

Tablelands Regional Council



Youth Workshop 2022



Get Ready Program



Youth Workshop 2022

Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan Midway Review ACTION PLAN 2022-24



Acknowledgement of Country

Tablelands Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Tablelands region and recognises their continuing connection to country. We pay respect to Elders past, present and future.

Other acknowledgements

LGBTQIA+

We acknowledge that our programs and community events will be respectful and inclusive of LGBTQIA+ young people.

Young People with Disabilities

We acknowledge that our programs, events and community facilities will be accessible and inclusive for young people with disabilities and facing specific barriers.

Culturally Diverse and Newly Arrived Young People

We welcome culturally diverse and newly arrived young people into our community and will work hard with the sector assisting them in addressing their needs and finding opportunities to thrive in Tablelands Regional Council.

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1. Executive Summary

The [Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan 2019-24](#) was endorsed by Council in 2019 and identified a range of actions to improve health, wellbeing, social and economic opportunities for Tablelands youth. The Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan (TYSP) Midway Review was developed after a series of community engagement activities including survey and workshop engagements with young people and youth sector stakeholders in August – September 2022.

The midway review process was a mechanism to ascertain exactly what young people and the youth sector have been achieving since 2019, and the action plan outlines what more can be done to achieve better outcomes for youth to live and thrive in our region

TYSP Vision

The Tablelands region is a strong, vibrant, inclusive, collaborative and culturally diverse community that values the health and wellbeing of its youth, supporting and empowering their centre role in the development of the region

TYSP Mission Statement

The Tablelands community enhances the health and wellbeing of youth in the region, ensuring their active participation in decision making to achieve their aspirations within the broader Tablelands communities.

The Tablelands region works towards strengthening social connectivity, pathways to independence and innovative economic development to create healthy, resilient and sustainable futures for our youth and the community as a whole.

1.1 Six Key Priorities

The priorities identified in the Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan 2019-2024 are:

1. Youth participation and development
2. Achieving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth equity
3. Active social connection
4. Pathways to independence
5. Youth health and wellbeing
6. Enabling access

Of these six key priorities, 17 goals and 27 activities were developed in the Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan 2019-2024. In the Midway Review action plan, we have developed 14 goals and 39 actions to support activities up to and beyond 2024.

2. Strategic Oversight

To meet our goals by 2024, council will work with its Tablelands community stakeholders to provide strategic oversight to the progress against the TYSP Midway Review and Action Plan 2022 goals.

2.1 Youth Advisory Committee

A working group called “Mind Pod Tableland Youth” (MPTY) was established in 2018 to consolidate the ideas, strategies, challenges and opportunities identified in workshops and forums with Tablelands youth and the youth sector. MPTY has changed in its format and mandated activities. It is now called the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), whose members are individuals aged 15-25 years engaged to advise Council on matters pertaining to young people in the region. The YAC was established without services and “adults” in order to give voice to young people and their views.

The YAC is mandated in their [Terms of Reference](#) to oversee the Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan outcomes and is a key mechanism for individual youth, community groups, and sector stakeholders to participate in implementation of the action plan aims.

2.2 Council

TRC is committed to developing and leading the Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan 2019-24 to ensure young people in the region are supported and valued as the key element of a vibrant, sustainable, inclusive and prosperous region (TRC Corporate Plan 2021-2026, vision statement). We recognise the key role of local government to influence our community to be active, inclusive, connected and empowered.

TRC will continue to work with the YAC, the youth sector and the broader community to deliver, partner and advocate for the actions in the TYSP. TRC will look to facilitate a meeting at least once per year with youth sector stakeholders to network, progress priorities, and review the TYSP to provide ongoing oversight.

2.3 Youth sector stakeholders

This is a list of some of the Tablelands stakeholders who supported this Midway Review and provided a progress report on behalf of their agency at our workshop and in individual meetings.

- Better Together Inc
- Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
- Department of Education
- Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
- Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport
- Eacham Community House Organisation (ECHO) Malanda

- High School Transition Pathways Officers
- James Cook University
- Ravenshoe Community Centre
- Tablelands Community Justice Group
- TAFE North Queensland
- TRC Youth Advisory Committee members
- Wellways Carer Gateway
- Vocational Partnerships Group Inc

We encourage feedback from other agencies on activities they are doing for youth in our region. As stated above, TRC will look to facilitate an annual meeting with youth sector agencies to help progress youth priorities, network, collaborate and form partnerships, develop programs, apply for funding, and oversee the continued monitoring of the TYSP.

2.4 Strategic Links

National

Australia's Youth Policy Framework (2021)
 Mission Australian Youth Survey Report (2021)
 Mission Australia Young Voices of the Pandemic (2020)
 AHRC National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (2018)

State

Queensland Youth Strategy (2017)
 Voices of Hope: Growing up in Queensland (2020)
 The Youth Needs Census – Queensland (2017)
 Queensland Path to Treaty Commitment (2022)

Local

TRC Corporate Plan 2021-2026
 Tablelands Community Plan 2030+
 TRC Cultural Plan 2022-2027
 TRC Economic Development Strategy 2022
 TRC Sport and Recreation Plan 2019-2024
 Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan 2019-2024

4. Midway Review

The TYSP Midway Review was developed after a series of community engagement activities including a survey and workshop's with young people and youth sector stakeholders in August – September 2022. At these engagements, we collected quantitative and qualitative data to inform the Action Plan developed as part of this review.

