

# YOUTH ACTION PLAN

2026-2030





#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The City of Tea Tree Gully recognises this City's considerable natural and cultural heritage, including thousands of years of Traditional Custodianship by the Kaurna people and the more recent contributions from all who live here.

We build on this heritage today by respecting and listening to each other, being receptive to new ideas and acting wisely for the current and future wellbeing of our community.



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# Executive summary

The City of Tea Tree Gully, known for its strong sense of community and home to just over 100,000 residents, recognises the importance of investing in our young people as a vital foundation for a thriving and resilient future.

A 2024–2025 community engagement process, along with state-wide studies and information on youth, highlighted a need to better coordinate and strengthen youth-focused initiatives across the city, forming the basis for our *City of Tea Tree Gully Youth Action Plan 2026–2030*.

Through this plan, we aim to support, empower and engage young people and their families through collaboration, and strengths-based and partnership-driven approaches. The plan focuses on key local strengths – such as our strong community networks and groups, educational institutions and employment pathways, that create meaningful opportunities for youth development, leadership and inclusion.

## VISION

*The City of Tea Tree Gully is a place where young people are supported, valued and empowered to thrive – contributing to a connected, healthy and safe community.*

### Five key strategic goals



Health and wellbeing



Education and employment



Activities and connection



Civic engagement



Safety and security

These goals are designed to build Council and community capacity to create a supportive and inclusive environment where young people are equipped to reach their full potential. This plan aims to guide collaborative action that promotes equity, resilience and engagement for youth across the City of Tea Tree Gully.



# Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide an overarching vision for youth development initiatives within the City
- Encourage youth co-design and community partnerships
- Demonstrate our commitment to ensure young people and their families are supported, included and empowered as active contributors to our community.
- Provide tangible and relevant actions for a coordinated approach to youth leadership and development, youth wellbeing, education and employment, social connectedness, participation and safety.

## How the plan was developed

We developed the plan through a two-phase engagement approach.

### Phase one

From 3 July to 14 October 2024, the City of Tea Tree Gully delivered an extensive community engagement process in partnership with the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA) to gain a deeper insight into the experiences of young people who live, work, study and spend time in the area.

This phase offered feedback opportunities to young people and key stakeholders on what types of supports and offerings they were needing now and into the future, through face-to-face sessions with local high school students, stakeholder interviews and a city-wide online survey.

A total of 358 people participated in the consultation, with 83% aged between 12 and 25 years. In total, 11 consultation activities were delivered including six high school sessions, four stakeholder interviews and the online survey.

### Phase two

Further consultation was undertaken throughout 2025 through five face-to-face sessions with young people and stakeholders who contributed to the first phase of consultation to revisit, confirm the goals and objectives and provide further input on proposed actions.

They were invited to attend one of the following:

- One of three community sessions
- One school session
- One youth support provider session.

Through engaging with community members, key stakeholders and staff, insight from people with lived experience, either professionally, personally or as a carer, was provided. A working group in collaboration with CTTG staff and the community used the collated feedback to develop the *City of Tea Tree Gully Youth Action Plan 2026–2030*.

# Youth in the City at a glance



**16,664**

young people aged  
12–25 live within the  
City of Tea Tree Gully  
and make up 16% of the  
population (2021 census)



Youth unemployment  
levels at 7.8% for those  
aged 15–24 years old

**6.7%** of young people  
are considered disengaged:  
neither employed or studying

## Top three places of birth of youth residing in the City of Tea Tree Gully

- Australia
- Southern Asia
- United Kingdom



## Top three areas of employment for youth residing in the City of Tea Tree Gully



**11 high schools**  
in the City of Tea Tree Gully

32 schools in total, including primary,  
secondary, combined and special schools



Retail



Healthcare  
and social  
assistance



Hospitality

# Guiding principles

These four principles convey how the City of Tea Tree Gully will operate regarding the implementation of this plan. These principles align with the broader values of the organisation and will help guide decision making, engagement and program delivery.

## Youth voice and participation/relevance

We will put young people at the centre of our youth development initiatives ensuring that they are meaningfully involved in the decisions and initiatives that shape their lives. This includes co-designing programs and services so they reflect the needs and aspirations of young people themselves.

