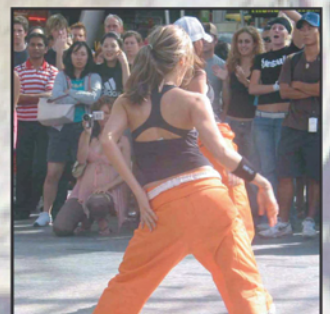




Tweed Youth Needs Analysis

March 2006



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Ron Cooper - Resident
Barbara Carroll – Tweed Valley Respite Services
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1.0 Context of the youth needs analysis

1.1 Background

The Tweed Shire Council's Youth Needs Analysis has been developed in response to concerns raised with Council over a lack of facilities and services for young people in the Tweed Shire.

Council is seeking to take a planned approach to their role in meeting the needs of young people. Council's Social Plan identifies youth issues as a high priority, however, at this stage, no comprehensive youth strategy or youth policy exists for the Tweed Shire.

Council contracted the services of Plan C and Fieldworx to undertake the Youth Needs Analysis and to make recommendations regarding the role Council could play in addressing youth issues.

At this stage Council has limited resources committed to addressing youth issues, however it is intended that the Youth Needs Analysis will help to inform future resource allocations.

1.2 Project purpose and scope

The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of quantitative and qualitative data about the needs of young people living in the Tweed Shire. Consideration is to be given to the Shire as a whole, with particular consideration given to Pottsville.

Current and future needs of young people living in the Tweed Shire have been identified with respect to facilities, services and youth development. Particular emphasis has been placed on:

- (a) Understanding the current and projected demographics of the Tweed Shire
- (b) Mapping community and government services and facilities designed to meet the needs of young people
- (c) Identifying the needs of young people across the Shire, with an emphasis on Pottsville
- (d) Identifying good practice in youth development, facilities and service provision for local government to provide a benchmark for the Tweed Shire Council
- (e) Identifying potential state and federal funding sources and resources

This report provides relevant statistical information about young people in the Tweed Shire. It also includes perspectives from community stakeholders including young people, youth and community workers, council staff and other community members.

1.3 Defining young people

Young people are generally defined in Australia by local, state and federal governments as being aged 12 to 25 years.

Due to the significant diversity of this age group, it has been suggested by the project Steering Committee that the Tweed Shire Council strategically focuses its resources and

energy on young people aged 12 to 18 years in the first instance. Young people aged 19 to 25 are not excluded; however they are a secondary target group.

However, it should be recognised that as families are increasingly being expected to subsidise the living costs of their young adult sons and daughters, the age of 25 may in fact increase over time. Additionally, in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and other non-Anglo-Saxon cultures, the age range moves upwards to 30 years. Within some Asian cultures, definitions of young people extend to 35 years of age.

It is also broadly understood that young people are not a homogenous group, and as such a diverse and flexible approach is necessary to address the needs of this broad age group.

1.4 Tweed Shire Context

The Tweed Shire is located in the far northeast corner of New South Wales (NSW) encompassing an area of 1,303 square kilometres adjacent to the Queensland border. It is one of the fastest growing Local Government Areas in Australia. Attachment one provides a map of the Shire.

According to the Tweed Shire Community Profile (2004), in 2001 an estimated 74,380 people lived in the Tweed Shire, an increase of approximately 10% (7,516 people) since the 1996 census.

Council identifies its role as providing a wide range of services including:

- Water supply and sewerage;
- Planning;
- Control of development;
- Environmental management;
- Community services; and
- Discretionary activities including promoting economic development.

Council is also required under the NSW Local Government Act 1993 to include a range of responsibilities in its charter such as 'providing adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community'.

1.5 Council's current role in youth affairs

The Tweed Futures Draft Strategic Plan 04-24 provides a framework for Council priorities now and into the future. Tweed Futures focuses on six key themes:

- Promoting Sustainability
- Strengthening the Economy
- Supporting Community Life
- Enhancing the Environment
- Managing Rural Change
- Managing Urban Growth

While all of these areas will impact on young people living within the Tweed Shire, 'Strengthening the Economy' and 'Supporting Community Life' is likely to have a more direct impact on young people in the short to medium term.

Community feedback received during the development of Council's strategic plan indicates a desire to:

- Expand employment and education opportunities
- Provide for activities and services for young people

As described in the Strategic Plan, community wellbeing requires growth in local employment to match the increase in population, especially to provide a range of jobs for young people and attract more working-age adults to the Shire. This needs to be precipitated with better infrastructure and expanded education opportunities to support economic development.

Of note is the inclusion in the Strategic Plan to develop locality plans, which will detail local strategies in full consultation with communities. Some of these plans have been developed; however, they have not included specific strategies for including young people in the consultation process. Without specific consultation strategies to target young people, they are unlikely to participate. This generally results in planning processes that do not include the needs of young people in the broader community context.

The *Tweed Shire Council Social Plan – 2005-2009* states that Council puts few resources into youth development. It suggests that youth development services have been inadequate resulting in significant problems in the areas of life skills training, recreation, employment and behavioural issues. The plan recommends that significant resources need to be directed towards supporting youth development.

Council's crime prevention strategy – *Tweed better community's program community safety and crime prevention strategy* – acknowledges young people as both victims and perpetrators of crime. Several recommendations in this report relate specifically to young people such as the employment of a full-time Family and Youth Community Worker at Council, the establishment of a youth council and the provision of parenting courses. At the time of writing, these recommendations had not been implemented.

Council provides funds to the Family Centre Projects Incorporated to contribute to the wages of the Centre's youth worker for seven hours per week. Council does not have a youth-focused position within Council.

1.6 Service provision by community agencies

Community and youth service organisations play an integral part in the lives of young people. There currently is no definitive list or database of community organisations servicing young people in the Tweed Shire. In the absence of available information, a list of organisations was developed at the focus group with youth service providers. Please see attachment three.

It should be noted that there are also a range of sporting and recreation organisations that target young people throughout the Shire. Additionally, educational and training institutions also impact positively on the lives of young people.

2.0 Enquiry framework

2.1 Methodology

A project steering committee was established by Council to guide the development of the Youth Needs Analysis. The steering committee met at key points during the project and comprised representatives from Council and community. The members of the Steering Committee were:

Robin Spragg – Social Planner Strategic Planning Unit, TSC
Douglas Jardine – Manager Strategic Planning, TSC
Leigh Abernathy – Landscape Architect, TSC
Ron Cooper – Resident
Barbara Carroll – Tweed Valley Respite Services
Mark Madden – Club Manager, Tweed Heads PCYC
Jessica Walker – Youth Officer
Gerina Appo – St. Josephs Youth Centre

The consultation framework was developed together with the steering committee to guide the consultation process and the recommendations for action. The framework provided a useful way to identify and address key issues. The six focus areas are:

- Connected and included
- Information and resources
- Learning and work
- Places and spaces
- Safety and security
- Coordination and leadership

2.2 Consultation with young people

Consultation for the project was targeted and undertaken as a scoping exercise. Consultation with young people occurred in two distinct stages to ensure a breadth and depth of feedback from a wide range of young people living in Tweed.

- *Twenty-eight face-to-face surveys were conducted with young people at various locations in South Tweed and Murwillumbah.*
- *Workshops were also held with young people in Pottsville, Tweed River High School, Lakeside High School, Murwillumbah High School, Kingscliff High School and the Tutorial Centre in Murwillumbah. A total number of approximately 300 students participated in these workshops.*

2.3 Consultation with other key stakeholders

Other key stakeholders included Council staff; community and youth sector workers, state government workers and other concerned and active residents. Consultation with these stakeholders included the following approaches:

- *Interviews with key individuals*
- *A focus group with people working directly with young people*
- *A focus group with Council staff*

A total of 17 individuals and organisations from youth and allied sectors were represented in the focus groups.

2.4 Multi-stakeholder forum

A multi-stakeholder forum brought together a range of stakeholders in order to analyse information collected during the consultation process. The aim of the forum was to identify gaps in information collected and to develop key options and recommendations for Council's consideration in moving forward.

A total of twenty-two people participated in the forum including youth sector workers, Council staff, students and staff from Tweed River High School and other interested stakeholders.

A discussion paper was circulated prior to this forum. A copy of the discussion paper appears as attachment two and outlines the key questions asked of participants in preparation of the study.

2.5 Project limitations

The project did not include the development of a specific youth policy or youth strategy for Council. Rather it is intended to provide information and options upon which Council can develop policies and recommendations.

In the main, the Australian Bureau of Statistics data available was current in 2001. Data from the latest census was not available.

3.0 Statistical profile of young people in the Tweed Shire

3.1 Young people in the Tweed Shire

Young people living in the Tweed Shire represent 29% of its' total population, which is comparable to 34% of the youth representation in the NSW population. The noticeable difference in proportions of young people is the lower percentage of 20 to 24 year olds in Tweed Shire (3.6%) compared to 6.41% in NSW. This may be due to young people leaving the Tweed Shire after leaving school to access greater opportunities to further study or work out of the area.

Table 1: Age of young people in Tweed Shire compared to NSW

| Age | Tweed LGA | | New South Wales | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Persons | Percentage | Persons | Percentage |
| 0-4 | 4,146 | 5.6% | 422,341 | 6.63% |
| 5-9 | 4,930 | 6.6% | 445,983 | 7% |
| 10-14 | 5,202 | 7% | 445,026 | 6.98% |
| 15-19 | 4,494 | 6% | 436,626 | 6.85% |
| 20-24 | 2,667 | 3.6% | 408,719 | 6.41% |
| Youth Total | 21,439 | 29% | 2,158,695 | 34% |
| Total Population | 74,380 | | 6,371,745 | |

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 2004

The Tweed Shire Council has defined seven Planning Districts that form a unit for analysis for ABS census data. These are:

- **Tweed Heads:** Tweed Heads, Tweed Heads West, Tweed Heads South, Banora Point, Bilambil Heights, Bilambil/Piggabeen, Terranora
- **Rural North Coast:** Chinderah, Fingal, Kingscliff, Cudgen Village, Cabarita/Bogangar, Rural North Coast Balance
- **Rural South coast:** Hastings Point, Pottsville, Burringbar area
- **Dulguigan / Tumbulgum:** North Tumbulgum, Tumbulgum, Dulguigan, Carool
- **Murwillumbah:** Wardrop Valley, Murwillumbah, Condong
- **Rural South West:** Uki, Stokers Siding, Dunbible
- **Rural North West:** Tyalgum, Rural North West Balance, Chillingham

Table 2: Distribution of Young People in Tweed Shire: 2001

| Tweed District | 10-14 years | % Tweed youth total | 15-19 years | % Tweed youth total | 20-24 years | % Tweed youth total | Youth Total | % Tweed Youth Total |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Tweed Heads | 2,315 | 19% | 2,038 | 19% | 1,357 | 11% | 5,710 | 46% |
| Rural North Coast | 863 | 7% | 767 | 6% | 487 | 4% | 2,117 | 17% |
| Rural South Coast | 522 | 4% | 393 | 3% | 197 | 2% | 1,112 | 9% |
| Tumbulgum / Dulguigan | 159 | 1% | 148 | 1% | 56 | <1% | 363 | 3% |
| Murwillumbah | 761 | 6% | 728 | 6% | 416 | 3% | 1,905 | 15% |
| Rural South West | 325 | 3% | 251 | 2% | 76 | 1% | 652 | 5% |
| Rural North West | 249 | 2% | 188 | 2% | 87 | 1% | 524 | 4% |
| District Total | 5,194 | 42% | 4,513 | 36% | 2,676 | 22% | 12,383 | |

Source: ABS Data 2001

The greatest proportion of young people aged between 10 and 24 is in the Tweed Heads district representing 46% of the Tweed Shire youth total. Rural North Coast and Murwillumbah have the second (17%) and third (15%) highest proportion of young people aged 10 to 24 in the Tweed Shire.

3.2 Population projections

Based on the projections in the table below, the Tweed Shire population of children and young people 24 years and younger will be 25,811 in 2026.

Table 3: Tweed Shire actual and predicted populations of young people 2001 – 2026

| Age Group | 2001 Actual | 2011 Predicted | 2026 Predicted |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0-4 | 4,146 | 4,160 | 4,956 |
| 5-9 | 4,930 | 4,897 | 5,662 |
| 10-14 | 5,202 | 5,425 | 6,028 |
| 15-19 | 4,494 | 5,036 | 5,457 |
| 20-24 | 2,667 | 3,364 | 3,708 |
| Total | 21,439 | 22,882 | 25,811 |

Source: Based on data from Hunter Valley Research Foundation for DPINR 2003

3.3 Indigenous young people

Trends in Australia indicate that the Indigenous Australian population has a considerably younger age structure than that of the general population, as a result of higher fertility rates and lower life expectancy. In 2000, 39% of the Indigenous Australian population were 15 years old or under, compared with 20% for the general population. As a consequence, the Indigenous population had a low median age of 20 years, compared to 35 years for the general population (ABS 2002 Year Book Australia catalogue no. 1301.0 2002).

Table 4: Indigenous Young People in Tweed Shire: 2001

| Age | Tweed Shire | % Indigenous Young People | % Total Indigenous Population |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5-9 | 268 | 32% | 14% |
| 10-14 | 240 | 42% | 13% |
| 15-19 | 207 | 36% | 11% |
| 20-24 | 123 | 22% | 7% |
| Total | 838 | 45% | 31% |
| Total Indigenous population | 1,867 | | |

Source: ABS Data Community Profile

Table 5: Indigenous Population in Planning Districts: 2001

| Planning District | District Indigenous Population Total | % Tweed Indigenous Population | % Tweed Population Total | Tweed Population Total |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Tweed Heads | 934 | 50% | 3% | 36,042 |
| Rural Coast A | 469 | 25% | 4% | 12,269 |
| Rural Coast B | 105 | 6% | 1.7% | 6,089 |
| Tumbulgum/ Dulgiugan | 24 | 1% | 1.5% | 1,729 |
| Murwillumbah | 147 | 8% | 2% | 9,360 |
| Rural South West | 75 | 4% | 1.6% | 3,248 |
| Rural North West | 44 | 2% | 1.6% | 2,759 |
| Total | 1,798 | 96% | | 74,496 |
| Not counted | 69 | 4% | <1% | |
| Tweed Indigenous Population | 1,867 | | 3% | |

Source: ABS Census 2001

In 2001, 1,867 persons in Tweed Shire identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or both. This represents 2.5% of the Tweed Shire population and 1.6% of the Indigenous population of NSW at that time.

A significant change has occurred in the age profile of the Indigenous population in the Tweed Shire over the past 15 years. In 2001, young indigenous people represented 45% of the total indigenous population in Tweed. The 10 to 14 years age group displayed the highest percentage (42%) of indigenous young people in the Tweed Shire, followed by the 15 to 19 years age group as having the second highest percentage with 36%. The 5 to 9 year age group have a comparably high percentage (32%), which significantly affects the young indigenous population over the next five years, as they move into the 10 to 14 age groups, thus continuing the growing trend.

3.4 Young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

In 2001 Census, 10,636 persons (14.3%) indicated that they had been born overseas, 5.27% of persons in 'another country' where English is not the main language. Since the 1991-1996 Census, the proportion of persons born in the 'main English Speaking Countries' has decreased and the proportion of persons from 'other countries' has increased. Due to this there has been an increase in languages other than English spoken at home, resulting in a greater proportion of people in the Tweed Shire who identify as culturally and linguistically diverse. In 2001, the most common 'other languages' spoken in the Tweed Shire were

German, Dutch and Italian. Of those born overseas and who spoke a language other than English, 249 people (10%), reported they spoke English 'not well or not at all'. (Community Profile, p.32).