4.1 Engagement Activities

The purpose of these engagement sessions was to:

1. To obtain feedback from young people about how we are tracking in the Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan strategic areas
2. Engage with key stakeholders in the youth sector to provide a progress report on the Youth Strategic Plan
3. Develop a midway review and two year action plan with YAC involvement and youth sector input.

Youth Advisory Committee:
TRC's YAC endorsed the engagement process at their August 2022 meeting. The YAC is the advisory group to Council which oversees the implementation of the TYSP. (11 youth members, 1 TRC Councillor, 1 TRC Officer)
Online survey for youth:
An online survey was conducted between the 30 August–23 September to collect qualitative data referring to the six key strategic areas in the TYSP. (58 responses)
In-person workshop for youth:
A small focus group of youth from various backgrounds came together at a youth workshop on 12 September 2022. They provided in-depth responses to the TYSP's key strategic areas. (6 attendees)
Youth service sector agencies:
A workshop was held on 28 September inviting all youth sector agencies who work with youth on the Tablelands to attend. The focus was to collate key activity data from 2019-2022, and then address the relevant youth data to collaborate and develop actions for the next two years.

4.2 Qualitative Data Report

After the youth survey and youth workshop, a Qualitative Data Report was prepared to inform TRC about young people's perspective on our progress, and to understand the current challenges that youth face in 2022.

4.3 Progress Report 2019-2022

At the youth sector workshop, we asked youth agencies working in our region to reflect on the time since 2019 and provide a progress report against the TYSP's six key priority areas, goals and actions.

4.4 Action Plan

This two-year action plan outlines the goals, identified community needs, and actions to achieve progress for youth in the TRC region. TRC, through the Youth Advisory Committee and youth sector agencies, will review the action plan annually and make available an updated action plan highlighting key initiatives and actions. TRC will continue to engage with the community and young people to gauge how we are progressing towards a youth-friendly Tablelands.

The action plan has been developed using information obtained from:

- The Tablelands Youth Strategic Plan original action plan 2019
- Analysis of the Progress Report 2022
- Analysis of the Qualitative data report 2022
- The workshop with young people 2022
- Survey responses completed by young people
- The workshop and meetings with local youth service providers
- Mapping of existing youth services in Tablelands

Council acknowledges that the Youth Sector is an ever-changing environment. Many local service providers are contingent on state and federal funding opportunities that evolve with every election cycle. With that in mind, this action plan is an ongoing live document providing the flexibility to change with the sector and be enhanced with any new or existing services that partner to deliver important outcomes for youth.

It was identified in the Midway Review that some of the actions from 2019 are outdated or have been met. These actions and goals below have been designed to be achieved in the next two years, or they have no end-date and can be ongoing aims delivered beyond the life of the plan.

Blue font *goals, actions and measures that have been continued on from original 2019 plan*

Council *actions marked with a "C" indicate that TRC has a role in delivery*

Partner *actions marked with a "P" indicate that TRC will work with our not-for-profits, government agencies, community groups, businesses, and organisations to implement and work towards actions.*

Advocate *actions marked with an "A" indicate that TRC will support community to raise awareness of barriers and advocate for increased funding and resources.*

Priority 1 Youth participation and development

Youth are valued by the Tablelands community and are empowered with a voice to actively participate in civic life and influence decision making that affects their health and wellbeing

Goal	Action	Measure	C / P / A
1.1 Young people are engaged to advocate and decision-make on behalf of youth of the TRC region	Increase youth engagement opportunities that give young people voice in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage increase of youth participating in youth engagement opportunities 	P / A
	Continue to facilitate and support Youth Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of four YAC meetings per year 	C
	Revisit the Youth Charter with YAC and youth sector agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess Youth Charter at annual review meetings 	C / P
	Youth are involved in committees that make decisions in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of young people reported to be engaged in committees 	P / A
1.2 Opportunities are developed to increase young people's skills to lead and participate in community	Personal development opportunities are shared with youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of youth opportunities being shared across community 	C / P / A
	Investigate new initiatives that support leadership skills in youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new initiatives investigated 	C / P / A
1.3 Spaces and places empower youth in the community	Spaces and places are accessible and promoted to young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spaces and places are promoted to youth 	A
	Youth places are safe and connect to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services are promoted in youth places 	P / A

Priority 2 Achieving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth equity

