

South Gippsland Shire Council

YOUTH STRATEGY

2019 - 2023



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

South Gippsland Shire Council

YOUTH STRATEGY

2019 - 2023

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Vision	2
Background & Statistics	3

THEMES

Consultation Statements	5
THEME 1 - Environment	6
THEME 2 - Advocacy & Representation	7
THEME 3 - Health & Wellbeing	8
THEME 4 - Participation	9
Community	10
What young people say	11
Acknowledgements	12



INTRODUCTION

The South Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2017 - 2021 identified a need to develop a Youth Strategy to aid in determining the needs of young people (*people aged between 12 and 25*) in South Gippsland, and to assist young people to have a voice regarding matters that affect them.

South Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective 2 - *'Build strong partnerships, strengthen Arts and Culture and deliver equitable outcomes'*.

Item 2.7 - *Develop and implement a Youth Strategy to determine the needs of young people and assist them to have a voice regarding matters that affect them.*

For Council, the Youth Strategy will assist in providing direction when considering opportunities to support, engage and include young people.

For young people in South Gippsland, the Strategy outlines ways in which they can participate in civic life, and have a voice regarding matters that affect them.

For the broader South Gippsland community the strategy provides information on what is important to young people, and the ways they can support young people to achieve their goals.

VISION

South Gippsland Shire Council recognises 'Young people of all abilities have an important contribution to make to the civic, social, economic, recreational and cultural life of South Gippsland. The future wellbeing of the community is assisted by retaining and attracting young people to the district, and by encouraging young people to feel valued as community members. (C46 - South Gippsland Youth Policy, 2017 - 2021).

The vision for South Gippsland, expressed by the South Gippsland Shire Council is that **'South Gippsland will be a place where our quality of life and sense of community are balanced by sustainable and sensitive development, population and economic growth'** (South Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2017 - 2021).

Young people in South Gippsland also have a vision for how they live in South Gippsland.

Young people in South Gippsland are valued, respected and supported.

We are safe, informed of issues that affect us, and free to make decisions on these issues.

We are able to grow and thrive in an environment that is clean, sustainable and offers opportunities for the future.

DEVELOPING THE SOUTH GIPPSLAND YOUTH STRATEGY

Nothing about us, without us

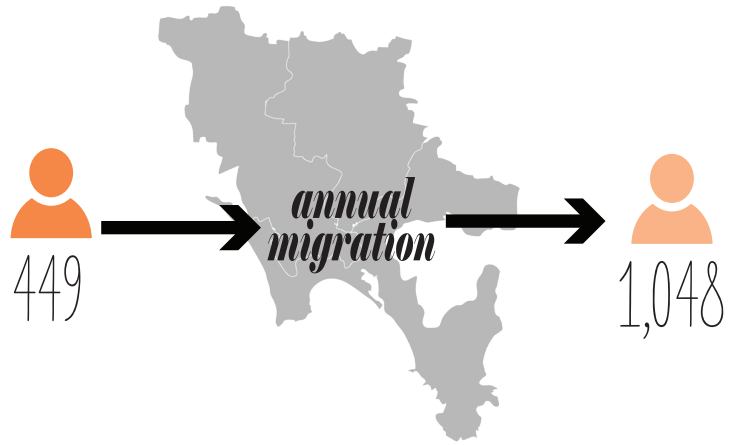
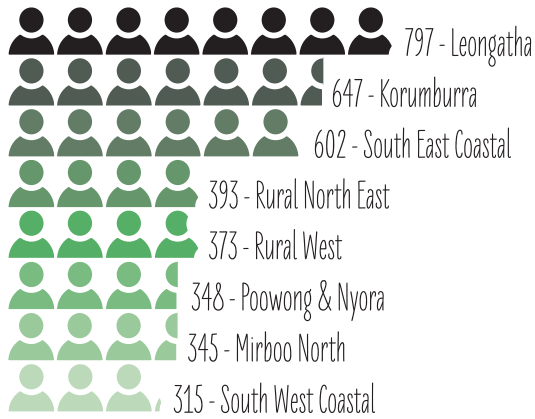
The South Gippsland Youth Strategy has been developed through principles of co-design and has sought the voice of young people at every opportunity. The development of the South Gippsland Youth Strategy has been informed by views expressed by young people in South Gippsland, through face to face consultation, online communication, surveys and forums. Over 200 young people have provided input to this Strategy.