Table 6: Ancestry of Tweed People by Birthplace of Parents

| Ancestry by Birthplace of Parents | Both Parents born in Australia | Father only born overseas | Mother only born overseas | Both parents born overseas | Birthplace Not Stated | Total Responses |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Oceania:</i> | | | | | | |
| Australian | 26,266 | 2,263 | 1,578 | 285 | 1,095 | 31,487 |
| Other Australian Peoples | 205 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 231 |
| Maori | 15 | 37 | 29 | 178 | 20 | 279 |
| New Zealander | 30 | 83 | 63 | 376 | 8 | 560 |
| Other Oceanian | 163 | 40 | 33 | 94 | 16 | 346 |
| Total | 26,679 | 2,431 | 1,710 | 941 | 1,142 | 32,903 |
| <i>North-West European:</i> | | | | | | |
| English | 18,796 | 2,548 | 1,668 | 6,732 | 931 | 30,675 |
| Scottish | 1,099 | 239 | 140 | 849 | 50 | 2,377 |
| Irish | 6,990 | 644 | 433 | 997 | 229 | 9,293 |
| Dutch | 155 | 118 | 72 | 532 | 13 | 890 |
| German | 1,563 | 191 | 128 | 672 | 78 | 2,632 |
| Other North-West European | 452 | 136 | 82 | 656 | 34 | 1,360 |
| Total | 29,055 | 3,876 | 2,523 | 10,438 | 1,335 | 47,227 |
| <i>Southern & Eastern European:</i> | | | | | | |
| Italian | 500 | 175 | 59 | 445 | 37 | 1,216 |
| Maltese | 33 | 20 | 12 | 104 | 3 | 172 |
| Croatian | 8 | 13 | 3 | 49 | 0 | 73 |
| Greek | 152 | 71 | 16 | 133 | 10 | 382 |
| Macedonian | 0 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 13 |
| Serbian | 7 | 12 | 0 | 62 | 3 | 84 |
| Polish | 36 | 17 | 9 | 134 | 3 | 199 |
| Russian | 19 | 11 | 7 | 60 | 3 | 100 |
| Other Southern and Eastern European | 122 | 61 | 16 | 365 | 13 | 577 |
| Total | 877 | 383 | 125 | 1,359 | 72 | 2,816 |
| <i>North African and Middle Eastern:</i> | | | | | | |
| Lebanese | 40 | 15 | 0 | 20 | 4 | 79 |
| Turkish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Other North African and Middle Eastern | 5 | 10 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 57 |
| Total | 45 | 25 | 0 | 71 | 4 | 145 |
| <i>South-East Asian:</i> | | | | | | |
| Vietnamese | 0 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 14 |
| Filipino | 3 | 4 | 50 | 196 | 13 | 266 |
| Indonesian | 3 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 0 | 34 |
| Other South-East Asian | 4 | 7 | 11 | 63 | 3 | 88 |
| Total | 10 | 19 | 65 | 292 | 16 | 402 |
| <i>North-East Asian:</i> | | | | | | |
| Chinese | 125 | 25 | 17 | 220 | 9 | 396 |
| Other North-East Asian | 14 | 3 | 14 | 80 | 0 | 111 |
| Total | 139 | 28 | 31 | 300 | 9 | 507 |
| <i>Southern and Central Asian:</i> | | | | | | |
| Indian | 29 | 12 | 23 | 175 | 18 | 257 |
| Other Southern and Central Asian | 10 | 8 | 0 | 40 | 3 | 61 |
| Total | 39 | 20 | 23 | 215 | 21 | 318 |
| <i>People of the Americas</i> | | | | | | |
| | 44 | 64 | 26 | 174 | 9 | 317 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| <i>Sub-Saharan African</i> | 8 | 17 | 6 | 86 | 8 | 125 |
| <i>Not stated</i> | 2,308 | 197 | 175 | 401 | 1,884 | 4,965 |
| <i>Total Responses</i> | 59,204 | 7,060 | 4,684 | 14,277 | 4,500 | 89,725 |
| <i>Total Persons</i> | 48,997 | 4,895 | 3,263 | 12,565 | 4,101 | 73,821 |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

Table 7: Most Common Languages Spoken at Home other than English in Tweed Shire in 1996 & 2001

| Language Spoken At home other than English | 1996 Census | % of Total | 2001 Census | % of Total |
|--|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Chinese Languages | 110 | 7% | 156 | 8% |
| French | 78 | 5% | 106 | 5% |
| German | 226 | 14% | 288 | 14% |
| Greek | 56 | 3% | 60 | 3% |
| Italian | 222 | 14% | 240 | 12% |
| Japanese | 44 | 3% | 76 | 4% |
| Netherlandic | 121 | 7% | 159 | 6% |
| Polish | 29 | 2% | 41 | 2% |
| Spanish | 42 | 3% | 72 | 4% |
| Tagalog (Filipino) | 57 | 3% | 100 | 5% |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

3.5 Housing

Household structure in both the Tweed Shire and NSW in 2001 shows that the majority of young people aged 15 to 24 years were students still living at home, financially dependent and independent.

In Tweed in 2001, the highest proportion of 15 to 24 year olds was represented by 'dependent students' with 39%, with the second highest as 'non-dependent child' with 28% of the total of that age group. In NSW 2001, there were a similar proportion of young people aged between 15 to 24 years as in Tweed. The highest proportion was (39%) represented as 'dependent students' and (31%) were represented as 'non-dependent child'.

This data shows that the young people aged between 15 and 24 years still living in Tweed and NSW areas, the majority were still living with their parents as either dependent students or non-dependent working adults. Only a small proportion of young people in this age group were living on their own, as a married or de-facto couple or in a group household situation. This may indicate that many young people in this age group remain living at home for longer, until they are more financially independent.

Table 8: Household Structure of Young People 15-24 Years in Tweed and NSW

| 15-24 age group | Tweed Shire | | New South Wales | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| | Total of 15-24 year olds | % of Total | Total of 15-24 year olds | % of Total |
| Husband or wife | 210 | 3% | 35,019 | 5% |
| Partner in de-facto marriage | 500 | 8% | 47,442 | 7% |
| Lone parent | 170 | 3% | 12,952 | 2% |
| Dependent student | 2,691 | 39% | 293,911 | 39% |
| Non-dependent child | 1,950 | 28% | 228,263 | 31% |
| Other related individual | 239 | 4% | 37,592 | 5% |
| Unrelated individual living in family household | 206 | 3% | 19,194 | 3% |

| | | | | |
|---|-------|----|---------|----|
| Group household member | 376 | 6% | 59,652 | 8% |
| Lone person | 227 | 4% | 24,941 | 4% |
| Visitors from (within Australia) | 413 | 6% | 33,332 | 5% |
| Total of 15-24 year olds | 6,982 | | 757,315 | |

Source: ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing

Table 9: Labour Force Participation of Young People in Tweed Shire and NSW

| 15-19 year age group | Labour Force Participation | Full Time Work | Part Time Work | Unemployed | Total Young People Aged 15-19 Years |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Tweed | 52.4% | 21.3% | 53.6% | 20.4% | 4,494 |
| New South Wales | 82.2% | 34% | 43.5% | 17.8% | 436,626 |
| 20-24 year age group | Labour Force Participation | Full Time Work | Part Time Work | Unemployed | Total Young People Aged 20-24 Years |
| Tweed | 76.4% | 44.3% | 30.5% | 22.3% | 2,667 |
| New South Wales | 87.1% | 60.4% | 23% | 11.3% | 408,719 |

Source: ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing

Table 10: Occupational Profile of Young People Aged 15-24 in Tweed Shire

| Industry Type | Employed Young People Aged 15-19 | % of Employed Youth Aged 15-19 in Tweed | Industry Type | Employed Young People Aged 20-24 | % of Employed Youth Aged 20-24 in Tweed |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Retail Trade | 1,016 | 54.3% | Retail Trade | 397 | 25.2% |
| Accommodation, café, restaurants | 209 | 11.2% | Accommodation, café, restaurants | 191 | 12.1% |
| Manufacturing | 97 | 5.2% | Construction | 167 | 10.5% |
| Construction | 87 | 4.7% | Manufacturing | 145 | 9.2% |
| Property and business services | 69 | 3.7% | Property and business services | 125 | 7.9% |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 67 | 3.6% | Health and community services | 94 | 6% |
| Personal and other services | 57 | 3% | Cultural and recreational services | 53 | 3.4% |
| Health and community services | 55 | 2.9% | Personal and other services | 51 | 3.2% |
| Cultural and recreational services | 49 | 2.6% | Education | 49 | 3.1% |

Source: ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing

3.6 Income

Table 11: Income of 15-19 year Age Group of Male and Female in Tweed and NSW

| 15-19 year Age group | Tweed Male | Tweed Female | Total | % | NSW Male | NSW Female | Total | % |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|-------|------|----------|------------|---------|------|
| Less than \$200/week | 1,661 | 1,530 | 3,191 | 69.9 | 146,546 | 149,257 | 295,803 | 66.8 |
| \$200-\$499/week | 392 | 345 | 737 | 16.2 | 39,692 | 32,003 | 71,695 | 16.2 |
| \$500-\$999/week | 32 | 8 | 40 | 0.9 | 6,456 | 3,694 | 10,420 | 2.4 |
| More than \$1000/week | 3 | 6 | 9 | 0.2 | 584 | 337 | 921 | 0.2 |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

Table 12: Income of 20-24 year Age Group of Male and Female in Tweed and NSW

| 20-24 year age group | Tweed Male | Tweed Female | Total | % | NSW Male | NSW Female | Total | % |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|-------|------|----------|------------|---------|------|
| Less than \$200/week | 399 | 336 | 735 | 27.2 | 50,261 | 53,356 | 103,617 | 24.7 |
| \$200-\$499/week | 561 | 698 | 1,259 | 46.6 | 65,022 | 72,981 | 138,993 | 33.1 |
| \$500-\$999/week | 292 | 173 | 465 | 17.2 | 66,808 | 57,888 | 124,696 | 29.8 |
| More than \$1000/week | 19 | 9 | 28 | 1.0 | 8,284 | 3,292 | 11,576 | 2.8 |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

3.7 Unemployment

Tweed Shire Youth unemployment in 2001 was 16 to 20 percent, whereas the state average was 8 to 10 percent. From 1996-2001, unemployment and full-time employment declined and part-time employment and University attendance increased for the 15 to 24 year age group. During these years, there was 32% full-time employment for the 20 to 24 year age group. (Community Safety & Crime Prevention Strategy, p.5)

Table 13: Unemployment Rates for Young People in Tweed Shire Districts (15-18 year & 19-25 year age groups)

| Tweed Shire District | Unemployed 15-18 year age group | % of Shire's total Unemployed Population | Unemployed 19-25 year age group | % of Shire's Total Unemployed Population | Total of Shire's Unemployed Population | Unemployment Rate of Shire's Total Population |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Tweed Heads | 232 | 14% | 219 | 14% | 1,610 | 11.8% |
| Rural North Coast | 75 | 12% | 97 | 15% | 645 | 14.2% |
| Rural South Coast | 24 | 8% | 42 | 13% | 315 | 13.8% |
| Dulguigan / Tumbulgum | 12 | 14% | 9 | 10% | 88 | 10.6% |
| Murwillumbah | 86 | 21% | 50 | 12% | 406 | 11.4% |
| Rural South West | 30 | 12% | 24 | 10% | 251 | 19.5% |
| Rural North West | 9 | 7% | 9 | 7% | 138 | 12% |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

3.8 Education and training

Table 14: Attendance at Educational Institutions in 2001

| | Secondary School | TAFE | Tertiary Institutions | Other Institutions | Total |
|---|------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Attendance Rate of 12-24 year olds | 4,910 | 1,588 | 972 | 390 | 7,860 |

Source: Tweed Shire Social Plan 2002

In 2001, 21% of persons in Tweed were enrolled in some form of educational institution. The Tweed Shire had 1.32% of its population attending a tertiary institution compared to 4.63% for NSW. (Community Profile, p. 41)

Table 15: Post School Qualification: 2001

| Qualification Type | Persons Aged 15 years and over | Percentage (%) of Tweed Shire Total |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Postgraduate Degree | 362 | 0.6% |
| Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate | 526 | 0.8% |
| Bachelor Degree | 2,960 | 4.9% |
| Advanced Diploma/Diploma | 2,890 | 4.8% |
| Certificate | 10,654 | 18% |
| Not Stated | 7,917 | 13% |
| No Qualification Type | 34,234 | 57% |
| Total: | 59,543 | |

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

Table 16: Computer use at Home in Tweed Shire

| | 10-14 | % of Age total | 15-19 | % of Age total | 20-24 | % of Age total | Total of young people (aged 10-24) | % of Young People (aged 10-24) |
|--|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Uses a computer At home | 3,230 | 62% | 2,641 | 59% | 997 | 37% | 6,868 | 56% |
| Does not use a Computer at home | 1,860 | 36% | 1,751 | 39% | 1,577 | 59% | 5,188 | 42% |
| Not Stated | 112 | 2% | 102 | 2% | 93 | 3% | 307 | 3% |
| Total Young People | 5,202 | | 4,494 | | 2,667 | | 12,363 | |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

Table 17: Internet Use of Persons in Tweed Shire

| | Person | Percentage of Total of people |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| At Home | 12,132 | 16% |
| At work | 1,825 | 2% |
| Elsewhere | 2,253 | 3% |
| At home & work | 2,130 | 3% |
| At home & elsewhere | 796 | 1% |
| At work & elsewhere | 55 | <1% |

| | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| At home & work & elsewhere | 137 | <1% |
| Total of internet users | 19,328 | 26% |
| Did not use the internet | 52,109 | 70% |
| Not stated | 2,384 | 3% |
| Overseas visitors | 559 | 1% |
| Total of people | 74,380 | |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

3.9 Youth Health and Causes of Death

In 1996-2000, there were three factors relating to higher health and death risks concerning young people in the Tweed Shire, than that of the NSW state average. Hospital admissions for injuries due to interpersonal violence among 0 to 14 year olds, incidence and death due to melanoma of the skin and death rates caused by self-harm. (Community Profile, p.14).

3.10 Crime

The NSW Criminal Courts stated in 2002, the highest proportion of criminal incidents was theft (70.68%), malicious damage to property (13.27%), and Assault (10.9%). (Tweed Shire Council Social Plan, p.12)

In 2001-2002, 38 young people (12.46%) under 18 years of age went through a final court appearance for a most serious offence at the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Centre. Young people in New South Wales aged 20-24 years were rated as having the highest criminal activity, while 18-19 year olds and 25-29 year olds were rated second and third highest respectively, in criminal activity.

From 1995-2003, the rate of assault against children and young people was at least twice as high as any other offence. In 2003, the rate of assault against children and young people was 67%, compared with sexual assault (24%), robbery (9%) and kidnapping / abduction (1%). (ABS, Recorded Crime Collection (unpublished Data))

Table 18: Reported Crime in Tweed and NSW

| Type of Offence | Tweed | % Of total | % NSW total | NSW | % Of total |
|---|-------|------------|-------------|-------|------------|
| Acts intended to cause injury | 11 | 29% | >1% | 1,574 | 19% |
| Robbery, extortion and related offences | 0 | 0% | 0% | 744 | 9% |
| Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter | 0 | 0% | 0% | 830 | 10% |
| Theft and related offences | 11 | 29% | >1% | 2,339 | 28% |
| Illicit drug offences | 3 | 8% | >1% | 227 | 3% |
| Property damage and environmental pollution | 0 | 0% | 0% | 499 | 6% |
| Public order offences | 0 | 0% | 0% | 858 | 10% |
| Road traffic and motor vehicle | 8 | 21% | >1% | 343 | 4% |

| | | | | | |
|--|----|----|-----|-------|----|
| regulatory offences | | | | | |
| Offences against justice procedures gov't security and gov't operations | 0 | 0% | 0% | 492 | 6% |
| Other offences | 0 | 0% | 0% | 442 | 5% |
| Total | 38 | | >1% | 8,348 | |

Table: Finalised Court Appearances of Youth aged 10-17 in Tweed and NSW 2001-2002

Source: ABS, Recorded Crime Collection (unpublished Data)

Table 19: Victims of Reported Offences Against young people aged 0-17 years

| NSW | 1995 | % | 2000 | % | 2003 | % |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Murder | 0.6 | >1% | 0.8 | >1% | 0.8 | >1% |
| Manslaughter | 0 | 0 | 0.3 | >1% | 0 | 0 |
| Attempted murder | 0.4 | >1% | 0.8 | >1% | 1.1 | >1% |
| Driving causing death | 0 | 0 | 0.7 | >1% | 0.2 | >1% |
| Kidnapping / abduction | 5 | 1% | 9.7 | >1% | 9.1 | 1% |
| Robbery | 57.6 | 11% | 146.1 | 15% | 91 | 9% |
| Assault | 324.1 | 60% | 602 | 61% | 698.2 | 67% |
| Sexual assault | 150.5 | 28% | 229.7 | 23% | 247.6 | 24% |
| Total | 538.2 | | 990.1 | | 1,048 | |

Source: ABS, Recorded Crime Collection (unpublished Data)

3.11 Summary of Key Issues Affecting Young People Taken from Analysis of Statistical Information:

- Young people in the Tweed Shire represent 29% of its total population, which is comparable to 34% of the youth representation in the NSW population.
- The greatest proportion of young people aged between 10 and 24 is in the Tweed Heads district representing 46% of the Tweed Shire youth total. Rural North Coast and Murwillumbah have the second (17%) and third (15%) highest proportion of young people aged 10 to 24 in the Tweed Shire.
- Almost half of Tweed Shire's young people leave the Shire when aged between 20 and 24 years for reasons including pursuing tertiary education, finding employment and other personal reasons. It is unclear which proportion of these young people return to the Shire.
- Tweed Shire's young people aged 20 to 24 years represent only 3.4% of the Tweed population compared to 6.41% of the NSW average.
- In 2001, almost 40% of 15 to 24 year olds living in the Tweed Shire were a dependent student living at home, and almost 30% were a non-dependent child living at home. This indicates that almost 70% of young people aged between 15 and 24 years remain at home during this time of their lives for the ongoing support of their parent/s.
- From 1996-2001, unemployment and full-time employment declined and part-time employment and University attendance increased for the 15 to 24 year age group.