## Equity, diversity and inclusion

We recognise that all young people, regardless of their background, identity, ability or circumstance, should have equal access to opportunities and feel safe, respected and represented and are committed to providing opportunities for youth to be actively involved which are socially inclusive and inexpensive.

## Wellbeing and resilience

Supporting the physical, mental, social, cultural and spiritual wellbeing of our young people, we will focus on prevention and early intervention, aiming to build capacity and resilience to help them achieve positive life outcomes.

## Partnerships and collaboration

Working with others is a priority for the City of Tea Tree Gully. We will strengthen connections between council, schools, service providers, community organisations, local businesses and families to deliver a collective impact.



# Council's role

This document is designed to encourage young people and those working with youth to collaborate and support the realisation of this vision. Council's involvement varies: in some cases, we will provide support, such as funding or access to facilities, and help others to lead and coordinate activities; in others, we may be a provider, delivering initiatives for the benefit of the community. In certain situations, we may need to be a leader, advocate on behalf of others and be an innovator, but as per the principles above, we will always seek to collaborate with others – youth, community members, schools, service providers, local businesses and families.

## Reporting plan progress

An annual report will be provided to Council outlining progress against plan actions.



# Vision and goals

## VISION

*The City of Tea Tree Gully is a place where young people are supported, valued and empowered to thrive – contributing to a connected, healthy and safe community.*

### Five key strategic goals



#### GOAL 1: Health and wellbeing

Young people are empowered to improve their mental health and overall wellbeing.

#### GOAL 2: Education and employment

Young people have access to employment and education pathways.



#### GOAL 3: Activities and connection

Young people are connected and engaged with their community.

#### GOAL 4: Civic engagement

Young people have a voice and opportunity to participate in decisions that affect them.



#### GOAL 5: Safety and security

Young people feel safe and secure in their community.

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# Our objectives and strategic actions



## GOAL 1

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Young people are empowered to improve their mental health and overall wellbeing.

#### OBJECTIVES

1.1 Create and advocate for opportunities for young people to support their wellbeing.

1.2 Form partnerships with organisations that support young people's wellbeing.

1.3 Develop programs equipping young people with life skills.

#### STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Work with young people to strengthen services providers in the Tea Tree Gully area.
- Establish relationships to collaborate with mental health services and education providers to promote mental health awareness and support programs.
- Offer training opportunities to increase awareness of mental health and equip young people and their families to support their own wellbeing and that of their peers.
- Deliver leadership and life skill programs that empower young people to be independent while transitioning into adulthood.
- Identify possible opportunities to advocate social and affordable housing for young people across the City of Tea Tree Gully.





## GOAL 2

# EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Young people have access to employment and education pathways.

### OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Form partnerships that provide pathways to support young people to be job ready.

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- 2.2 Advocate for better transport options for young people to travel for social and employment opportunities.

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- 2.3 Explore options to provide greater access for young people to obtain their driver's licence.

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- 2.4 Explore options for career development through Council.

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### STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Partner with providers to deliver workshops that assist with building skills.
- Deliver events designed to connect young people with employment opportunities and explore education, career and training pathways.
- Create opportunities that help young people develop entrepreneur skills or start a business.
- Advocate to improve transport options for travel across the region whilst raising awareness of transport alternatives.
- Explore programs that support young people to obtain their driver's licence through driving assistance.
- Foster opportunities for work experience or career pathways within Council.



GOAL 3

# ACTIVITIES AND CONNECTION

Young people are connected and engaged with their community.

**OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 Council provides infrastructure for connection and recreation.
- 3.2 Council provides opportunities to connect through programs and events for young people.
- 3.3 Young people’s needs and interests are considered during planning of events.

**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**

- Aim to provide Council facilities that are safe and accessible, appealing and socially inclusive youth friendly spaces.
- Deliver programs and activities that celebrate diversity and are accessible to young people of all backgrounds and abilities, based on their needs and interests.
- Create opportunities to codesign events and/or programs with young people that specifically target their identified interests.
- Design and implement a training program for staff to build on current skills and knowledge when working with young people and their families.
- Develop systems to undertake, monitor and evaluate services and programs for young people.
- Recognise and celebrate local young people’s contributions and achievements.