We would like to thank the young people who gave their time to develop this Strategy, the young people who attended forums, answered surveys, welcomed us at schools, and social activities, and formed committees to give their input.

BACKGROUND AND STATISTICS

Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census Statistics (2013)

 3,817 young people in South Gippsland

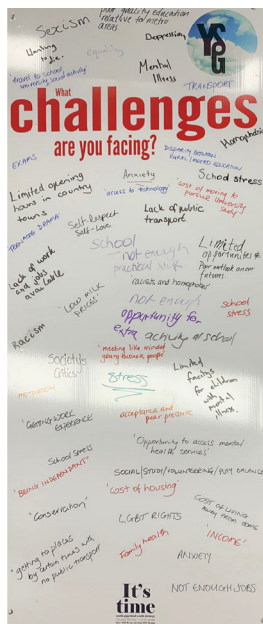


CONSULTATION 2017 - 2019

- YLAB (Foundation for Young Australians) x 2 Design Workshops (Mirboo North & Leongatha)
- Secondary Colleges across South Gippsland
- Community Festivals and Events
- Paper surveys collected by South Gippy FReeZA
- Group Discussions - South Gippsland FReeZA and Youth Reference Group
- Online Survey (OURSAY)

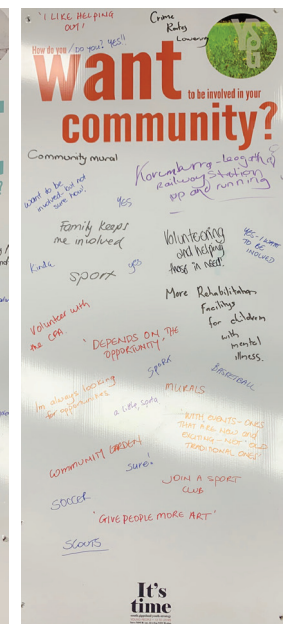
84.1% 15 - 25 years + engaged in education or work

In Regional Victoria
45% of the population aged 15+ hold education qualifications compared to **44%** In South Gippsland



THE QUESTIONS YOUNG PEOPLE WERE ASKED

- What issues are important to you? (Wide view)
- What challenges are you facing? (Personal view)
- What is great about where you live? (Local view)
- Do you want to be involved in your community?



ABBREVIATIONS

SGSC	South Gippsland Shire Council
YACVIC	Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
L2P	Learner to Probationary Driver Program
FReeZA	Youth Music and Events Program
CS	Community Strengthening Department
CI	Community Information
SP	Social Planner
ED&T	Economic Development and Tourism
MP	Major Projects
BREC	Building & Recreation Assets
SUS	Sustainability

REFERENCES

YACVIC Code of Ethical Practice
 Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2021 (SGSC)
 C46 - South Gippsland Youth Policy, 2017 - 2021 (SGSC)
 Mission Australia Youth Survey - 2018
 Community Strengthening Strategy, 2018 - 2022 (SGSC)
 Art, Culture & Creative Industry, 2017 - 2021 (SGSC)
 South Gippsland Shire Council Plan, 2017 - 2021 (SGSC)

THEMES



ENVIRONMENT

Young people in South Gippsland are able to grow and thrive in an environment that is clean, sustainable and offers opportunity for the future.



ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

Young people in South Gippsland are safe, informed of issues that affect them, and free to make decisions on these issues.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Young people in South Gippsland are valued, respected and supported.



PARTICIPATION

South Gippsland offers all young people opportunities for the future.



COMMUNITY

Young people want to be involved in their community - they have the ability, give them opportunity.

PARTICIPATION

South Gippsland needs to ensure it is a region that young people would want to return to. The region experiences a large migration out each year, where young people leave to pursue education, employment and social interaction.