- Tweed Shire Youth unemployment in 2001 was 16 to 20%, whereas the state average was 8 to 10%.
- In 2001, 21% of people in the Tweed Shire were enrolled in an educational institution. Only 1.32% of the Shire's population was attending Tertiary education in 2001, compared to 4.63% in NSW.
- In 2001, 30% of people aged 15 years or over in the Tweed Shire indicated they had a form of post-school qualification.
- In 2001, young Indigenous people represented 45% of the total Indigenous population in the Tweed Shire. The 10 to 14 year age group displayed the highest percentage (42%) of Indigenous young people in Tweed Shire, followed by the 15 to 19 year age group with the second highest percentage of 36%. The 5 to 9 year age group have a comparably high percentage (32%), which significantly affects the young Indigenous population over next five years, as they move into the 10 to 14 year age group, thus continuing the growing trend.
- In 2001, 14.3% of people in the Tweed Shire were born overseas, and 5.27 % of these came from a non-English speaking country. There is a gradual increase in the Shire's population of persons born from non-English speaking backgrounds which influences the cultural and language diversity of the Tweed population.
- Computer usage at home was available to 56% of young people aged between 10 to 24 years. However, only 16% of people in the Tweed Shire with a computer at home used the internet in 2001.
- From 1996-2000 data, there has been a steady increase in health risks to young people in the Tweed Shire due to interpersonal violence, self-harm and melanoma.
- In 2002, NSW criminal courts stated the highest criminal activity was theft, malicious damage to property and assault. Crime statistics indicate that the 20 to 24 year age group in NSW rated as having the highest criminal activity, while 18 to 19 year olds rated second highest for crime.
- From 1995-2003 the rate of assault against young people was twice as high as any other offence. Over these eight years, the proportion of assault against a young person aged from 0 to 17 years was consistently 60% or over. Sexual assault was the second highest offence against young people with 23% or over during the eight years.

3.12 Key Challenges arising from Statistical Indicators.

- A large departure of young people from the Shire directly affects the local economy and the capacity of the Shire to support an aging population.
- The majority of young people in Tweed live in urban areas around Tweed Heads on the coastal strip where service provision and transport provision is better supplied. Conversely a smaller proportion of young people live in rural and smaller coastal

communities. These communities are also challenged by poor transport opportunities and facilities for young people.

- Based on broad analysis of 'where the young people are' it is also counter indicative to statistics that a greater emphasis of funding and allocations go to rural and village settings given smaller representations of young people. However, for other structural and geographic reasons, these areas are in need of youth service provision. Creative and local solutions are needed to address young peoples' needs in rural and village settings given these contexts.
- Young Indigenous people represent the major proportion of the Tweed Indigenous population. With significant and increasing representations of Indigenous children, providing for the needs of Indigenous young people is an immediate and ongoing issue for the Shire.
- Significantly higher rates of youth unemployment in the Tweed Shire than in NSW, broadly indicates an increase in risk associated with social issues arising from young people being unemployed.
- A significant proportion of the Tweed population come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This increasing rate of migrating families from non-English speaking countries is slowly creating communities with a range of diversity. Young people either born overseas or in Australia from these culturally diverse families are affected by the differences in culture and language. Often such diversity creates barriers to young people's understanding, access and involvement in their community.
- Despite the high availability and increase in household computer usage for young people, access and usage of the internet at home was relatively low during 2001. This is likely to have changed in the last four years, as young people are keen to use computers and the internet regularly for to access information and for leisure.

3.13 Tweed Shire in the context of Australia's changing demographics

Australia's demographic profile is changing. The baby boom immediately after WWII was a result of people deferring their childbearing through the war years followed by a sense of urgency to re-populate. This has produced a significant bulge in population for those now aged between 50 and 65. The flow-on effects have been the children of these baby boomers.

So, Australia's population is ageing. The number of older people will increase numerically and as a proportion of the population. The number of young people is expected to stay relatively constant, however the youth population will decline as a proportion of the population as the general population grows.

There is concern among all levels of governments and policy makers about the impact these changes will have on the economy as the baby boomers move into retirement and old age. Areas such as expensive health care and income support are key issues, as the productive base of the economy will be shrinking. A smaller number of workers in their productive years will have to support economically unproductive members.

The Indigenous population has a much younger profile than the general Australian population and young populations also tend to have higher growth. It should be noted that

when Council and youth service organisations are dealing with Indigenous young people, they are dealing with a very sizable proportion of that population – therefore policy and service interventions are likely to have a stronger flow-on effect to the Indigenous community as a whole.

The Indigenous population is expected to grow significantly faster than the general population over the next 15 to 20 years. This is particularly important for local government in youth service, planning, coordination and delivery.

Key changes in young people's lives over the past 20 years

There are two key areas of transformation that have impacted on the community, which in turn has flow-on effects for young people. These are economic transformations and social transformations.

A. Economic transformations – industrial expansion during and following WWII, recession in the 1970's and huge changes associated with new technologies of the information and communication revolution.

B. Social transformations – changing roles of women, the changing structure of the family, and realignment of power between major cultural institutions such as the church, schools and the media.

In the midst of this change, the position of young people has become increasingly uncertain and contradictory – the concept of a linear transition to adulthood is becoming obsolete.

In the main, young people are marrying later, delaying childbearing and extending life as a student.

We do not have the capacity to accurately project the future based on available statistics and data – even with current technology and computer modelling we can't predict unemployment rates, crime rates, homelessness etc. However, this does not mean that we can't make some logical conclusions based on the information we have. Planning, policy and program development is shaping change within young people's lives and we can make some projections about the impact of current policy and initiatives.

4.0 Key issues and findings

Overview

Originally seven key areas formed the consultation framework for the project. However, during the consultation process it became clear that the seventh focus area of 'fun and friends' was already covered in other areas. Therefore, the remaining six areas have provided an action framework for identifying key issues, undertaking analysis and the development of recommendations.

These key action areas are designed to interconnect and overlap in order to provide a holistic approach to meeting the needs of young people living in the Tweed Shire.

4.1 Information and resources

Young people need access to information and resources to be able to make informed decisions about their lives.

Resources may include services that provide accommodation, health services, leisure and recreation services. Resources can also mean places to meet and access to funds and equipment in which to develop new ideas and instigate projects.

Information includes access to information about services, events and or activities in which young people may choose to be involved. It may also mean access to existing Council information in a format or medium in which young people can understand. This might include key Council policies or plans that impact on young people.

Key issues identified by young people and community

Young people highlighted a lack of access to information. In the main, they do not know where to get information about support services and they find it difficult to get information about events and other activities.

The majority of young people identified that their parents and/or teachers filter their access to information through mainstream media such as the Tweed Link and other newspapers. This is largely due to their disinterest in these mediums.

Additionally, they identified friends and peers as key sources of information. Many young people with computer access found information via the internet, and these young people considered the internet a good source of information.

Community organisations and young people suggested that alternative communication methods were needed in order to get information directly to young people.

Community organisations identified limited access to a range of services and resources for young people needing support. In the main, these issues related to health and housing, particularly:

- *No drug and alcohol counsellor for young people under 18 years*
- *No drug and alcohol service locally – nearest service is in Coffs Harbour*
- *A lack of access to mental health services for young people under 18 years living in rural areas*

- *A lack of bulk-billing doctors*
- *A lack of funding for a youth health clinic*
- *Cross-border difficulties regarding state Departments of Housing*

Stakeholder proposed solutions

Stakeholders proposed a range of solutions for addressing information and resources. Some of these were specific roles the Council could fulfil; others are beyond the responsibilities of local government. The suggestion that was supported by the majority of stakeholders involved getting information directly to young people.

Specifically, young people suggested that a youth website be funded by Council and generated by young people. The site would provide information about youth and community services, activities and events, and details about how to get to places. They suggested that it was important to generate information about the site through SMS – young people could register their phone number on the website to receive information about important events and issues. The generation of a newsletter or bulletin was also identified as part of the information and communication package.

The other suggestions included:

- *Advertising under 18's events on radio (90.9 and 102.9), flyers, school, shops and internet*
- *Improve information facilities across the shire through the resource libraries accessible to all districts*
- *Tickets to events and concerts available at young people friendly stores such as Supre', and surf/skate shops*
- *Young people to host a local radio program, which would also provide experience for future employment opportunities*
- *Council to support Community Technology Centres and increase funding to become more accessible*
- *Council to promote and support out-reach Services such as health services, recreation, drop-in centres*
- *Council to hold annual marketing and awareness days via a festival with entertainment – and provide transport*
- *Increase access to mental health services for young people under 18, particularly in rural areas*
- *Establish a young people's mental health/carers support group*

4.2 Learning and work

Young people need exciting and flexible learning opportunities to prepare them for the world. Successful outcomes in education and training help young people gain skills, work and economic independence. Within this context, it is also important to recognise that some young people's life circumstances make it difficult for them to access mainstream education or training.

Learning can be understood in terms of formal school based education, vocational and education and tertiary education. Learning also happens less formally during the course of our lives. Evidence suggests, however, that young people who complete school are more likely to secure satisfying work.

What is Council already doing to support learning and work?

Council is currently involved in several initiatives that impact young people's capacity for learning and work. These include:

- *Involvement in work for the dole programs*
- *Employment of trainees, apprentices and graduates*
- *Facilitating planning for educational facilities including universities and TAFE*
- *Partnering schools in environmental education*
- *Managing the approvals process to allow for the operation of home businesses*
- *Providing public access to the education resource centre, libraries and internet*
- *Involvement with TEDC*
- *Releasing industrial land*

In November 2005, Council employed 631 full-time equivalent staff. Of these 53 were young people under 25 years, 11 female and 42 male. Of the 53 young people employed, 21 were apprentices, trainees or graduates. It is unclear how many of these young people are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, or from a diverse cultural background.

It should be noted that at this stage Council does not have a coordinated approach to learning and work for young people.

Key issues identified by young people and community

Some young people interviewed identified that they have specific work and education goals while others are not sure what they will do after leaving school. However, the majority of young people interviewed believe they will need to leave Tweed Shire in order to further their education or to find work. This is supported by data in Table One, which indicates that after the compulsory schooling age, young people are leaving the Tweed Shire.

Community sector organisations also identified limited course offerings available at the university as a barrier to further education.

Young people identified they had limited employment options, particularly if they do not have their own transport. This was supported by community sector organisations. The ABS data in Table Nine also indicates a higher unemployment rate for young people in the Tweed Shire compared to the New South Wales average by approximately 10%. Indigenous young people have a higher unemployment rate than the general population (Tweed Shire Social Profile).

Limited access to transport may contribute to high youth unemployment rates; however other factors such as skills and experience levels, broader economic considerations and suitable industries may also impact on youth unemployment.

Limited transport from rural areas to TAFE was identified as a barrier to vocational education and training.

Young people and community sector agencies suggested that there is little part-time work available for young people, particularly for those living in inland communities. Interestingly, the data in Table Nine indicates that young people in the labour force living in Tweed have a higher rate of part-time employment than their peers in New South Wales by 10%. However, they have a comparatively lower full-time employment rate.

Community sector agencies were particularly concerned about limited alternative schooling options for young people who do not fit into the mainstream schooling system.

Stakeholders proposed solutions

Stakeholders identified a number of strategies that Council could consider in addressing the area of learning and work for young people. The strategy most supported by stakeholders was for Council to develop a coordinated approach to increase employment of young people through apprenticeships, traineeships and graduate programs.

Other suggestions include:

- *Implementing a town centre and beach beautification project*
- *Facilitating access to broadband to increase opportunities for people to work from home*
- *Developing partnerships to provide incentives to bring industry to the Tweed*

4.3 Coordination and leadership

Council is in a unique position to work collaboratively with business and industry, community sector organisations and state and commonwealth governments to develop partnerships to address the needs of young people.

Council can lead the way by including young people in the planning and decision making processes. Given that young people under 18 years cannot legally vote, local governments throughout Australia have developed alternative ways for including young people in decisions that impact on their lives.

Council is responsible for positive profiling of young people in the local and regional community to assist in recognition and understanding of young people's needs, and their positive contributions in the community. This can be established through various forms of promotion of young people through media distributions, engagement and involvement in development processes.

Key issues identified by young people and community

- The majority of young people consulted showed little knowledge or understanding of what Council does for the community and young people.
- In the main the young people consulted were under 18 years of age and therefore not old enough to vote. Many had indicated that they planned to enrol to vote when they turned 18. They indicated that they aimed to become more interested and involved in community decision-making.
- Of the young people interviewed, some believe that Council's primary focus is on information and facility provision e.g. swimming pools and skate parks.
- The community sector also identified that Council plays a limited role in supporting the networking of community youth agencies. However, negotiations are currently underway to address this.
- The community sector and council staff identified a significant disconnection and confusion about the roles of local, state and federal government in addressing the needs of young people. Additionally, a range of cross border issues in terms of service provision with Queensland was identified. In this context, young people suggested that the border with Queensland is irrelevant to them, particularly if they live in Tweed Heads. For example, they found that access to housing and homelessness services was problematic.

- Limited coordination across local government boundaries with the Byron Shire and Gold Coast City were also identified as significant issues, particularly in relation to transport and recreation services.
- All stakeholders identified that each community within the Tweed Shire has its own individual strengths, limitations and issues. There are significant differences between communities on the coast and inland communities.

Stakeholders proposed solutions

There was unanimous support from all stakeholders for council to employ a full-time Youth Development Officer to be responsible for coordinating Council's response to young people. One of the roles of this position would be to develop an engagement and consultation process with young people. Over a three-year period, stakeholders identified that this initial position should develop into a strategically organised team of youth-focused staff. In order to achieve this, part of the inaugural Youth Development Officer role would be to build Council's partnerships with state and federal governments and industry to secure funding.

Some suggestions for inclusion in the Youth Development Officer role were:

- Greater lobbying of state and federal government to address youth/community needs in areas such as transport, employment and education, health, accommodation, grants and planning
- Coordinate access to state and federal funding
- Advocate to state and federal government to increase services for young people
- Keep service providers connected with Council through the development and support of a local youth agency network

There was also strong support for Council to develop a strategy for including young people in its' planning, policy development and decision-making processes. A range of models were suggested including:

- A Youth Summit
- Youth representatives on Council
- Consultation with young people on specific issues

The majority of stakeholders identified that Council needed to develop a youth policy and to subsequently review and amend the Social Plan to include youth issues and priorities.

Other suggestions included:

- *Employment of a full-time Grant Applications Officer*
- *Develop broad political support for addressing the needs of young people through positive relationships with media*
- *Inform and educate Council members and administrators about youth issues*
- *Develop closer links and relationship between Tweed and Gold Coast Councils through TCCSAP*
- *Develop strategic plans for crisis accommodation*
- *Advocate to state and federal government for a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility for under 18's*

4.4 Places and Spaces

Young people have the same rights as all other members of our community to use and access public space. As citizens they have the same right to participate fully in community life, as do all other population groups.