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth and culture are valued and represented within our community			
Goal	Action	Measure	C / P / A
2.1 Identify opportunities to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth in the community	Identify and create programs to strengthen Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase partnerships created for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth programs 	P / A
	Promote strategies that support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth retention and completion in education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in retention and completion rates of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth 	P / A
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth have access to personal development opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase personal development opportunities for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth are shared with partners 	C / P
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth promote culture, art, and traditions at events/public forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of youth events/public forums promoting culture, art, and traditions 	C / P
2.2 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Elders, leaders, and agencies are respected and included in all decision-making for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth	Build respectful relationships with local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of cultural representatives engaged in community 	P / A
	Seek appropriate cultural advice when working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased engagement with appropriate cultural representatives including where appropriate PBC's, STTOA, TO's and First Nations organisations 	P / A
2.3 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners are acknowledged in all forums	Invite Traditional Owner's, Elders, Leaders to attend youth events, and when appropriate, provide Welcome to Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in number of Traditional Owners, Elders, leaders invited to attend youth events 	C / P / A

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth and culture are valued and represented within our community

Goal	Action	Measure	C / P / A
	Present an Acknowledgement of Country at community events, meetings and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of Acknowledgement of Country delivered at events 	C / P / A
	National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week are opportunities for all youth to learn and celebrate Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islands culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of promotions to support all youth, regardless of cultural background, to have the opportunity to celebrate NRW and NAIDOC Week events 	C / P

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Priority 3 Active social connection

Tablelands youth are actively engaged in the design and delivery of opportunities to enhance social interaction, health and wellbeing			
Goal	Action	Measure	C / P / A
3.1 Enhance social connectivity with youth in the region	Involve youth to lead activities that enhance social connection in the Tablelands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of youth involved in activities and events 	P / A
	Deliver activities and events that appeal to youth aged 18 and over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of reported activities and events 	C / P / A
	Deliver activities and events that appeal to youth aged 15-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of activities and events 	C / P / A
	Advocate for increased digital connectivity in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased promotion to youth of public Wi-Fi hotspots Increased advocacy to improve phone network coverage 	C C / A
	Investigate virtual and online social events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and promote virtual events, training, and programs 	A
3.2 Social opportunities are inclusive for all youth	Support the inclusion of marginalised, vulnerable and at-risk youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of engagements through local services for marginalised, vulnerable, and at-risk youth 	P / A
	Support the inclusion of young people with a disability, LGBTIQ+ youth, and culturally diverse youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunity for young people with a disability, LGBTIQ+ youth, and culturally diverse youth are included in social opportunities 	P / A
3.3 Youth in outlying towns are able to access a wide range of services and social opportunities	Use digital engagement strategies to reach more young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of digital platforms used 	C / P
	Connect rural and remote youth to events, programs, and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events Transport options are considered (e.g., bus, carpooling) that connect rural and remote youth to events 	P / A

Priority 4 Pathways to independence

Develop strategic partnerships and opportunities to support pathways to independence for Tablelands youth			
Goal	Action	Measure	C / P / A
4.1 Improve access to transition pathways for youth	Collaborate with registered training organisations (RTOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage increase in collaborations with RTO's 	P / A
	Investigate pathway opportunities to higher education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of universities/ RTOs that deliver information sessions in community 	P / A
	Increase employment opportunities in key Tablelands industry's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage decrease in youth unemployment 	P / A
4.2 Advocate for more affordable housing options for youth in the region	Support more medium to high density housing in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of applications utilising the TRC Investment Incentive Policy 	C / P / A
	Advocate with partners on the development of medium to high density and social housing in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of partner and council advocacy 	A
4.3 Develop a regional culture of youth entrepreneurship and innovation	Promote opportunities for young entrepreneurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of entrepreneurship workshops promoted to Tablelands youth 	C / P
	Funding and grants are available for youth in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of youth grants promoted to community and youth groups across TRC 	C / P / A

Priority 5 Youth health and wellbeing

Tablelands youth are supported to make informed choices about their health and wellbeing through youth-specific health promotion, education and early intervention

Goal	Action	Measure	C / P / A
5.1 Youth health and wellbeing needs are met within the region	Identifying youth health and wellbeing needs and service level gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service mapping youth health and wellbeing services in the region 	C / P / A
	Deliver youth-specific health promotion, education and early intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of health promotions being delivered targeting youth 	P / A
	Youth sector stakeholders collaborate to respond to emerging needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of collaborative partnerships established 	C / P / A
5.2 Health and wellbeing programs and services are accessible to young people	Mental health services and programs for young people in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of programs delivered 	P / A
	Drug and alcohol programs for young people in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of programs available 	P / A
	Sexual health services and programs are delivered for young people in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of programs available 	P / A

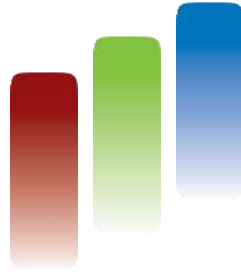
Priority 6 Enabling access

Tablelands youth have access to employment, community services, health services, education and training, technology and opportunities for social interaction

We have integrated actions that enable access in the priority areas above. They are:

- 3.3 Youth in outlying towns are able to access a wide range of services and social opportunities
- 4.1 Improve access to transition pathways for youth
- 5.2 Health and wellbeing services are accessible to young people

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Live, discover and invest in a Tablelands community



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