This is not something the Strategy should aim to decrease, as it is important that young people find ways to realise their ambitions, however the Strategy should help make South Gippsland an attractive place to stay or return to.

Young people indicate they would consider returning to South Gippsland to raise a family, however the perception is the cost of living, accessibility of transport, education and career opportunities limit their ability to do so.

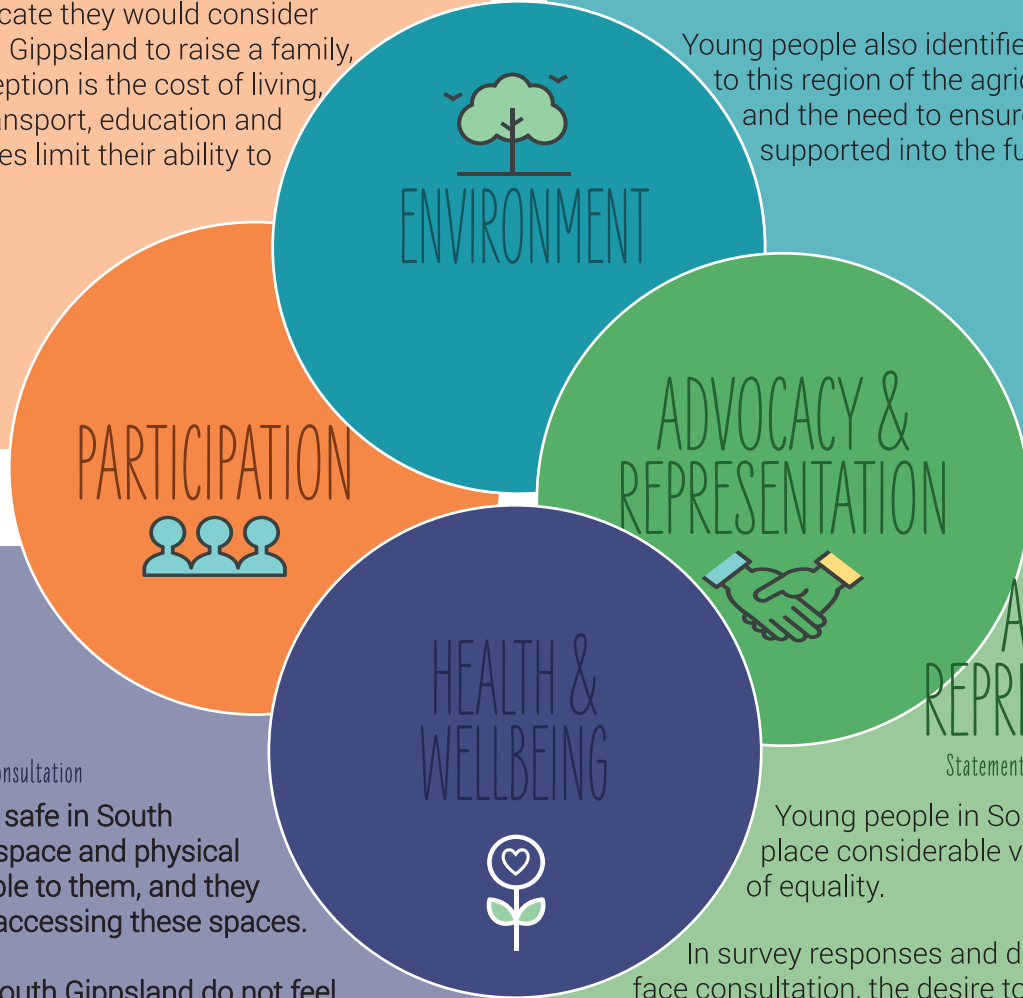
ENVIRONMENT

Concern for and connection to the environment has emerged as the number one issue that young people identified during the consultation period for this strategy.

The most consistent responses to the question 'What is great about where you live?' were based around the environment and young people's connection to it.

The rating of 'environment' as high is indicative of current global debate and discussion around environment, climate and sustainability.