However in reality, young people often need to justify their right to use and occupy public and community spaces. While this fundamental right of freedom to access public space exists for all people, it is also argued in youth studies, public space, criminology, and behavioural science literature that young people have a greater need to access such areas because they are beginning to develop as individuals with their own sense of identity separate from that of their parents or carers. They also are not at a life stage when they have access to independent private spaces and have a higher degree of free/available/spare time. For these reasons, young people need safe well-designed public and community facilities and spaces where they can socialise and participate in leisure and recreation activities of interest to them.

The development of space and place for young people is challenging. There are key differences in the preferences young women and young men have for space and place destinations and some key areas of overlap. Local governments are also generally considered the major providers of such spaces and need to take multi-sectoral approaches to developing these spaces to meet the broad needs and diverse interests of young people.

Broadly, coastal communities of young people in Tweed Shire are fortunate to have the beach as a core public space for recreation and generally a greater choice of destinations and improved access to spaces than young people in rural settings. However, given the isolation of some young people living in coastal communities arising from transport deficiencies, the beach is sometimes the only recreation space. Inland communities that are distanced from the beach are also challenged in terms of space and place destinations and there are clear needs to develop spaces for these groups.

The Tweed Shire is also in the fortunate position of having some community members who are devoting considerable energies to addressing these issues by petitioning for the development of purpose built infrastructure such as youth centres. Additionally, Council has also been gifted monies to devote to the development of youth spaces in one specific location.

The geographic, transportation and costing challenges in providing space for young people in Tweed Shire requires a range of responses. A range of options is proposed to address space and place needs that are linked to other recommendations outlined in the youth needs analysis. Given the complexity and challenges surrounding this area of practice we have proposed a spectrum of spaces that meet young people's needs to greater and lesser degrees but can be delivered on an opportunistic basis or be delivered strategically through Council's planning and design processes and developer contributions.

Key issues identified by young people and community

The young people consulted acknowledged that most common places they hang out at are those that attract a lot a young people, making these places fun and interesting to hang out in. Places such as the beach, skate parks, local pools, shops/malls, cinemas and friends houses were popular places because they were safe, relaxing, a place to have fun with their friends, have good atmosphere, are free or affordable, and have air-conditioning or are cool during summer.

Although young people currently find things to do in the places they go, the majority of young people feel there is a lack of adequate and accessible places and facilities to hang out and have a good time. Existing skate parks, local parks and open spaces are not sufficiently set up to accommodate the growing numbers of young people and their requests and preferences in recreation. Many of these spaces are gender biased in the groups they provide for i.e. skate parks and young men.

Young people have identified the infrastructure and facilities of existing skate parks and local parks as needing to be improved and more facilities provided. The young people consulted also felt that local parks, streets, beach environments and other public spaces used by young people need improved safety, lighting, cleanliness, seating, shelters and shade for both active and incidental uses.

The community sector identified issues such as a lack of access to entertainment and venues, especially for under 18's at night and on weekends. In addition, transport issues for young people, especially at night and on weekends, ties in with lack of connectivity and safe access to local physical and social environments. It has been identified that young people have in the past had a lack of involvement in consultation and design processes for public spaces and this is the critical stage in developing youth space.

Stakeholders proposed solutions

Community promoted the following solutions to the above issues:

- Provide and subsidise more entertainment in existing local venues for young people
- More day-time concerts for under 18's that are more secure
- Focus on a facility that is available for multiple use rather than for single activities use eg. PCYC
- Value-adding to existing cultural facilities
- Design parks specifically for youths over 12 years instead of emphasis on children's playgrounds
- Several park, streetscape and foreshore design projects to be undertaken over next seven years
- Increased funding proposed for skate parks in Shire over next three years (in seven-year Infrastructure Plan)
- Bequest to Council for Youth Facility in Murwillumbah – to be integrated to Community Centre with expansion and Knox Park Master plan
- Promote development options through planning processes, economic development and crown lands to run youth-oriented businesses such as milk bars, drive-ins, skating rinks, go-karting, BMX jumps, shops and games arcades.

4.5 Safe and Secure

Young people are major users of public space and utilise places such as parks, beaches, shopping areas, local streets and plazas as a foundation for their community connectivity and independent activity, in an effort to recreate public places as their own spaces. Young people source places to use for their recreational time for a multitude of passive and active recreational pursuits and have the right to feel safe and secure while there, as well as getting to and from these places.

Generally, young people feel safe with their friends and groups of similar or familiar people in any chosen place. Young people are attracted to places of activity, fun and sources of interest and stimulation and like to engage with their physical and social environments.

Young people often feel unsafe or insecure in the environments they wish to engage in and this influences and limits their use public places. This perception of places and spaces feeling unsafe affects young people's use of places, inclusion in activities, sense of freedom and connectivity to their local community.

Key issues identified by young people and community

Young people were interviewed about when, where and how they felt safe or unsafe in their local community. The majority responded that they felt mostly safe and secure at home, at school and with their family as well as feeling safe and secure when with their friends in a public place during the day.

Places and experiences that left young people feeling unsafe or insecure were stated as most outdoor places during the night, unfamiliar places or people and places that were unclean and lacked lighting. Specific reference was made by young people to places where there was violent and intimidating behaviour of people in streets and near local pubs, places where people used alcohol and illicit drugs, as well as homeless people hang-out spots, as those places which made young people feel unsafe.

Although the young people who were consulted did not raise the issues of accommodation, these areas of concern were raised by the community sector through focus group discussions. Lack of emergency accommodation as well as safe and affordable accommodation for young people also poses issues for young people's sense of safety and security in their use of public spaces and their community.

Stakeholders proposed solutions

Local stakeholders proposed solutions to improve the state of safety and security in the public places in the regions in Tweed. Suggestions included:

- Provision of safe and accessible emergency accommodation in all local areas of the Tweed Shire
- Provision of affordable housing for young people
- Combat unsafe/violent behaviour in public places through anti-violence programs and role modelling
- Address security and crime issues by improving places with linear lighting along paths, roads and intersections/nodal points and improving environmental design for greater crime prevention
- Improved design of public toilets to improve lighting, security and hygienic/cleaning considerations

4.6 Connected and Included

Young people have a deep need to feel socially included and connected and pursue places and activities which allow opportunities for inclusion. Information and understanding, physical access to places, and a sense of safety and security in these places affect young people's ability to be connected and included.

Young people that were consulted said they feel most connected or included in their community when they are with their friends, playing sport, at school and during community festivals and fundraising events that provided opportunities to meet new people, have a good time, and experience new cultures. These experiences were similar for both young men and young women.

Key issues identified by young people and community

Young people's major source for community inclusion and connectivity is through their peer groups at school, sporting groups, church, and local neighbourhoods. These individuals or groups maintain a sense of safety and security, acceptance, support, knowledge and guidance as creating sources for fun.

The feeling of a small, local town environment has been identified as a way in which young people feel included and connected. However, young people feel that a lot of the older generation in the community often pass judgment and negative views of younger generations, which maintains a sense of disrespect and lack of connectivity and inclusiveness.

Tweed has a significant Indigenous population and a high proportion of people from various and often-marginal cultural backgrounds. The culturally and linguistically diverse young people from these families often feel a social disconnection due to the differences in culture and language.

Often a lack of connectedness or inclusion for young people is due to lack of transport, information resources and access and available time.

Stakeholders proposed solutions

- Improve a co-ordinated transport strategy with increased and improved bus routes and services (especially in evenings and on weekends), co-ordinating fare system across the borders and investigate potential funding subsidies for bus companies
- Facilitate/fund local public transport and link public transport options to events
- Development of specific programs for individual localities (Tweed, Pottsville, Murwillumbah, Coastal)
- Development of variety of youth projects to involve community improvement 'service'
- Identify changes and diversity of household structure and family units, which create multiple connectivity options to community (separated parents/blended families, some children/youth have two houses).
- Need for support of families with limited support networks, families not relating well (single mothers and fathers, blended families) and have limited role modelling for young men (eg. Positive Parenting Program, Neighbourhood Relationship support network). Opportunities to positively influence flow-on affect to youth
- Gay / lesbian support networks to positively tackle discrimination issues
- Identify cultural diversity and develop avenues for community engagement and involvement processes that encourage cultural identity and inclusion, awareness and appreciation.
- Need for opportunities for positive interaction of young people with adults and older people in the community

5.0 Good practice in local government

The business of local government is about building communities that are good places to live, and planning for the needs of the whole community. Young people are a significant sector of the community and therefore are part of council business.

Many rural areas know only too well the social and economic impacts of losing young people from the community. Similarly in urban areas, while young people may not leave, their energy, creativity and participation is often lost from communities through lack of opportunity and this brings economic as well as social costs.

- The majority of councils provide recreational services or facilities for young people
- The majority of councils include or target young people in their planning activities
- In the main, councils spent far more on young people than they receive in grants
- A significant proportion of councils employ at least one staff member with a focus on youth development
- The majority of councils see youth unemployment as a major concern in the community
- Most councils see their role in youth affairs as coordination and facilitation, with state and federal governments providing funding and support

5.1 Roles Councils play

Councils often play different roles with different issues or strategies. The role they play generally relates to the size of the council, available resources, history of involvement in youth affairs, community expectations and levels of partnerships available with other sectors and spheres of government. Roles generally include:

- Coordination
- Facilitation
- Service delivery
- Policy development
- Needs analysis
- Planning
- Facility provision

5.2 Key elements of youth development strategies for local government

The key elements of youth development strategies designed and implemented by local governments in Australia include:

Planning – considering young people's needs in land use planning, strategic planning, and recreation planning

Policy – formalising and clarifying Council's role in youth affairs

Participation – encouraging young people's participation in Council's decision-making processes

Services and strategies – ensuring access to a range of services and facilities (not necessarily as the provider, but advocating for access)

Diversity – recognising diversity among young people

Partnerships – working with and bringing together other spheres of government, other Councils, community and businesses to address youth issues

Funding – ensuring adequate funding is available to fulfil responsibilities

6.0 Funding and partnerships

6.1 Funding opportunities

Once Council has made some strategic decisions about the direction it will take in addressing the needs of young people, financial assistance and partnerships can be developed with a range of government and non-government agencies. A range of funding programs is available from state and federal governments as well as independent organisations and philanthropic trusts. Several websites are particularly useful in identifying funding sources. The following sites are recommended:

www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au (state government grants)

www.acys.utas.edu.au

www.youth.nsw.gov.au

www.philanthropy.org.au

www.grantslink.gov.au (Australian Government grants)

Some examples of funding programs available are listed below, though the majority of funding programs for 2005 are now closed. Council will need to access up-to-date information for 2006 and beyond.

6.2 The Australia Council for the Arts

“Young People and the Arts” is about a vision for the artistic practices of young people and children in Australia. It's about: the work of young artists, the young people and children who participate in artistic activity, the artists and artswomen who create work for young people. A range of funding initiatives currently target young people. All funding programs for 2005 are currently closed, and will reopen in the New Year. For details go to their website www.ozco.gov.au or contact 02 9215 9095.

6.3 The Foundation for Young Australians

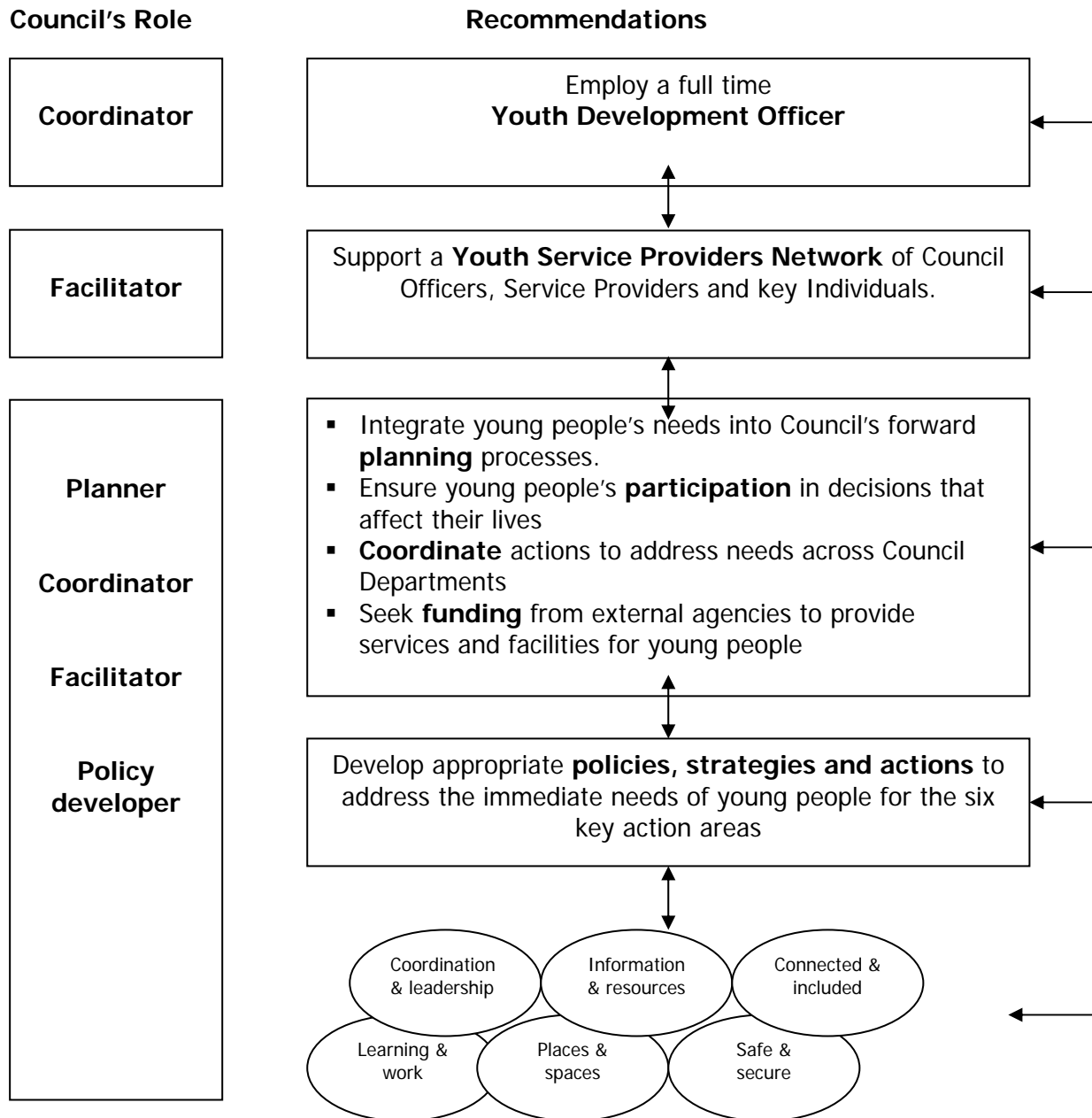
The Foundation for Young Australians is an independent national grant-making organisation, funding and working in partnership with youth-led initiatives, which aim to positively contribute to young people and their communities.

The Foundation for Young Australians offers funding for a range of purposes, aimed at both individual young people and youth-focused non-profit organisations. Funding available for organisations includes: Partnership Grants, for the development of youth-led initiatives; Youth Led Futures grants for Indigenous organisations; Indigenous Small Grants and Youth for Youth Investments for initiative funding. There is also an Opportunity Bank, which looks at applications that do not fall within these opportunities.

To register to receive information about grant opportunities offered by The Foundation for Young Australians go to www.youngaustralians.org. An email will be sent to you at the time each grant round opens. Alternatively contact them on 03 9670 5436.

7.0 Analysis and recommendations for action

Proposed role for Tweed Shire Council



Context for recommendations

The Tweed Shire Council has identified the need to build a healthy and sustainable community through existing documents such as Tweed Futures and the Social Plan 2005 – 2009.

Good practice in local government is recognised as explicitly including young people as a significant sector of the community and therefore part of Council business. The Tweed Shire Council has a relatively limited history in youth affairs and as such, the development of a strategic and coordinated approach needs to take this into consideration. Within this context, the majority of Councils see their primary role in youth affairs as coordination and facilitation.