GOAL 4  
**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Young people have a voice and opportunity to participate in decisions that affect them.

**OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 Provide an avenue for young people to have their voice heard on Council decisions.
- 4.2 Explore the development of a civics education program for local secondary schools to understand the role of local government.
- 4.3 Explore further opportunities for young people to volunteer with Council.

**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**

- Explore an innovative and meaningful Youth Engagement model.
- Young people have pathways to help shape Council’s future.
- Investigate best communication channels that increase the level of engagement of young people.
- Explore and implement options to connect youth to services across the City.
- Provide opportunities for local schools, local and state government to support civic education reform.
- Increase opportunities for young people to volunteer.



## GOAL 5

# SAFETY AND SECURITY

Young people feel safe and secure in their community.

### OBJECTIVES

5.1 Explore initiatives to enhance city safety for young people where they feel confident and safe.

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5.2 Explore options to educate young people and parents around bullying and social media and online gaming.

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### STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Work with key stakeholders to develop safety improvement strategies of the area.
- Explore opportunities for spaces within the community that provide a central point for connection, learning and support.
- Work with families, schools, government and community agencies to engage young people on how to stay safe online and in the community.

# Strategic alignment

## Strategic alignment

The *City of Tea Tree Gully Youth Action Plan 2026–2030* aligns with the strategic objectives outlined in other internal and external documents. The following section outlines other strategies that are relevant to or align with this plan. It is useful to identify these in the context of developing partnerships, fostering collaboration, budget planning and seeking funding. Based on the considerable alignment detailed here on an internal level, there are increased opportunities for cross-council investment and development.

## Council documents

### City of Tea Tree Gully Strategic Plan 2030

The Strategic Plan guides all decision making, and there are key elements of the Youth Action Plan that align with our strategic objectives.

- **1.3** People feel a sense of belonging, inclusion and connection.
- **2.3** Our community has leadership and employment capabilities.
- **4.3** Our neighbourhoods are well planned safe connected and accessible with a focus on active methods of travel.
- **5.3** Our engagement is meaningful and we keep our community informed about Council initiatives.
- **5.4** Our planning and decision making is evidence based, consistent and focused on outcomes for the future.

### Public Health Action Plan 2021–2026

The Public Health Plan aligns in all outcome areas with particular alignment in these strategic objectives:

- **1.2** Places, spaces and services enable achievement of personal goals and life-long learning.
- **1.3** The health and wellbeing needs of diverse communities (cultural and other diversity) are recognised and addressed.
- **1.4** A diverse range of community members are engaged in civic participation, volunteering and placemaking.
- **2.1** The community knows where to seek help for mental health challenges.
- **2.2** The design and development of Council buildings and places has a positive impact on the mental health of the community.
- **3.3** A diverse range of indoor and outdoor physical activity and active transport options are available and accessible.
- **4.3** The community feels safe around the built environment and open spaces.

## External documents

### South Australia's Youth Action Plan

In 2023, the South Australian State Government (SAGOV) initiated the development of a new Youth Action Plan for 2024–2027. Using a similar approach as the City of Tea Tree Gully, they conducted consultations with 880 individuals across the state, including 728 young people aged 12 to 25.

The SAGOV survey findings closely reflected the concerns of young people in our City, highlighting five key outcome areas:

- Physical health, social and emotional wellbeing, and mental health
- Safety and justice
- Education and employment
- Connections and access to resources
- Citizenship and participation.

### Mission Australia Annual Youth Survey 2024

The four primary outcomes facing Australia reported by Mission Australia in their 2024 youth survey are the cost of living; climate change and the environment; violence, safety and crime; and mental health. Other emerging concerns within the top 10 include global affairs; and the impact of internet, social media and technology. Cost of living, safety and crime, and mental health all align with findings from our survey.

The *City of Tea Tree Gully Youth Action Plan 2026–2030* builds on these outcome areas, focusing on local priorities and aligning closely with the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan.





CITY OF  
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