Young people also identified the importance to this region of the agricultural sector, and the need to ensure this sector is supported into the future.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Young people feel safe in South Gippsland. Open space and physical activity are available to them, and they feel secure when accessing these spaces.

Young people in South Gippsland do not feel they have equitable access to mental health services, sexual health services and family / physical violence information as their peers in metropolitan / larger regional centres.

Young people indicate their personal challenges to be the future cost of living, educational achievement and social interaction. While bullying is often highlighted by adults as a concern, it appears less often than school stress, and anxiety over sustaining themselves when leaving home or care.

ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

Young people in South Gippsland place considerable value on the ideal of equality.

In survey responses and during face to face consultation, the desire to ensure that opportunities were available to everyone and that no-one was excluded based on race, gender, religion, ability or sexual orientation was a constant thread.

There is also a perception amongst young people in South Gippsland that opportunities for regional / rural young people are limited. They see that access to services provided as a minimum to those in metropolitan areas, are simply not available to them.

Many of these services (health, transport, education) are provided at a State or Federal level, so the ability for local government to advocate for them is vital - but young people are not aware of what is being done, or indeed who their advocates might be.



Young people in South Gippsland are able to grow and thrive in an environment that is clean, sustainable and offers opportunities for the future.

Goal: To care for and preserve our natural resources and environment

Benefit: The diversity of the South Gippsland environment, its forests, farms, hills and sea is maintained for future generations.

WHAT CAN COUNCIL DO?

ENCOURAGE A YOUTH APPROACH	WHEN
Ensure young people have opportunities to present to Council on environment and sustainability issues.	Year 1
ENSURE A WHOLE OF COUNCIL APPROACH	WHEN
Continue to ensure the Sustainability Strategy 2016 - 2020 is supported.	Ongoing
Ensure Council projects consider environmental impacts when being developed.	Ongoing
Actively seek to use products that are environmentally sustainable.	Ongoing
Encourage business and industry to consider sustainable and ethical production and products.	Year 1
Provide options for communities to better dispose of waste products.	Ongoing
Support our agricultural sector to ensure its sustainability into the future.	Ongoing
SUPPORT INNOVATION	WHEN
Consider an environmental fund for innovative youth ideas.	Year 2
Support communities and business to develop innovative ideas that encourage environmental awareness and sustainable practices.	Year 2

WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE DO?

Present to Council on issues of environmental importance.

Keep informed of local and global environmental issues.

Encourage peers to be environmentally aware.

Actively seek opportunities to volunteer.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

What issues are important to you?

'People don't see farmers as important' **Hayden**
'Water quality, environmental issues and pollution'
Hayley

What challenges are you facing?

'The care and preservation of our natural resources and environmental impacts' **Jemma**
'Low milk prices' **Zac**

What is great about where you live?

'Great countryside, opportunities, local produce' **Ella**
'The community support, the landscape and forests, wildlife' **Alexandra**

ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION



Young people in South Gippsland are safe, informed of issues that affect them, and free to make decisions on these issues.

Goal: Young people in South Gippsland are represented and supported to represent themselves and their peers.
Benefit: Young people are socially responsible and contribute to creating a safe and informed community.

WHAT CAN COUNCIL DO?

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTED

WHEN

Maintain relationship with the peak body for Victorian young people (YACVic)	Ongoing
Advocate to State and Federal Government for equal access to opportunities for young people in regional areas.	Ongoing
Provide opportunities for leadership & community engagement skills development.	Year 2
Actively seek funding for youth programs & activities.	Year 1
Provide opportunities for young people to contribute to decision making and the development of policy, programs and initiatives that affect them and their community.	Year 2

PROMOTE DIVERSITY & EQUALITY

WHEN

Ensure Council upholds its Human Rights Policy 2017 - 2021 (C52)	Ongoing
Make every effort to ensure Council is representative of all people when making decisions.	Ongoing
Consult with and acknowledge the diversity of young people and their needs when making decisions that affect young people.	Year 1