The following analysis and recommendations are based on information gathered through community consultation as well as good practice in local government.

The six key action areas are used to analyse the data and develop recommendations for Council future role.

7.1 Coordination and leadership

Given that youth affairs is a new area for Council, it will be important to clarify Council's strategic intent regarding its role. This will be particularly important for Councillors/ administrators, Council staff, state and federal governments and the broader community.

1.1 That Council develops a clear policy position on Council's role in youth affairs in response to the issues and recommendations identified in this Youth Needs Analysis. This could take the form of a Tweed Shire Council Youth Policy. The Youth Policy should address the key action areas identified in the Youth Needs Analysis and included measures for monitoring its implementation.

All policy documents risk being cleverly written pieces of jargon with no relevance or meaning. It will be important for Council to ensure that this is not the case, by demonstrating its commitment to achieving outcomes through its actions. As with many other local authorities, central to the achievement of positive outcomes has been the employment of a Youth Development Officer to oversee and coordinate Council's delivery on youth policy. The employment of a Youth Development Officer is seen as good practice, particularly if the role has the capacity to work across other divisions of Council that impact on the lives of young people, such as parks and planning. During the establishment phase of Councils' role in youth affairs, the function of the Youth Development Officer should be one of coordination, not service delivery.

1.2 That Council establishes a Youth Development Officer position to work across key internal Council divisions and with external partners and agencies to action the proposed Youth Policy.

1.3 That Council clearly articulates the strategic role of the Youth Development Officer through a well-developed position description based on the learnings from other local authorities.

An increasing concern for local governments is the development of initiatives to engage community in their planning and decision-making processes. The intent of increased community engagement is to ensure that Council is responsive to community need. This is coupled with obvious political benefits.

Within this context, local governments are becoming increasingly sophisticated in developing youth engagement strategies. Some of the traditional models have included junior councils or youth councils; however, a criticism of this approach has been the barrier this generally causes to young people who are less articulate or confident.

Council is in a unique position to develop a model of youth engagement that meets the specific needs of young people living across the Tweed Shire, while learning from the successes and failures of other local authorities.

1.4 That Council develops and trials a model of youth engagement that is inclusive of young people from diverse backgrounds and lifestyles. That the model gives consideration to the differing needs of young people living on the coast and young people living rurally.

As part of Tweed Futures, Council has identified the need to develop Locality Plans to provide clearer directions for local communities and to engage them in the planning process. The development of engagement strategies designed specifically to include young people in the community planning process will ensure that young people have the opportunity to contribute to the Shire's future.

1.5 That Council includes young people in the development of current strategic and planning documents. These should include Locality Plans as identified in Tweed Futures and the review of Councils Arts Policy.

In the main, local governments spend far more on young people than they receive in grants. Within this context, with a population of only 74,380 (2001 census), the rates base for the Tweed Shire Council is limited and therefore partnerships with other levels of government and industry will be crucial.

The consultation also highlighted gaps in youth service provision, particularly alternative education options and health related services for young people living in rural communities.

1.6 That council seeks to capitalise on state and federal government funding and resourcing opportunities by working collaboratively with the community services sector in identifying and responding to young people's needs.

1.7 That Council plays a key role in supporting community agencies to work together through the re-establishment of the youth services network or other appropriate forums.

7.2 Information and resources

Access to timely information is highly valued by young people. More than ever before, young peoples' sophistication in the use of technology is driving new approaches in information exchange between local authorities and their young constituents.

Many local authorities and all state governments have developed websites that specifically target the information and communication needs of young people. Experience with these sites suggests that they need to be dynamic and regularly updated to increase young people's usage. One way this has been achieved is through the inclusion of regular competitions and external promotion of the site. New features are also an important aspect of youth websites.

Notwithstanding, it continues to be important for Council to ensure that its information strategies reaches those young people who do not have access to technology or whose life circumstances make it difficult for them to readily access information.

Therefore Council's information strategies need to be developed for a broad spectrum of young people.

2.1 That Council develops a youth information strategy that incorporates information exchange between young people directly and indirectly through parents, carers and service providers.

2.2 That Council assesses the risks and benefits of updating its current website to include youth specific pages or creating a stand-alone website that targets young people.

2.3 That Council creates and approves links from the proposed youth website or pages to other secure youth website such as www.youth.nsw.gov.au.

2.4 That Council seeks to partner young people through educational or training organisations to develop and maintain the youth website or youth pages.

2.5 That Council purchases software to enable young people to voluntarily register their mobile phone numbers via the website to allow group texts to be sent regarding coming events and new website features or information.

2.6 That relevant information is distributed through paper-based means in mediums such as school newspapers and the Tweed Link.

The community sector has identified a lack of mental health and drug and alcohol services for young people less than 18 years of age. While young people as an issue have not specifically identified this, it is likely that young people who require these health services were not included in the consultation methodology.

Anecdotally, issues of unsafe drug use are a significant issue for young people in Tweed. Access to a continuum of resources is important to ensure the safety of young people.

2.7 That Council advocates to New South Wales Health to work with local community agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy to address drug use by young people. The strategy should give consideration to information provision through to drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.

7.3 Learning and work

In the main, local governments see youth unemployment as a significant concern, particularly in rural communities. Community stakeholders throughout the consultation process have also highlighted Training and employment as a concern. Related to this is data in table one indicates that migrations of young people in the 19 to 24 year age cohort are migrating away from the Tweed Shire.

Based on the data available, it could be reasonably surmised that limited work and further education opportunities are likely to contribute to this migration away from the Shire. It is critically important that Tweed improves the employment and training opportunities for young people to reverse the current trend. The consequences of not addressing this issue as

a matter of priority will have a significant negative impact on the economy as the population ages.

3.1 That Council works collaboratively with the Tweed Economic Development Corporation to develop specific strategies aimed at enhancing employment opportunities for young people.

3.2 That Council reviews its own workforce demographics with a view to developing employment strategies for young people through apprenticeships, traineeships and graduate programs.

Concerns raised by community sector organisations indicate there are limited alternative education options available to young people for whom mainstream education is not working. The risk of not completing at least a minimum standard of education is significant to individual young people, and this is likely to have flow-on effects to the broader community.

The area of education and training is clearly a state government responsibility with financial support from the commonwealth government. Although several larger local authorities manage alternative education centres, this is not recommended as a strategic approach for the Tweed Shire. It is more feasible for Council to provide a coordination and facilitation role in this area.

3.3 That Council supports community organisations, educational and learning institutions in lobbying state government for the provision of a range of learning options to meet the needs of all young people.

7.4 Places and Spaces

The opportunity for Council to develop places and spaces for young people to access and use is a major area of discussion. The complexity of this area of practice means there are no quick solutions. Places and spaces need to be developed both **temporarily** (through events and activities) **opportunistically** (through bequests and other opportunities e.g. Murwillumbah bequest) and **strategically** (by programming development of youth spaces into Council's strategic documents and facilitating development of these spaces through land development levers or programmed funding and capital works e.g. section 94 provisions for infrastructure works).

The geographic and urban structure disparity between settlements in the Tweed Shire means that development of space appropriate to a highly urbanised area with a large catchment of young people may not be appropriate or affordable for a rural setting. Likewise, the development of places and spaces needs to consider uses by different genders and cultural backgrounds, combinations of active and passive use of space, management models, activities and events programming and maintenance considerations. Clearly, developing appropriate strategy for young people's spaces and places requires consideration of many issues. Therefore, key recommendations of this report are:

4.1 That Council includes a young people's public space strategy as a component of an open space plan or youth strategy for the shire.

In the absence of a young people's public space strategy, it is recommended

4.2 That Council uses the following spectrum as guidance for the development of spaces for young people and develops appropriate spaces for young people through **temporary**,

opportunistic or **strategic** means. Council should use this spectrum of places and spaces (or combinations within the spectrum) for guidance when developing these places and spaces in specific localities.

| Place and Space Spectrum | Suggested Spaces |
|---|---|
| 1. Creating temporary spaces for young people through events and activities programming; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Local beach environments</i> ○ <i>Skate parks and sports infrastructure</i> ○ <i>Shopping centre areas</i> ○ <i>Local/neighbourhood parks</i> ○ <i>Public swimming pools</i> ○ <i>Community halls</i> |
| 2. Redeveloping existing youth spaces to improve inclusiveness and relevance; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Skate parks and youth-centric Infrastructure e.g. Basketball ½ courts</i> ○ <i>Parks and sporting/ recreational areas/existing clubs</i> ○ <i>Streets and found spaces</i> |
| 3. Designing and developing Integrated Outdoor Public Spaces for young people; and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Skate and youth space</i> ○ <i>Areas with existing catchments of young people e.g. around shopping centres</i> ○ <i>Youth hangout space</i> |
| 4. Purpose-built Youth Centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Ongoing partnerships with PCYC proposed</i> ○ <i>No recommendations for new centres</i> |

4.3 That council considers the key principles and detailed recommendations listed below when creating temporary spaces and events, redeveloping existing facilities and developing integrated outdoor public spaces for young people as outlined in this report.

4.4 That Council uses the recommendations outlined in this report to develop the Murwillumbah youth space project, as a pilot project for meeting the space and place needs of young people in Tweed Shire.

4.5 That Council seeks improved partnerships with the PCYC, as a youth space service provider with potential to increase service delivery to other Council owned indoor spaces.

4.6 That a multi-purpose youth centre at Pottsville **not be** developed at this point in time and be reinvestigated in five years or more and/or following the implementation of the other recommendations outlined in this report.

Place and Space Principles

The following principles should be considered when Council is proposing the development of spaces for young people in particular localities.

Place-making process through community engagement and consultation

A 'place' is created out of a 'space' through active involvement and engagement of its community. Collaborative consultation, design, management and programming processes

which actively engage young people assists in creative personalisation of spaces, sense of pride and ownership in the place. This in turn will enhance the use of the place for personal use and organised activity, increase safety and surveillance of places and maintain a sense of community and belonging.

Creating places and spaces for young people

Planners, designers and youth sector workers often need to intervene in the ordinary operation of public space to make these spaces appropriate for young people. The use of existing public spaces requires negotiation regarding which type of event or activity is appropriate for different places and spaces. Issues such as locality, accessibility, size and open space, available infrastructure and facilities, current uses, noise, safety and other opportunities and constraints, need to be factored into the types of events that could be held at individual spaces.

Attract, reflect and meet the needs of different young people

Young women, young people from culturally diverse backgrounds, young people with disabilities and other young individuals or marginal groups who feel isolated or unsupported, require greater opportunities to engage and be actively involved in local and community places and events and activities. These groups require direct consultation regarding their preferences prior to the development of space or programs.

Destination specific 'local flavour'

Local spaces and places used for activities and events should reflect and support the local community's needs and interests, as well as the local atmosphere of the surrounding natural and built environments. Local artists, community groups, local businesses and individuals' co-operation and involvement can help establish and maintain a local and individual ambience and zest to places created and used for events and activities.

Inclusiveness

Places and spaces created by and for the young people and the broader community give rise to a multitude of opportunities to create inclusiveness to young people's living environments. Such inclusiveness includes places and experiences for young people to be with friends, meet new people, to hang out and have a good time as well as to feel a part of the community. Opportunities should be provided to allow young people to experience new cultures, learn new skills and gain new knowledge and confidence.

Creating a 'sense of place' and safety through environmental design processes

Specific design, use of and management of elements and facilities in places for events and activities need to adhere to public safety requirements and standards as well as individual users' safety and security issues. Both safety and place-making can be created through environmental design principles as well as management of places and events / activities.

7.4.1 Creating Temporary Spaces

Local parks, skate parks, sports fields or civic spaces can easily be transformed into temporary inclusive spaces in the form of events, festivals and other community activities. Organised programmes with young people's interests and focus can create and maintain a sense of community, inclusion, ownership and pride for young people as well as the whole community.

Festivals, events, programs and activities in these spaces can be locally and / or regionally focused. Smaller, local events and programs should be place specific to reflect local needs, culture and environment, whereas larger, regional events and programs can maintain broader interests, culture, and diversity. Tweed Shire Council currently supports, promotes and funds numerous local and regional events and festivals in the Tweed Shire throughout the year and implements a strategic approach to maintaining the sustainability of events and festivals in the Tweed Shire. (The Strategic Plan - Tweed Shire Festivals and Events 2005-2007).

The Tweed Shire hosts many long-running annual events and festivals in varying locations focusing on theme types from traditional; rural-based; nostalgia; environmental-based; contemporary-cultural events; science, research and technology; Indigenous; and local community-based youth activities. Many of these festivals and events attract young people's interests and participation; however, there is a greater need for events for young people that encourage local, community interests and groups that promote civic connectedness and inclusion and minimises alcoholism, vandalism and unfavourable behaviour often resulting from other youth events and festivals.

Events and activities that encourage young people in the community, who may feel socially isolated, such as Indigenous, culturally diverse, and disabled young people, particularly benefit from temporary spaces created by events and activities. Events may include sporting, creative and adventure programs, activities and events to encourage and support the diversity in the young community and provide local, affordable and accessible opportunities.

Through direct involvement and participation in events and activities in local places, young people have opportunities to feel included and accepted, gain new skills, make decisions, have responsibilities and have control over outcomes. Events can also be used positively as diversionary activities in spaces where problems currently exist (e.g. binge drinking and vandalism) or can be used to target particular groups that are challenged to access particular spaces.

The use of existing spaces for temporary events and activities provides greater opportunities for local young people and community members to access the spaces. Local parks, skate parks, sports fields, local beach environments, and other local public spaces are generally central to residential, shopping and school districts which are frequented by young people and the greater community. Young people can easily access such places by walking, riding bikes, skating etc. as well as using public transport options, and private car.

Community events that focus on the interests and preferences of young people, young women and culturally diverse groups attract and encourage a greater diversity of community involvement and inclusion in the use of space. Regular events and activities should promote and celebrate diversity of age, gender and culture to promote and maintain community awareness, connection and inclusion.

Young men and women experience and participate differently in physical and social environments, which influence their use and engagement of spaces and activities. Cultural differences also influence the way in which young people participate and engage in events

and activities. These are important factors to consider for programming of events and activities in existing spaces and places in the community.

Both young men and women feel a sense of safety and security as being very important when engaging in spaces, events and activities, especially at night. In particular, young women consider feeling safe in a public space as well as having access to clean, hygienic public toilets as an important part of being at a place and event.

Suggested Types of Events

- Holiday programmes with workshops / activities/ information displays
- Music festivals, promoting performance from local artists
- Multi-cultural festivals and events
- Regular creative markets
- Outdoor cinema or live theatre/performances
- Exercise groups (aerobics, tai-chi, yoga, walking, circuit training etc)
- Local picnic in the park events with celebrities and activities
- Under 18's discos and dance parties
- Themed events such as for youth week, sports week
- Local sporting activities such as canoeing, archery, bowling, rock climbing, gymnastics, martial arts etc. supported by passive recreation options such as music and arts
- Combinations of these events with programming that supports the interests of particular groups to encourage participation. E.g. programming for young women or Indigenous groups

Considerations for Creating Temporary Spaces

Tweed Shire initiate youth events and activities by:

- Consulting young people about the types of events and activities of interest to them
- Seek re-establishment of prior youth events under a revised model if supported by young people
- Seeking out local entertainers and forming a registry of performers who may wish to have an opportunity to be involved
- Seeking event partners from within the youth sector
- Trial various types of events and activities at various locations
- Target young people's activities and interests in established Tweed shire
- Provide funding, mentoring, in-kind and financial support (e.g. public liability insurance coverage) for interested young people to organise and run their own events
- Establish public transport services and links to events, activities and programs. Free bus services to major festivals and events or co-ordinated car-pooling or 'walking-buses' for young people to travel easily and safely to a venue
- Establishing a central contact within council to manage, mentor and encourage young peoples events i.e. YDO
- Gender and cultural differences and preferences need to be recognised and accommodated for during events and festival in spaces.

