswater – Youth Service Engagement Strategy 2012 – 14; Strategy 2 City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Relationships across the Community Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Youth Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Swan View Youth Centre Shire of Mundaring, City of Swan & Town of Bassendean – Swan NEST participation
Supporting their staff and those working in partner agencies to access professional development to assist them to work more effectively with young people.	City of Bayswater – Youth Services Engagement Strategy 2012 – 14; Strategy 2 City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Leadership and Intergenerational Stewardship Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 2 Strategic Resourcing Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Swan View Youth Centre Shire of Mundaring, City of Swan & Town of Bassendean – Swan NEST participation
Supporting the development of youth peer education programs such as Youth Educating Peers (YEP), in conjunction with YACWA and local youth services	Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Health & Wellbeing and Sexual Health City of Swan – partnership with YACWA to deliver pilot YEP program
Exploring opportunities to support outreach services from Midland Headspace and other therapeutic or specialist services to facilitate access for young people from their jurisdictions.	City of Swan consortium membership City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Support Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 2 Strategic Resourcing; Phase 4 Collocation & Partnerships Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Mental Health; PACS
Participating in Regional planning and lobbying activities convened by the EMRC which seek to increase the funding for programs, services and facilities to support young people across the Region.	City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Support Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 2 Strategic Resourcing Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 City of Swan Strategic Community Plan City of Belmont Community Development Plan – Services & Facilities for Youth

<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>LINK (to member Council strategic documents and projects)</b>
Supporting youth and community staff to develop linkages with schools and alternative education providers.	City of Bayswater – Youth Services Engagement Strategy 2012 – 14; Strategy 2 Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Education, Training & Employment Town of Bassendean – Bassendean Youth Centre Education Program and participation in North East Metropolitan (NEM) Youth Transitions Project
Investigating opportunities to work in conjunction with Partnership Broker Service providers and others involved in supporting young people in their transition from school to further training and/or employment.	Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Education, Training & Employment City of Swan – participation in NEM Youth Transitions project Town of Bassendean – participation in NEM Youth Transitions project City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Relationships with the community
Supporting youth arts opportunities by working with young people and youth arts organisations to develop a range of art/music projects in local communities. This could include a regional approach to Urban Art.	City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Celebrate Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Culture & Arts City of Swan – HYPER Festival and associated activities
Exploring the development of alternative models of volunteering to attract young people to volunteer in community projects.	Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 2 Strategic Resourcing Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Culture & Arts (Seen and Heard’s Crew events include music gigs) City of Swan – HYPER Team City of Swan – Swan Volunteer Development Service
Exploring opportunities to participate in the organisation and delivery of a Regional Program of youth activities to support the celebration of National Youth Week on a Regional basis in 2015.	Member Council Youth Advisory Committees City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Celebrate City of Swan – draft Youth Charter – Celebrate
Exploring partnerships with agencies such as Act-Belong-Commit to promote improved mental wellbeing for young people through active community participation.	City of Swan – One Life project City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Celebration & Participation Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Mental Health