EQUITY IN EDUCATION

WHEN

Engage with Secondary Colleges in South Gippsland to encourage participation by young people in the delivery of this Strategy.	Year 1
Advocate for the provision of quality services including education, training, social and cultural services and employment opportunities.	Year 2
Work with service providers, youth agencies and community organisations to improve access by young people to relevant information that supports their participation in education and training.	Year 3
Consider ways to support young people who may be disadvantaged by leaving South Gippsland to pursue further education.	Year 2

EQUITY IN EMPLOYMENT

WHEN

Investigate the future world of work, to assist young people with future career opportunities.	Year 1
Work with Business Associations to develop opportunities for young people locally.	Year 2
Better promote Council as an employer.	Year 2

WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE DO?

Present to Council on issues of equal representation

Consider creating events that promote inclusivity and social cohesion

Seek opportunities to volunteer with community organisations to promote inclusivity

Actively participate in the democratic process where available to ensure a youth voice is represented.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

What issues are important to you?

'Basic human needs, equality, poverty' **Abigail**

'Gender equality, fairness, mental health, environment and poverty' **Courtney**

What challenges are you facing?

'Inequality, racism, lack of work / jobs' **Gori**

'Access to local TAFE courses, especially pre-apprenticeships' **Hudson**

What is great about where you live?

'The people and the community' **Brooklyn**

'The people in the community. The amount of part time work available' **Laura**

Attachment 3.1.1

HEALTH & WELLBEING



Young people in South Gippsland are valued, respected and supported.

Goal: Young people in South Gippsland have access to health and wellbeing services and spaces.

Benefit: Young people in South Gippsland are healthier, have the opportunity to access health services as required and are safe to do so.

WHAT CAN COUNCIL DO?

ACCESS TO SERVICES

WHEN

Advocate for greater access to mental, sexual and general health services for young people.

Year 1

Continue to ensure the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2021 (SGSC) includes services for young people.

Ongoing

Consider impacts of social policy in isolated townships and rural districts where services are limited or not available.

Year 2

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

WHEN

Investigate how to assist young people to access free or low cost spaces to study, share and get the information they need.

Year 1

Investigate establishment of youth friendly spaces in any community hub proposals.

Year 2 - 4

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

WHEN

Work with the YMCA and other youth program providers to attract programs for young people that support mental health as well as physical health.

Year 2

Maintain recreation spaces that can be accessed by young people.

Ongoing

Support provision of physical activity that does not fall into 'traditional' sporting avenues.

Year 2

Involve young people in achieving Council's Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy 2017 - 2021 (SGSC)

Year 1

WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE DO?

Work with Council to develop priorities for youth health and wellbeing

Advise Council on current health and wellbeing problems / crises

Encourage young people to participate in social, recreation activities that support good health practices, including mental health.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

What issues are important to you?

'Ability to use public transport. Opportunities for activities on weekends and holidays' **Laura**

'Activities in the area which aren't sport or alcohol based' **Georgia**

What challenges are you facing?

'Social / Study / Volunteering / Play balance' **Jayden**

'School is stressful, worried about how I will afford to live when going to Uni, sexualisation and harrasment by males, mental health' **Lizzie**

What is great about where you live?

'I'm safe' **Jack**

'Having a strong community based town, where problems are solved for the people. Healthy environments and school community. Increasing access to more and more opportunities' **Isla**

South Gippsland offers all young people opportunities for the future.



Goal: All young people in South Gippsland are provided equal opportunity to participate in our community. Social cohesion, connectedness, reduction of isolation and overall community wellbeing is enhanced when all people are able to access all opportunities.

Benefit: Increased participation in community by young people reduces social isolation and increases community well-being. Young people are supported to stay in the community if they choose to do so, and South Gippsland is a viable option to return to later in life.

WHAT CAN COUNCIL DO?