Considerations for Specific Spaces

Local Beach Environments

- Event types should include beach activities and competitions such as wind surfing, kite surfing, kayaking, beach competitions and races/iron-man, as well as off-shore / park activities such as stalls and markets, bands / performances, beach carnivals with rides etc., fashion parades and workshop areas.
- Close proximity to retail and business outlets provides opportunities for local businesses and community group involvement and endorsements/promotion.
- Include shaded seating/hanging out spaces eg. gazebos, picnic tables and structures in key public spaces near beaches
- Beachside events and activities held throughout the year, not just during summer
- Include innovative elements to spaces through art projects to improve visual amenity and interest
- Increase sense of local ownership and identity and sense of belonging by including youth-focused artworks/ created by young people
- Provide clean and safe public toilets
- Improve safety by use of lighting and surveillance/police patrols
- Improve visual and physical safety through environmental design and maintenance

Skate Parks, Local Parks and Sports Infrastructure

- Encourage use of space by broader young community including young women and culturally diverse young people through events and activities with interest to such young people
- Encourage a variety of active and passive recreational use of skate park, sports fields and associated facilities by programming diversity of events and activities
- Program events at skate facilities and sports infrastructure such as B-ball ½ courts that deliberately target non-active users such as young women and non-skating young men.
- Bump in and program additional activities to attract these groups e.g. circus, jewellery-making and music
- Market the events to these additional user groups
- Provide free food and drink to encourage participation

Shopping Centre Areas

- Seek partnerships with centre managers to reduce security harassment, make young people feel welcomed and provide safe spaces for young people
- Seek partnerships for events and activities from local businesses and organisations/community groups etc.
- Facilitate development of personalised / designated spaces for young people to gather / hang out at shopping centre districts
- Increase shaded seating areas with bins, lighting, art pieces/personalized elements

- Provide access to clean and safe public toilets
- Provide safe & accessible drop-off & pick-up zones
- Public transport and co-ordinated transport options for events and activities
- Provide supportive facilities in hangout spaces (eg. info centre, internet access, programs events calendars/billboards)

Public Swimming Pools

- Trial events at local swimming pools as a way of creating youth space in an existing recreation facility
- Use music and alternative recreation forms – both active and passive at these spaces to broaden their appeal
- Council should subsidise entry fees on event days to encourage more local young people to attend

Community Halls

- Organise band nights, underage discos/blue light discos and social events for young people at community halls
- Seek the establishment of a local group of young people to organise and run the event with the assistance of adults
- Council should support these events by providing the venue free of charge, covering the event for public liability insurance and providing funds for marketing and infrastructure costs e.g. PA systems etc
- Revisit prior events and seek interest in reorganising these events and running them according to the ideas of local young people
- Seek support from adults to ensure the events are safe to young people

7.4.2 Redeveloping Existing Youth Spaces

Skate Parks, Local Parks and Youth-Centric Infrastructure e.g. Basketball ½ courts

Often, the major response from local government to the public space and recreation needs of young people is the development of skate facilities or investment in sports infrastructure such as Basketball/tennis/Volleyball Courts or by supporting clubs with leases and space.

In general, the development of skate facilities only caters to the direct needs of active users. While these spaces are attractive to a range of young people because they are a social hub and gathering space, this secondary social function is not generally considered. The same applies to sports infrastructure such as basketball facilities. Under this model, the needs of young women and non-participating young men are not addressed or met.

The other concern is the 'cookie cutter' approach or 'plonkism' where over time additional sports and hang out spaces are added to the existing infrastructure – e.g. placing a Basketball ½ court next to an existing skate facility. While this planning approach works in creating more integrated spaces for young people, often at the design level, the integration fails and the broader space suffers from a lack of integration.

A skate park or a piece of sports infrastructure in a public space is an existing youth space. These spaces often redevelop and it is important to undertake this redevelopment process in a sensitive manner to address the issues described above. Generally, the addition of new infrastructure to complement an existing facility or the expansion of an existing skate park should include some form of flexible space that can be used for events and activities (see temporary spaces) or the addition of seating and hangout space to meet the needs of non active participants.

Considerations for Redeveloping Existing Facilities

Skate Parks

Tweed currently has two skate parks:

- Cabarita Beach Skate Park, Cabarita and Les Burger Sports Field
- Knox Park Skate Park, Murwillumbah

With an additional park in development at South Tweed.

Redevelopment of existing skate facilities should include the following considerations:

- An open and targeted process of consultation and collaborative design process to ensure the needs of a greater number of young people are met, not just active user groups.
- Sheltered seating for active users and separate seating/hangout space for non-active users.
- Facilities such as open or sheltered concrete area for performances/bands as a multi-functional space – flexible spaces that can perform a variety of functions
- Redevelop skate / youth spaces that double as events spaces for the delivery of temporary spaces for young people
- Include skateable / rideable public art forms for visual and recreational use
- Encourage the use of skate/BMX parks that are inclusive to the needs of a greater number of young people and therefore consider the needs of young women and non active users
- Improve visual and physical aspects of skate park/sports fields by incorporating public art through community projects/workshops

Local Parks and Youth Centric Infrastructure

- Improve physical amenities such as shade, seating, bins, drinking fountains, lighting to promote safer/more comfortable use of space
- Personalise spaces through art projects, cultural or themed motifs by users of space
- Using sports fields and clubhouses as events spaces
- Improve facilities/amenities in local parks for older young people (12+) and provide space apart from swings and play equipment and skate facilities eg. climbable/ skateable art structures, inviting seating areas etc.
- Increase shaded seating areas, picnic/BBQ facilities, bins, and drinking fountains/taps
- Provide and maintain clean/safe toilets
- Provide park 'beautification' projects by local young people and groups to create attractive artworks to personalise space and also to provide community building opportunities.

Streets & Found Spaces

- Undertake place making processes with young people
- Improve visual and physical amenities of street and youth spaces by increasing shaded seating areas with shelters, bins, lighting, drinking fountains etc.
- Personalise these spaces with creative elements which relate to young people (use of colour, mosaics, murals, graffiti, and strange elements of interest)
- Create a sense of pride, ownership and inclusion of local community spaces and places by involving young people in creative projects to enhance the spaces they use.

7.4.3 Integrated Outdoor Public Spaces for Young People

The concept of integrated public space for young people has been proposed for some time in theory but the delivery of such spaces is still reasonably new. Conceptually, these spaces should contain 'magnets' to young people in the form of physical infrastructure such as a skate facility, pool or sports infrastructure, or be located immediately adjacent to an area frequented by young people such as food-courts, shopping centres, transport infrastructure nodes and the like that have an existing catchment of young people for periods of time. The form of the space would ideally be conceptualised by young people themselves and be built from a highly collaborative planning, design and programming process.

Some considerations for the development of these spaces are as follows:

- Flexible and multi-use integrated planning/design of space for maximum potential activities and user-groups
- Skateable / rideable elements incorporated into overall design
- Active recreation spaces for BMX and skate, basket ball/volley ball courts etc.
- Open air or sheltered performance/multi-purpose space to be used for bands, theatre, performance, workshops/demos, parades etc during organised events/programs as well as casual/passive use of space
- Multi-use areas for passive & active recreation
- Thinking outside the square – provision for innovative facilities that cater for a large variety of user groups
- Use of lighting important to create safety and use of place during night
- Large spaces that can incorporate multiple-uses at a time with a variety of user groups, focuses and activities
- Large space to host events / festivals and can accommodate large quantities of people, as well as small groups and individual use of spaces and facilities
- Smaller scale spaces within the broader space to allow specific groups to occupy and personalise for periods of time
- Location in central well monitored and prominent space

Considerations for Integrated Outdoor Public Spaces

- The 'magnet' or catchment requirements for the development of integrated public spaces means the process for development of these spaces can occur as a skate facility project with an extended focus or an urban design response for centres planning and design. Alternatively, in places such as Pottsville where an indoor facility is not a feasible option, the development of outdoor spaces such as these is a less expensive and more easily managed alternative to the comparatively expensive infrastructure and management costs for indoor spaces.
- The development process for such spaces should be highly integrated and inclusive and have a strong community development focus.
- The process drives the outcomes and should follow a place making methodology
- The end uses of the space for events and management considerations should be brought directly into the design process
- Opportunities for ongoing personalisation through young people's public art projects should be used as a means of keeping the spaces vital and interesting
- Regular events post-construction ensure that the facility does not become stagnant and underused
- Events / programs and user groups involvement in space maintains sense of pride, ownership and visual surveillance of space, to create a sense of community, pride and safety

7.4.4 Purpose-Built Youth Centres

A key aim of this project has been an investigation into the feasibility of a purpose built youth centre in Pottsville and providing Council with some recommendations regarding that proposal.

Overall, young people, service providers and the project team did not support the development of a youth centre in Pottsville, at this point in time.

A committee of young people and interested adults have undergone an extensive research/study which promotes a high need for a youth centre in Pottsville. This work provided a large amount of supportive data for the case to develop a youth centre in Pottsville.

However, as a whole, the Tweed Shire is not currently in a position to develop and manage indoor youth spaces and specialist service providers such as the PCYC presently best undertake development of these spaces.

Young people and the youth sector did not identify development of indoor youth centres as a priority for addressing the space and place needs of young people in the Tweed Shire at the key forum for the project and instead indicated other ideas as immediate priorities to meet young people's space and place needs.

It is recommended that Council capitalise on the existing network of young people in Pottsville and develop a series of youth events and activities for Pottsville as a trial for the Tweed Shire).

There are also possibilities for less expensive and easier-managed spaces (e.g. integrated public spaces for young people) to be developed in Pottsville to meet the immediate needs of young people. Alternatively, the use of the existing community centre in Pottsville for

youth activities and events should be considered as a possible short term option, particularly if managed and operated by an existing service provider such as the PCYC.

The construction of a multi-purpose youth centre would then be a longer term option to be reinvestigated in five years or more and/or following the implementation of the other recommendations outlined in this report.

That Council develops a local and familiar context for activities and events that relate to young people's local lives and cultures.

7.5 Connected and Included

Young people's major sources for feeling connected and included is through their peer and social groups either at school, sporting groups, churches, events and activities and local neighbourhoods. These individuals or groups maintain a sense of safety and security, acceptance, support, knowledge and guidance as well as creating sources of fun for young people.

Young people identify the feeling of a small, local town environment as a way in which they feel included and connected in their community. Many young people in the Tweed Shire stated that they feel the older generations in their community often negatively judge them which in turn perpetuates the sense of generational disrespect and lack of connectivity in the community. In addition, many young people feel disconnected or not included in their immediate and broader community due to factors such as gender, age, cultural and linguistic background or disability. This perceived or actual isolation of young people in the community affects their involvement and engagement in use of places and spaces or events and activities. Often a lack of connectedness or inclusion for young people in the community is due to lack of transport, information resources, access and available time.

Young people feel a sense of connection to their community and surroundings through youth-focused elements such as public art and creative elements, active and passive recreational facilities, visual and physical safety and individualisation of spaces and places. Young people feel comfortable, connected and included in places that provide challenging, stimulating and flexible elements that meet their needs and interests. Ways in which young people can feel connected to the places they live and use is through active involvement in the personalisation of spaces through public art and creative features as well as engagement in activities and events.

Tweed Shire Council provides a Public Art Policy and Public Art Program that promotes and supports public art projects, initiatives and funding options. Information and support for community works in the form of public art, new works, integration of artists and designers, collections and public art programs is available from council. Ways in which young people can be involved, connected and included in creating a livable community place is through place-making community projects, design competitions, and creative youth workshops and programs that meet the varying needs and interests of the diversity of young people in the Tweed Shire.

Recommendations for Tweed Shire:

- Develop a co-ordinated transport strategy with increased and improved bus routes and services (especially in evening and on weekends), co-ordinating fare system across the borders and investigate potential funding subsidies for bus companies. Fund free bus services for major events and festivals from specific locations

- Develop a media strategy for the Tweed Shire's young people that include information and promotional resources describing events/activities/places within young people's access or interest and types; and sources of positive, youth focused information distribution (media, internet, promotional material etc.)
- Encourage young people's involvement in organising and programming events and activities to increase involvement and influence over what is happening
- Develop local and familiar context for activities and events that they relate to young people's local lives and cultures
- Integrate public art and creative elements into spaces for young people. Include workshops and working bees for young people's involvement in planning, design and construction of spaces for their use and interest
- That Council includes a young people's public space strategy as a component of an open space plan or youth strategy for the shire.

7.6 Safety and Security

Generally, young people feel safe with their friends and groups of similar or familiar people in any chosen place. Young people are attracted to places of activity, fun and sources of interest and stimulation and like to engage with their physical and social environments.

Young people often feel unsafe or insecure in the environments they wish to engage in and this influences and limits their use public places. This perception of places and spaces feeling unsafe affects young people's use of places, inclusion in activities, sense of freedom and connectivity to their local community.

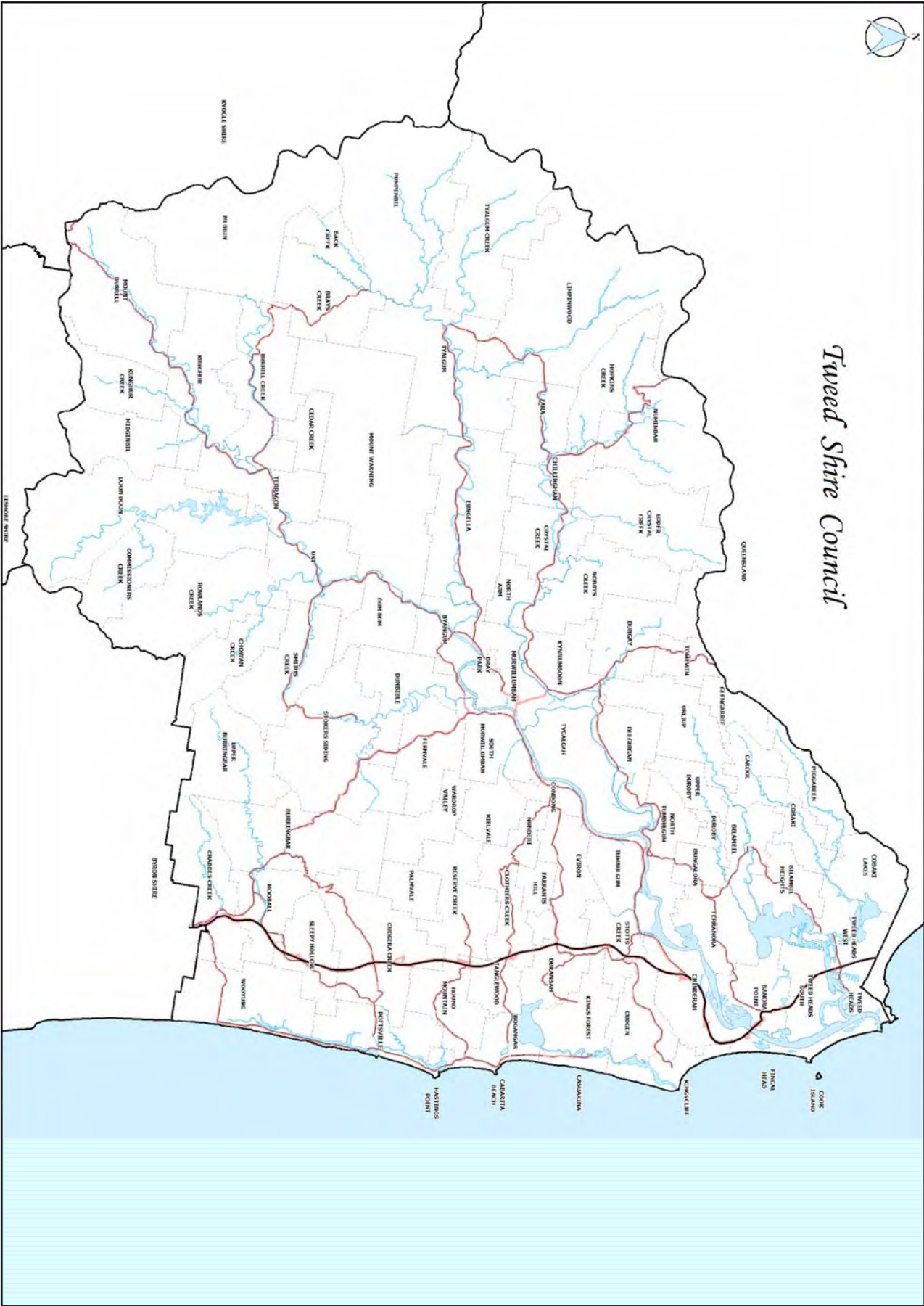
The majority of young people felt mostly safe and secure at home, at school and with their family as well as feeling safe and secure when with their friends in a public place during the day. Places and experiences that left young people feeling unsafe or insecure were stated as most outdoor places during the night, unfamiliar places or people and places that were unclean and lacked lighting. Specific reference was made by young people that violent and intimidating behaviour of people in streets and places near local pubs, places where people used alcohol and illicit drugs, as well as homeless people's hangout spots, were those places, which made young people feel unsafe.