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES

WHEN

Investigate barriers to participation and build responses that will mitigate these barriers.	Year 1
Investigate the development of a Youth Grant stream from existing Community Grant funds.	Year 2
Work with community organisations to provide opportunities for young people that are relevant to young people and meet the needs of the organisation.	Year 2
Actively seek funding opportunities from State, Federal and Philanthropic bodies to develop youth specific programs (e.g. FReeZA).	Ongoing

ADVOCATE FOR TRANSPORT

WHEN

Identify barriers to transport and work with agencies to develop programs to overcome barriers.	Year 1
Continue to seek funding for youth oriented transport programs (e.g. L2P).	Ongoing
Advocate for improved transport services, particularly access to tertiary study in Gippsland.	Year 2
Identify transport issues in isolated areas and investigate community programs that may assist young people to access transport in these areas.	Year 3

KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE INFORMED

WHEN

Work with young people to develop a South Gippsland Youth Portal, with information on Council, links to agencies, information on careers, Government Policy and opportunities for Community involvement.	Year 1
Support youth consultative networks (both geographic and special interest) established through consultation with young people.	Year 2

COST OF LIVING

WHEN

Advocate for improved assistance for young people leaving regional areas for work or study.	Year 2
Work with community and business organisations to develop ways to support young people returning to or settling in the South Gippsland region.	Year 3

WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE DO?

Act as mentors to other young people from South Gippsland, share knowledge, information and tips.

Be ambassadors for South Gippsland.

Provide advice to community organisations on the barriers to participation young people encounter and how to overcome these barriers.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

What issues are important to you?

'Access to public transport, access to local post secondary education options' **Dayna**

'Meeting like minded business oriented young people' **Vera**

What challenges are you facing?

'Cost of moving to pursue University study' **Zac**

'Having to travel so far to find a job, not given a fair go in local area due to competition' **Shania**

What is great about where you live?

'Everyone is close by' **Kaya**

'The view, the animals, my family and the amount of space' **Emily**



Young people want to be involved in the community, but do not necessarily believe they have the ability or the opportunity to do so. The South Gippsland Youth Strategy offers communities the opportunity to work with young people to make the most of this desire to be involved in a way that is beneficial to their organisations and the youth population. The Strategy includes projects, ideas and opportunities that communities can get involved with to help young people achieve the vision they have for themselves in South Gippsland.

Do you want to be involved in your community?



Work with young people to develop innovative ideas that encourage environmental awareness and sustainable practices.

Engage with Secondary Colleges in South Gippsland to encourage participation in community activities by young people.

South Gippsland Business Associations consider establishing a young entrepreneur group.

Encourage young people to participate in social, recreation and civic activities that support good health practices, including mental health.

Work with young people to provide opportunities that are relevant to young people and meet the needs of the organisation.

Identify transport issues in isolated areas and investigate community programs that may assist young people to access transport in these areas.

Consider ways that community organisations, philanthropic groups and business associations can support young people returning to, or settling in South Gippsland.

Act as mentors for young people from South Gippsland, share information and knowledge.

Participate as mentors in the L2P Program.

Actively seek funding opportunities from State, Federal and Philanthropic bodies to develop youth specific programs.

Sienna - I don't know // **Abbey** - People's wellbeing and our environment // **Emily** - Struggling families and behaviour of some youth in town // **Kaya** - Cancer // **Levi** - Access to natural bushland // **Acaisha** - Environment // **Jada** - Cancer // **Hudson** - Local TAFE courses, especially pre-apprenticeship // **Tayla** - Gender equality and racial discrimination // **David** - Not enough things to do // **Milla** - Family violence, violence against men and women // **Shari** - Keeping the community tidy and rubbish free // **Jenny** - recycling // **Karla** - Gender equality // **Paige** - Bullying / Anxiety // **Josh** - Family violence // **Zoe** - Making sure individuals are safe // **Ayja** - Bullying / Suicide // **Storm** - Issues that affect people I care about // **Amber** - Bullying, anxiety, depression and suicide // **Jack** - My own issues and my friends // **Taiha** - LGBT+ acceptance, climate change, environmental issues // **Lachlan** - The issues that have to do with me and my mates // **Niamh** - Natural environment, equality between all genders // **Brooklyn** - I care about myself and my environment // **Katie** - Waste management // **Ben** - Large populations // **Abigail** - Basic human needs, equality, poverty // **Jasper** - Save the fisheries, climate change, stop coal // **Callum** - Violence in families / women. Starving children and adults // **Zac** - School // **Tyler** - School, because I am not very good at English // **Ella** - Interesting activities and opportunities to participate in // **Aaron** - Over population // **Dayna** - Access to public transport. Access to local post-secondary education options // **Quillan** - Not sure // **Isla** - Environmental preservation, mental health and other youth issues // **Tyson** - Health Issues // **Rachel** - Medicare // **Matt** - Climate Change // **Hayley** - Animal abuse is BAD // **Laura** - Mental health, transport, womens rights and health // **Amelia** - LGBT rights, ending racism, having something to do // **Jay** - Public transport // **Ashleigh** - Conservation of native wildlife, conservation of native forests, standing up to bullying, receiving education // **Haley** - Water quality, environmental issues and pollution, health and exercise // **Jade** - Climate change // **Amber** - Education // **Courtney** - Gender equality, fairness, mental health, environment and poverty // **Amber** - Having a safe environment to have fun in // **Zac** - Live music, skateboarding facilities // **Megan** - Agriculture // **Lachlan** - I don't know // **Ruby** - Gender equity, respect, social justice, mental health awareness, environmental consciousness // **Hayden** - People don't recognise the importance of farmers // **Lizzie** - Youth empowerment (lack of), our community think so negatively of youth, domestic violence and violence against women, particularly how early it is starting, homelessness // **Alexandra** - Environmental stability, equity, sustainability // **Gori** - Inequality, environment, lack of work/jobs, limited open hours, racism // **Tom** - Access to the same education opportunities as other people in the cities // **Aliesha** - Lack of public transport in our area // **Liam** - Having greater access to sporting stadiums and reserves // **Felicity** - Mental health and awareness about mental health // **Zac** - Climate change and the ignorance of politicians to environmental issues. For example politicians that think building coal power stations is a good idea // **Shania** - Equality and fair pay - age doesn't determine knowledge and ability // **Maxi** - Climate change, mental illness in rural areas, racism, education // **Kristie** - Bullying and mental health // **Melody** - mental health // **Georgie** - Social activities for youth especially 17 - 25 which doesn't just include the sports clubs or alcohol. The fact that secondary schools don't encourage apprenticeships or traineeships as a good career path, it appears it's either you go to Uni or get a job and that's it. It's a shame and a great option for those either wanting to leave school in Year 10 onwards, or an option for those who finish Year 12 and want to both study and work // **Meleane** - Human rights // **John** - Wasting taxpayers money // **Daniel** - Environmental issues // **Ashleigh** - Having outside of school social options // **Jemma** - the care and preservation of our natural resources and environmental impacts. Also the commercialisation of our small communities // **Vera** - Increase of young peoples social events would be good // **Skye** - Safe town // **Bonnie** - Ensuring safety of youth. Youth respect. Lack of employment // **Curtis** - My computer isn't good enough to run some games // **Evie** - A lot of stress // **Beth** - not enough jobs around // **Casey** - So many!! // **Aaron** - School // **Hayden** - Low milk prices // **Jaslyn** - Mental Health.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