Recommendations for Tweed Shire:

- That Council conducts CPTED (Crime prevention through environmental design) audits of key 'hot spots' and seeks crime prevention funding to improve the safety of these spaces through design, lighting and management solutions
- That Council seeks partnerships with local police to deliver increased presence at these sites identified through CPTED to improve feelings of safety
- That Council improves the maintenance and management of public toilets through improved lighting, security and more regular cleaning
- That Council combats unsafe/violent behaviour in public places through anti-violence programs and role modelling

- That Council works closely with other levels of government and community sector agencies to coordinate safe and accessible emergency accommodation for young people across the Tweed Shire
- That Council works with the other levels of government and the private sector to encourage provision of affordable housing for young people.

Attachment 1 – Tweed Shire Map



Tweed Shire Council

Attachment 2

TWEED SHIRE YOUTH NEEDS ANALYSIS

A DISCUSSION PAPER

NOVEMBER 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the discussion paper

This discussion paper has been designed to assist in the development of the Tweed Shire Council's Youth Needs Analysis. The Youth Needs Analysis is being developed in response to concerns raised with Council over a lack of facilities and services for young people in the Shire.

Council is seeking to take a planned approach to their role in meeting the needs of young people throughout the Shire. Council's Social Plan identifies youth issues as a high priority, however, at this stage, no comprehensive youth strategy or youth policy exists for the Tweed Shire.

Council has contracted the services of a Plan C and Fieldworx to undertake the youth needs analysis and to make recommendations regarding the potential role Council could play in addressing youth issues. Consideration is to be given to the Shire as a whole.

At this stage Council has limited resources committed to addressing youth issues, however it is intended that the youth needs analysis will help to inform future allocations.

The paper is intended to prompt feedback on ways that Council can do things better in the future.

1.2 Structure of this discussion paper

This discussion paper presents information which reflects comments made by stakeholders including young people, youth and community workers, council staff and other community members. It also includes relevant statistical information about young people in the Tweed Shire.

Each section poses questions for consideration. The final section incorporates the questions posed throughout the document and includes space for your responses.

1.3 Have your say

We encourage you to read this discussion paper in preparation for the focus group meeting scheduled for:

Tuesday 29th November
9.30 – 12.30 (followed by lunch)
At the South Tweed Hall

If you are unable to attend the focus group and still wish to provide feedback to the project team, please forward your responses to info@planc.com.au or send to FIELDWORX, 14 Geelong Street, East Brisbane, 4169.

Written responses are due by Monday 5th December.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

2.1 The project steering committee

A project steering committee has been established by Council to guide the development of the Youth Needs Analysis. The steering committee meets at key points during the project and comprises representatives from Council and community.

2.2 Consultation framework

A framework was developed together with the steering committee to guide the consultation process and the recommendations for action. The framework provides a useful way to identify and address key issues. The six focus areas are:

- Connected and included
- Information and resources
- Learning and work
- Places and spaces
- Safe and secure
- Coordination and leadership

2.3 Consultation with young people

Consultation with young people has occurred in two distinct stages to ensure a breadth and depth of feedback from a wide range of young people living in Tweed:

- Twenty-eight face-to-face surveys were conducted with young people at various locations in South Tweed and Murwillumbah.
- Workshops were also held with young people in Pottsville, Tweed River High School, Lakeside High School, Murwillumbah High School, Kingscliff High School and the Tutorial Centre in Murwillumbah.

2.4 Consultation with other key stakeholders

Other key stakeholders for the project include Council staff, community and youth sector workers, state government workers and other concerned and active residents. Consultation with these stakeholders has included the following approaches:

- Interviews with individuals
- A focus group with people working directly with young people
- A focus group with Council staff

2.5 Multi-stakeholder forum

The multi-stakeholder forum will bring together a range of stakeholders in order to present information collected during the consultation process. The aim of the forum is to identify gaps in information collected to date and to develop key options and recommendations for council's consideration in moving forward.

3. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION FINDINGS

3.1 Defining young people

Young people are generally defined in Australia by local, state and federal governments as being aged 12 to 25 years.

Due to the significant diversity of this age group, the project steering committee has suggested that the Tweed Shire Council strategically focuses its resources and energy on young people aged 12-18 years in the first instance. Young people aged 19-25 are not excluded; however they are a secondary target group.

Have your say

1. How do you feel about Council having a primary focus on 12-18 year olds?
2. What impact do you think the 12-18 year focus will have of on the community?

3.2 Young People in the Tweed Shire

Young people in the Tweed Shire represent 29% of the total population, which is comparable to 34% of the youth representation in the NSW population. The noticeable difference in proportions of young people in Tweed is the lower percentage of 20-24 year olds (3.6%), compared to 6.41% in NSW. This may be due to many young people leaving the Tweed Shire to access greater opportunities to further study or work out of the area after leaving school.

Table 1: Age of young people in Tweed Shire compared to NSW

| Age | Tweed LGA | | New South Wales | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Persons | Percentage | Persons | Percentage |
| 0-4 | 4146 | 5.6% | 422,341 | 6.63% |
| 5-9 | 4930 | 6.6% | 445,983 | 7% |
| 10-14 | 5202 | 7% | 445,026 | 6.98% |
| 15-19 | 4494 | 6% | 436,626 | 6.85% |
| 20-24 | 2,667 | 3.6% | 408,719 | 6.41% |
| Youth Total | 21,439 | 29% | 2,158,695 | 34% |
| Total Population | 74,380 | | 6,371,745 | |

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 2004

The Tweed Shire Council has defined seven Planning Districts that form a unit for analysis for ABS census data. These are:

- **Tweed Heads:** Tweed Heads, Tweed Heads West, Tweed Heads South, Banora Point, Bilambil Heights, Bilambil/Piggabeen, Terranora
- **Rural North Coast:** Chinderah, Fingal, Kingscliff, Cudgen Village, Cabarita/Bogangar, Rural North Coast Balance
- **Rural South coast:** Hastings Pint, Pottsville, Burringbar area
- **Dulguigan / Tumbulgum:** North Tumbulgum, Tumbulgum, Dulguigan, Carool
- **Murwillumbah:** Wardrop Valley, Murwillumbah, Condong
- **Rural South West:** Uki, Stokers siding, Dunbible
- **Rural North West:** Tyalgum, Rural North West Balance, Chillingham

The greatest proportion of young people aged between 10 and 24 is in the Tweed Heads district representing 46% of the Tweed Shire youth total. Rural North Coast and Murwillumbah have the second (17%) and third (15%) highest, respectively, proportion of young people aged 10 to 24 in the Tweed Shire.

Table 2: Distribution of Young People in Tweed Shire: 2001

| Tweed District | 10-14 years | % Tweed youth total | 15-19 years | % Tweed youth total | 20-24 years | % Tweed youth total | Youth Total | % Tweed Youth Total |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Tweed Heads | 2,315 | 19% | 2,038 | 19% | 1,357 | 11% | 5,710 | 46% |
| Rural North Coast | 863 | 7% | 767 | 6% | 487 | 4% | 2,117 | 17% |
| Rural South Coast | 522 | 4% | 393 | 3% | 197 | 2% | 1,112 | 9% |
| Tumbulgum / Dulguigan | 159 | 1% | 148 | 1% | 56 | <1% | 363 | 3% |
| Murwillumbah | 761 | 6% | 728 | 6% | 416 | 3% | 1,905 | 15% |
| Rural South West | 325 | 3% | 251 | 2% | 76 | 1% | 652 | 5% |
| Rural North West | 249 | 2% | 188 | 2% | 87 | 1% | 524 | 4% |
| District Total | 5,194 | 42% | 4,513 | 36% | 2,676 | 22% | 12,383 | |

Source: ABS Data 2001

3.2.1 Indigenous young people

In 2001, 1,867 persons in Tweed Shire identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or both. This represents 2.5% of the Tweed Shire population and 1.6% of the Indigenous population of NSW at that time.

Trends in Australia indicate that the Indigenous Australian population has a considerably younger age structure than that of the general population, as a result from higher fertility rates and lower life expectancy. In 2000, 39% of the Indigenous Australian population were aged 15 years old or under, compared with 20% for the general population. As a consequence, the Indigenous population had a low median age of 20 years, compared to 35 years for the general population (ABS 2002 Year Book Australia catalogue no. 1301.0 2002).

Table 3: Indigenous Young People in Tweed Shire: 2001

| Age | Tweed Shire | % Indigenous Young People | % Total Indigenous Population |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5-9 | 268 | 32% | 14% |
| 10-14 | 240 | 42% | 13% |
| 15-19 | 207 | 36% | 11% |
| 20-24 | 123 | 22% | 7% |
| Total | 838 | 45% | 31% |
| Total Indigenous population | 1867 | | |

Source: ABS Data Community Profile

A significant change has occurred in the age profile of the Indigenous population in the Tweed Shire over the past 15 years. In 2001, young people represent 45% of the total indigenous population in Tweed. The 10-14 age groups have the highest percentage of indigenous young people in Tweed, with 15-19 age groups having the second highest with

36%. The 5-9 age groups have a comparable high percentage of 32%, which is significant to the next 5 years, as they move into the 10-14 age groups, continuing the trend.

Table 4: Indigenous Population in Planning Districts: 2001

| Planning District | District Indigenous Population Total | % Tweed Indigenous Population | % Tweed Population Total | Tweed Population Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Tweed Heads | 934 | 50% | 3% | 36042 |
| Rural Coast A | 469 | 25% | 4% | 12269 |
| Rural Coast B | 105 | 6% | 1.7% | 6089 |
| Tumbulgum/ Dulgiugan | 24 | 1% | 1.5% | 1729 |
| Murwillumbah | 147 | 8% | 2% | 9360 |
| Rural South West | 75 | 4% | 1.6% | 3248 |
| Rural North West | 44 | 2% | 1.6% | 2759 |
| Total | 1798 | 96% | | 74,496 |
| Not counted | 69 | 4% | <1% | |
| Tweed Indigenous Population | 1867 | | 3% | |

Source: ABS Census 2001

3.2.2 Young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

In 2001 Census, 10,636 persons (14.3%) indicated that they had been born overseas, 5.27% of persons in an 'other country' where English is not the main language. Since the 1991-1996 Census, the proportion of persons born in the 'main English Speaking Countries' has decreased and the proportion of persons from 'other countries' has increased. Due to this there has been an increase in languages other than English spoken at home, resulting in a greater proportion of people in the Tweed Shire who identify as culturally and linguistically diverse. The most common 'other language' spoken is German, Dutch and Italian. Of those born overseas and who spoke a language other than English, 249 people (10%), reported they spoke English 'not well / not at all'. (Community Profile, p.32).

3.3 Population projections

Based on the projections in the table below, the Tweed Shire population of children and young people 24 years and younger will be 25,811 in 2026.

Table 5: Tweed Shire actual and predicted populations of young people 2001 – 2026

| Age Group | 2001 Actual | 2011 Predicted | 2026 Predicted |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0-4 | 4146 | 4160 | 4956 |
| 5-9 | 4930 | 4897 | 5662 |
| 10-14 | 5202 | 5425 | 6028 |
| 15-19 | 4494 | 5036 | 5457 |
| 20-24 | 2667 | 3364 | 3708 |
| Total | 21,439 | 22,882 | 25811 |

Source: Based on data from Hunter Valley Research Foundation for DPINR 2003

4. SIX KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR ACTION

The following section identifies key issues raised by stakeholders during the consultation as well as relevant quantitative data as it relates to the six focus areas for action.

In the main young people identified the best things about living in Tweed as:

- Beach and surf
- Friends
- Skate parks
- Climate and environment
- Small friendly town atmosphere
- Shops

Young people identified the worst aspects of living in Tweed as being:

- Gangs and related violence
- Lack of facilities and events for young people
- Distance to get to places
- Homeless people /
- People under the influence of drugs and alcohol
- Tourists and development
- Unsafe in streets at night
- Homeless people
- Older people
- Unclean public toilets
- Nothing to do at night
- Transport problems

Connected and included

Young people in Tweed feel included and connected with their community when they are with their friends / at parties, at the beach, school, at the shops and being involved in sport and community events. These experiences were similar for both young men and young women. The ways, in which these experiences were made positive included being around friends, meeting new people, having a good time, and experiencing new cultures.

Table 6: Ways in which young people feel connected and included

| Male | Female |
|---|---|
| Feel connected/included when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With friends • At the beach • At the shops • At school • At church • At work • Involved in sport • Involved in community activities & events | Feel connected/included when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involved in community activities & events • With friends & nice people • Doing things for charity • When have input • Involved in sport • At the beach • At the shops • At church / Youth Group • Small, friendly community |

Source: Results from workshops, Nov 2005

Key issues identified by young people and community

- Being with friends makes young people feel safe and connected
- The familiar feeling of a small town helps young people to feel connected

- When young people feel most connected they are involved in organised activities such as festivals, sports, church etc
- Many young people felt they were judged by older people
- Young people identified that they often do not know if an event or activity is being planned

Have your say

3. Are there any other significant issues that need to be considered in supporting young people to feel connected to and included in their community?

4. What is Council already doing to connect young people to the community?

5. Do you have any suggestions for Councils can be more proactive in connecting young people and their community?

Information and resources

Approximately 60% of young people aged 10 -19 years living in Tweed have a computer at home. However, young people aged 20 to 24 years are less likely to have a computer at home (37%).

In 2001, only 26% of the Tweed population as a whole used the internet.

Table 7: Computer use at home in Tweed Shire

| Age Group | Uses a Computer At home | % | Does not use A computer at home | % | Not stated | % | Total persons |
|------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--|------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 10-14 years | 3,230 | 62% | 1,860 | 36% | 112 | 2% | 5,202 |
| 15-19 years | 2,641 | 59% | 1,751 | 39% | 102 | 2% | 4,494 |
| 20-24 years | 997 | 37% | 1,577 | 59% | 93 | 3% | 2,667 |
| Total | 6,868 | 56% | 5,188 | 42% | 307 | 2% | 12,363 |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

Table 8: Internet access and use in Tweed Shire

| Place of Internet Use | Person | Percentage of Total of people |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| At Home | 12,132 | 16% |
| At work | 1,825 | 2% |
| Elsewhere | 2,253 | 3% |
| At home & work | 2,130 | 3% |
| At home & elsewhere | 796 | 1% |
| At work & elsewhere | 55 | <1% |
| At home & work & elsewhere | 137 | <1% |
| Total of internet users | 19,328 | 26% |
| Did not use the internet | 52,109 | 70% |
| Not stated | 2,384 | 3% |
| Overseas visitors | 559 | 1% |
| Total of people | 74,380 | |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

Key issues identified by young people and community

- Parents often filter information to their sons and daughters from mainstream media such as television, newspapers and the Tweed Link
- Friends are a key source of information for young people
- Many young people with computer access found information via the internet, and as many young people considered the internet as a good source of information
- Many young people do not know when events and other activities are on

Have your say

6. Are there any other significant issues that need to be considered in relation to information and resources for young people?

7. What role does Council currently play in information provision to the broader community and young people?

8. Do you have any suggestion for Council's role in addressing information and resources for young people?

Learning and work

The percentage of the youth population (15-19) in Tweed working full-time is significantly less than the state average by over 13%. However the percentage of young people in this age cohort working part-time is 10% higher than the New South Wales.

Of concern is the variance between the next age group (20-24 years). The percentage of unemployed young people living in Tweed is over 22%. This is 11% higher than the average for New South Wales. Interestingly, the rate of full-time work remains lower for this age group and part-time work continues to be higher than the state average.

Of the young people employed in the Tweed Shire, the majority are employed in retail, accommodation, cafés and restaurants (ABS 2001).