Sara - Family, friends & school // **Anna** - Friends, family, school, life // **Emily** - Moving into High School // **Michael** - I'd like to go to the bush more // **Alisha** - School // **Harry** - Getting work experience // **Taylor** - What potential career I want to pursue // **Danny** - Transport // **Jane** - Challenges with focusing on homework // **Joshua** - Family violence, homelessness, anxiety, depression // **Amy** - Anxiety occasionally // **John** - School // **Lachy** - Trying to find work placement for VCAL // **Neve** - Adjusting to being back home from being away last term // **Hailey** - Not enough jobs // **Ben** - not being able to ride in bushland // **Joe** - Finding a job / puberty // **Abigail** - Teenage drama // **Conner** - Bullying // **Dana** - Transport // **Tye** - School // **Rachael** - Family death // **Hannah** - Family health // **Laura** - access to mental health support // **Amelia** - Racists and homophobes // **Jason** - Getting places by certain times is difficult // **Ash** - Getting into Year 11 - fixing my sleep schedule // **Paula** - Fundraising and studying // **Jayde** - Social, study, volunteering, play balance // **Jack** - School work // **Meaghan** - Disparity between rural and metro education // **Liam** - No public transport // **Lizzie** - School is stressful, worrying about how I will afford to live away from home // **Ryan** - Cost of living when I move // **Pete** - Study stress // **Maddie** - Motivation and friends // **Emma** - Figuring out if staying in the area is a viable future for me financially // **Vera** - Meeting like minded business oriented young people // **Skye** - Income // **Lauren** - Being stable enough to be fully independent // **Sienna** - Not much noise, very quiet and peaceful // **Abbey** - Nice people, places and more // **Emily** - The view, the animals, my family and the amount of space // **Kaya** - Everyone is close by // **Levi** - I can go to parkrun, I can go to the community house painting group // **Acaisha** - It's in the country // **Jada** - Everything is close by // **Hudson** - Bike riding on the rail trail and park run // **Tayla** - Close to many beaches // **Milla** - Having a town with heaps of cafes and places to hang with friends // **Curtis** - Hills, I just REALLY like hills // **Shari** - It's easy to travel to places // **Jenny** - It's a quiet small town, close to the beach // **Karla** - It's close to the coast // **Paige** - Quiet town, great people // **Josh** - Close to friends // **Zoe** - Not close to my neighbours // **Evie** - It's quiet // **Ayja** - Not many people // **Storm** - Close to family and friends // **Jack** - Close to friends // **Taiha** - The pool is pretty good // **Lachlan** - The brewery // **Niamh** - Lots of trees, private, scenic, beach not far // **Beth** - Good community // **Hayley** - The beach and environment, which will be dead in a few years anyway // **Brooklyn** - The people and the community // **Katie** - All the shops // **Ben** - Small shops // **Abigail** - The serenity // **Jasper** - There are beaches / inlets with surf // **Callum** - It's calm, secluded, quiet and relaxing // **Cody** - Beaches // **Connor** - It's not labor town // **Leeiam** - I am close to my friends // **Hughie** - Country // **Tyler** - I can't see anything fun here // **Zac** - Nothing, no paint ball or go-karts // **Tyler** - The beach and the nice environment // **Ella** - Great countryside, opportunities, local produce // **Aaron** - Not too many people // **Dayna** - The Park Run in Koonwarra // **Tyson** - People and the activities I can be in // **Rachel** - It has most of my childhood // **Matt** - The town isn't too big // **Hayley** - I can leave the house and instantly see horses // **Amelia** - My friends, the clean air // **Jay** - It's a rural town with bush to explore // **Kyle** - Clean streets // **Matthew** - Small safe town // **Ashleigh** - It's quiet, relaxing, near native flora and fauna, near the school and everyone is really friendly // **Haley** - A loving and supportive community // **Jade** - It's a close knit community // **Amber** - Open space // **Courtney** - Know most of the people around you and everything is nearby // **Amber** - Location, space // **Jack** - I'm safe // **Zac** - Community // **Megan** - Its stunning environment and the community // **Lachlan** - It's away from everyone // **Ruby** - Rural, but close to the city // **Hayden** - There's no noise restrictions // **Lizzie** - Landscape // **Alexandra** - The community support, the landscape and forests, wildlife // **Gori** - It's pretty, close to nature // **Hannah** - There is such a great community in the country // **Aliesha** - The close proximity to the beach, as well as being only 1.5 hours from the city // **Liam** - the outdoor environment is great to be in

Nothing about us, without us

The South Gippsland Youth Strategy has been informed by views expressed by young people in South Gippsland.

We would like to thank all the young people who gave their time to develop this Strategy, the young people who attended forums, answered surveys, welcomed us at schools, and social activities, and formed committees to give their input.

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