Table 9: Labour Force Status by age in Tweed and New South Wales

| 15-19 year age group | Labour Force Participation | Full Time Work | Part Time Work | Unemployed | Total Young People Aged 15-19 Years |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Tweed | 52.4% | 21.3% | 53.6% | 20.4% | 4,494 |
| New South Wales | 82.2% | 34% | 43.5% | 17.8% | 436,626 |

| 20-24 year age group | Labour Force Participation | Full Time Work | Part Time Work | Unemployed | Total Young People Aged 20-24 Years |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Tweed | 76.4% | 44.3% | 30.5% | 22.3% | 2,667 |
| New South Wales | 87.1% | 60.4% | 23% | 11.3% | 408,719 |

Source: ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing

More than two thirds of the 15 to 19 year olds living in Tweed earn less than \$200 per week. Less than half the 20 to 24 year olds earn between \$200 and \$499 per week. The most significant difference in income between young people living in Tweed and the rest of the state occurs for young people aged 20 to 24 years earning between \$500 and \$999. In Tweed this represents 17% of the youth population compared to the rest of the state where nearly 30% of young people in this age cohort earn between \$500 and \$999 (ABS 2001)

Tweed Shire Youth unemployment in 2001 was 16-20%, whereas the state average was 8-10%. From 1996-2001, unemployment and full-time employment declined and part-time employment and university attendance increased for the 15-24 year age group. During these years, there was 32% full-time employment for the 20-24 year age group. (Community Safety & Crime Prevention Strategy, p.5)

Of the Shires unemployed people, the highest number of young unemployed people live in Tweed Heads, however the highest percentage of unemployed young people under 18 live in Murwillumbah.

12.7% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over were unemployed, compared to 5.8% of persons 15 years or over in the general population who were unemployed (Tweed Shire Council Community Profile).

Table 10: Unemployment Rates for Young People (aged 15-18 year & 19-25 year age groups) in Tweed Shire Districts

| Tweed Shire District | Unemployed 15-18 year age group | % of Shire's total Unemployed Population | Unemployed 19-25 year age group | % of Shire's Total Unemployed Population | Total of Shire's Unemployed Population | Unemployment Rate of Shire's Total Population |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Tweed Heads | 232 | 14% | 219 | 14% | 1,610 | 11.8% |
| Rural North Coast | 75 | 12% | 97 | 15% | 645 | 14.2% |
| Rural South Coast | 24 | 8% | 42 | 13% | 315 | 13.8% |
| Dulguigan / Tumbulgum | 12 | 14% | 9 | 10% | 88 | 10.6% |
| Murwillumbah | 86 | 21% | 50 | 12% | 406 | 11.4% |
| Rural South West | 30 | 12% | 24 | 10% | 251 | 19.5% |
| Rural North West | 9 | 7% | 9 | 7% | 138 | 12% |

Source: ABS 2001 Census

In 2001, 21% of persons in Tweed were enrolled in some form of educational institution. The Tweed Shire had 1% of its population attending a Tertiary Institution compared to 4.5% for NSW. (Community Profile, p. 41)

Table 11: Attendance at Educational Institutions in 2001

| | Secondary School | TAFE | Tertiary Institutions | Other Institutions | Total |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Attendance Rate of 12-24 year olds | 4910 | 1588 | 972 | 390 | 7860 |

Source: Tweed Shire Social Plan 2002-2—5, p.32

Over half the population aged 15 years or older does not have a post-school qualification. The most prevalent post-school qualification for people living in Tweed is a certificate.

Table 12: Post School Qualification, 2001

| Qualification Type | Persons Aged 15 years and over | Percentage (%) of Tweed Shire Total |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Postgraduate Degree | 362 | 0.6% |
| Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate | 526 | 0.8% |
| Bachelor Degree | 2960 | 4.9% |
| Advanced Diploma/Diploma | 2890 | 4.8% |
| Certificate | 10654 | 18% |
| Not Stated | 7917 | 13% |
| No Qualification Type | 34234 | 57% |
| Total: | 59543 | |

Source: ABS Census 2001, Tweed Community Profile 1999

Key issues identified by young people and community

- Some young people have specific work and education goals, others are not sure what they want to do
- The majority of young people believe they will need to leave Tweed to further their education
- Employment options are particularly limited if young people do not have their own transport
- There is very little part-time work available for young people living in inland communities
- There are limited alternative schooling options for young people who do not fit into mainstream school

Have your say

9. What other significant issues need to be considered regarding employment, training and education for young people?

10. What is Council currently doing to address education, training and employment issues for young people?

11. Do you have any suggestions for the role Councils could play in addressing education, training and employment for young people?

Places and spaces

Results from workshops and surveys from young people in Tweed revealed the most popular places and spaces that young men and women used and like to hang out. The places that the respondents hung out at were the beach, skate park, local pool, shops/mall, cinemas and friends houses. Young people commented why they liked a particular place/space and what

made it a 'good place to be.' Most often, places were popular because they attract a lot a young people that make it fun and interesting and that their friends were with them.

Other ways in which a place was good was that they felt safe, it was fun or relaxing, a places had a good atmosphere and views, it was free, had air-conditioning/cool and they felt comfortable and welcomed by people around them.

Table 13: Places and spaces that young people go

| Area in Tweed | Male | Female |
|---------------|---|--|
| Sth Tweed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach • Friend's places • Home • Movies • Others (gym, parties, jetty/bridge, shopping centre) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friend's places • Beach • Shops • Movies • Others (Home, skate park, pool, bowling centre, work, river youth centre) |
| Lakeside | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach/pool • Shops • Home • Bike jumps • Others (street, sport, parks, church, parties) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall/shops • Home • Beach • Movies • Others (friends house, youth/church group, Tweed City) |
| Kingscliff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach • Hang at home • Cabarita skate park • Others (friend's house, main street, surf club, bike jumps) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach • Friend's houses • Shops/shopping centre • Others (home, creek/river, r a street, gym, skate park) • |

Source: Results from workshop, Nov. 2005

Table 14: Results from surveys – Places and spaces that young people use

| Area in Tweed | Male | Female |
|---------------|---|--|
| Tweed Sth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach • Mates house • The Mall • Home | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach • Shops • Friends house • Coolies skate park /parks • Others (home, parties) |
| M'Bah | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends place Skate park / parks • Home • Street spots • Others (beach, sports games, school, parties) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movies • Friends house • Mall • Beach |

Source: Results from Surveys, Oct 2005

Key issues identified by young people and community

- There is a lack of safe places for young people to access at night
- Young women tend to hang-out with friends at shopping centres or at home
- Young men tend to hang-out at the beach or skate park with friends
- Young people find it difficult to access places and spaces due to transport difficulties
- Increase in 'Doof' parties and unsafe drug and alcohol use

Council provides a variety of parks, sport and community facilities in Tweed Shire. These include Parks & Gardens, Public Pools, Libraries, Museums, Sports Fields & Associated Facilities, Skate Parks, Cycle ways/Footpaths. Often a various compatible facilities are provided within one recreational area. Attachment one details these facilities.

Have your say

12. What other significant issues need to be considered in relation to spaces and places?

13. What other things are Council doing in relation to spaces and places?

14. Do you have any suggestions for Council's role in places and spaces for young people?

Safe and secure

In 2001-2002, of the juvenile criminal offences that occurred in the Tweed Shire 38 were juveniles who attended a final court appearance. The most common offence was theft and related offences, road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences. Since the introduction of a formal legislated police warning and cautioning procedure in 1998, there has been a decrease in the Children's Court appearances of almost 40% (Source: Dept. of Juvenile Justice Annual Report 2002-2003, Community Profile, p.79)

In Tweed, the two highest offences resulting in finalised court appearances were Acts Intended to cause injury (29%) and Theft and related offences (29%). Illicit drug-use offences were 8% of Tweed's total youth court appearances, compared to 3% of NSW, which could indicate a significant number of Tweed young people are more likely to use illicit drugs and possibly under-age alcohol usage. The proportions of young people offences are comparable to those in the total NSW youth offences, with the highest being for Theft & related offences (28%). The second highest proportion of offences in NSW was Acts Intended to cause injury (19%).

Table 15: Finalised Court Appearances of Youth aged 10-17 in Tweed and NSW 2001-2002

| Type of Offence | Tweed | % Of total | % NSW total | NSW | % Of total |
|---|-------|------------|-------------|-------|------------|
| Acts intended to cause injury | 11 | 29% | >1% | 1,574 | 19% |
| Robbery, extortion & related offences | 0 | 0% | 0% | 744 | 9% |
| Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break & enter | 0 | 0% | 0% | 830 | 10% |
| Theft & related offences | 11 | 29% | >1% | 2,339 | 28% |
| Illicit drug offences | 3 | 8% | >1% | 227 | 3% |
| Property damage & environmental pollution | 0 | 0% | 0% | 499 | 6% |
| Public order offences | 0 | 0% | 0% | 858 | 10% |
| Road traffic & motor vehicle regulatory offences | 8 | 21% | >1% | 343 | 4% |
| Offences against justice procedures gov't security & gov't operations | 0 | 0% | 0% | 492 | 6% |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|-----|-------|----|
| Other offences | 0 | 0% | 0% | 442 | 5% |
| Total | 38 | | >1% | 8,348 | |

Source: ABS data, Community Profile

From 1995 to 2003, the rate of assault against children and young people was consistently at least twice as high as for any other offence. In 2003, the proportion of the rate of assault against children and young people (67%) compared with sexual assault (24%), robbery (9%) and kidnapping/abduction (1%).

Table 16: Victims of reported offences against young people aged 0-17, NSW 1995 – 2003 (rate per 100,000)

| NSW | 1995 | % | 2000 | % | 2003 | % |
|------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Murder | 0.6 | >1% | 0.8 | >1% | 0.8 | >1% |
| Manslaughter | 0 | 0 | 0.3 | >1% | 0 | 0 |
| Attempted murder | 0.4 | >1% | 0.8 | >1% | 1.1 | >1% |
| Driving causing death | 0 | 0 | 0.7 | >1% | 0.2 | >1% |
| Kidnapping / abduction | 5 | 1% | 9.7 | >1% | 9.1 | 1% |
| Robbery | 57.6 | 11% | 146.1 | 15% | 91 | 9% |
| Assault | 324.1 | 60% | 602 | 61% | 698.2 | 67% |
| Sexual assault | 150.5 | 28% | 229.7 | 23% | 247.6 | 24% |
| Total | 538.2 | | 990.1 | | 1,048 | |

Source: ABS, Recorded Crime collection (unpublished data)

Key issues identified by young people and community

- Young people, particularly young women do not feel safe in public toilets and are concerned regarding their cleanliness
- Young people feel unsafe in public space at night. This is compounded by a limited police presence and lack of lighting
- Young people feel safe at home, at school and with friends or in a group
- Young people feel safe in places where they know people
- A culture of hitch-hiking exists in response to limited public transport availability and high costs

Have your say

15. What other significant issues need to be considered in terms of young people's safety and security?

16. What is council already doing to keep young people safe and secure?

17. Do you have any suggestions for Councils role in addressing safety and security?

Coordination and leadership

The majority of young people consulted showed little knowledge or understanding of what Council does for the community and young people.

In the main the young people consulted were under 18 years of age and therefore not old enough to vote. Many had indicated that they planned to enrol to vote when they were 18. They indicated that they aimed to become more interested and involved in community decision-making.

Key issues identified by young people and community

- Young people have little knowledge or understanding about what Council does
- Some young people believe that Council's primary focus is on information provision
E.g. swimming pools and skate parks
- Council's plays a limited role in supporting the networking of community youth agencies, though this may be changing

Council's current role in this area

Have your say
 18. What other significant issues need to be considered in relation to coordination and leadership?

 19. What leadership or coordination functions does council play in relation to young people?

 20. Do you have any suggestions for Councils role in coordination and leadership?

HAVE YOUR SAY – If you are unable to attend the focus group on the 29th November, and still wish to provide feedback to the project team, please forward your responses to info@planc.com.au or send to FIELDWORX, 14 Geelong Street, East Brisbane, 4169. Written responses are due by Monday 5th December.

1. How do you feel about Council having a primary focus on 12-18 year olds?

2. What impact do you think the 12-18 year focus will have of on the community?

3. Are there any other significant issues that need to be considered in supporting young people to feel connected to and included in their community?

4. What is Council already doing to connect young people to the community?

5. Do you have any suggestions for Councils can be more proactive in connecting young people and their community?

6. Are there any other significant issues that need to be considered in relation to information and resources for young people?

7. What role does Council currently play in information provision to the broader community and young people?

8. Do you have any suggestion for Council's role in addressing information and resources for young people?

9. What other significant issues need to be considered regarding employment, training and education for young people?

10. What is Council currently doing to address education, training and employment issues for young people?

11. Do you have any suggestions for the role Councils could play in addressing education, training and employment for young people?

12. What other significant issues need to be considered in relation to spaces and places?

13. What other things are Council doing in relation to spaces and places?

14. Do you have any suggestions for Councils role in places and spaces for young people?

15. What other significant issues need to be considered in terms of young people's safety and security?

16. What is council already doing to keep young people safe and secure?

17. Do you have any suggestions for Councils role in addressing safety and security?

18. What other significant issues need to be considered in relation to coordination and leadership?

19. What leadership or coordination functions does council play in relation to young people?

20. Do you have any suggestions for Councils role in coordination and leadership?

21. Do you have any other comments?

Appendix One: Council facilities

Parks and Gardens:

- Tweed Regional Botanic Gardens
- Numerous local parks are provided in each suburb with playgrounds, seating, BBQs, picnic tables, shade structures, bins, drinking fountains etc.

Public Pools:

- Kingscliff Pool, Cudgen Road, Kingscliff
- Murwillumbah Pool, Queens Street, Murwillumbah
- Tweed Heads Pool, Sunshine Avenue, Tweed Heads
- Tweed Valley Pool, Eviron Road, Tweed Valley

Libraries:

- Kingscliff Branch Public Library, Turnock Street, Kingscliff
- Murwillumbah Area Public Library, Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah
- Tweed Heads Public Library, Breet Street, Tweed Heads

Tweed River Regional Museums at:

- Murwillumbah, 2 Queensland Road, Murwillumbah
- Tweed Heads, Pioneer Park, Kennedy Drive, Tweed Heads
- Uki & South Arm, Norco Road, Uki

Sports Fields:

- Arkinstall Park, South Tweed Heads
- Banora Green, Darlington Drive, Banora
- Barry Smith Fields, Murwillumbah
- Bilambil Sports Fields & Equestrian Grounds
- Burringbar (Tom O'Connor) Sports Field
- Casuarina Sports Field
- Cudgen Community Land
- Reg Dalton & Merve Edwards Fields
- Jim Devine Queens Park, Murwillumbah
- Knox Park, Murwillumbah
- Les Burger Field, Cabarita Beach
- Piggabeen Sports Complex
- Pottsville Memorial Oval
- John Rabjones/Les Cave Oval
- Seabreeze Sports Field
- St. Joseph's College, Banora Point
- Stan Sercombe Oval
- Dave Burns / Ron Wilkinson, South Tweed
- Tumbulgum – Breckenridge Field
- Tweed Heads Recreation Ground
- Uki Sports Field
- Willard Park
- Walter Peate Field

Skate Parks:

- Cabarita Beach Skate Park, Cabarita & Les Burger Sports Field
- Knox Park Skate Park, Murwillumbah

Attachment 3 – Services and Facilities for Young People in Tweed Shire

Community based services for young people

The following list of agencies work with young people in the Tweed Shire. These service providers were identified by community and youth sector agencies at the focus group meeting. It does not include the services provided specifically by Council and is not intended to be a comprehensive list.

- The Family Centre Community Projects
- Reconnect
- St Josephs Community Centre
- St Josephs Youth Support Services
- Health
 - Youth health Liaison
 - Sexual health Clinic
 - Sexual Assault Service
 - Youth & Family (mental health)
 - Bugulwena (Aboriginal Health)
 - NSP
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Community Services
- Smith Family
- The Buttery
- Centrelink
- Youth Enterprise Service (Links to Learning)
- Tweed Shire Women's Service
- Department of Education (Head Teacher Welfare, District Guidance Officer's)
- JPET
- City Christian Church Kingscliff
- OnTrack