

Brief Background to WESROC Youth Initiatives Plan

The WESROC Youth Needs Study final report was completed by outside consultants and submitted to WESROC in August 2004. Eight broad recommendations were proposed.

In September, 2004 the WESROC Youth Needs Study was formally endorsed by the WESROC Executive Committee/Board.

A WESROC Youth Committee consisting of Community Development Officers from each of the each of the participating councils, has since met regularly to address the study recommendations. Key areas of action to be addressed best at a WESROC regional level were identified.

Three priority areas to be addressed included issues relating to health, safety and development of an infrastructure within the WESROC group to ensure a reliable system exists for the organisation of youth recreation opportunities and events.

Central to each of these areas, is the development of a cohesive, coordinated communication system between WESROC members themselves and between local government and youth.

Each of the three key areas of concern have been the subject of separate specific WESROC Youth Committee meetings, in which relevant stakeholders were invited to attend. Outcomes of these meetings were then included in proposed strategies of action which were later 'road tested' in consultation meetings with local youth.

In March 2005, the importance of specific health issues and methods of communicating information about accessing existing health services was discussed at a regional Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meeting in which YAC members from the City of Subiaco and Nedlands and the Towns of Mosman Park and Claremont came together to form 2 focus groups. Proposed initiatives relating to safety issues of concern identified in the study were also discussed in these focus groups.

In May 2005, the WESROC Youth Committee consulted with approximately 50 Shenton College students, to gauge priorities of the youth in relation to the areas of recreation and leisure. This included discussion relating to; festivals/youth events, music, culture (including art/literature competitions), sporting facilities, youth meeting places, recreational centres, night time entertainment (discos) and the integration of youth entertainment within mainstream facilities/events/competitions. The students were also asked to provide information on their view of the best and most effective methods of communication to young people.

Information gained from meetings with the Shenton College students and the YAC members was then collated and considered in the development of action plan strategies. Young people were also consulted by the project consultants in addition to these meetings.

The Committee has made a brief presentation of proposed safety strategies at the Community Safety Officers meeting held at the Claremont Showgrounds Police Complex on 21st July, to ensure relevant Safety Officers are aware of the progress and outcomes of the study and take them into consideration when developing their respective Community Safety and Crime Prevention plans.

The proposed plan has been endorsed by the WESROC Executive Committee. The WESROC Youth Committee and the WESROC Communications Officer will be responsible for implementation of the plan.

WESROC Youth Initiatives Action Plan

Regional Approach Focus Areas	Objective	Strategic Actions	Resources Task	Evaluation	Time Frame
Communication & Process	WESROC to endeavour to address and contribute to meeting youth needs on a local and regional basis	All WESROC Councils will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboratively develop a Regional Youth Charter outlining WESROCs commitment to young people in the areas of health, safety, recreation/leisure and communication • Endorse the Regional Youth Charter 	Meeting & development time	No. of meetings held to develop Regional Youth Charter	2006
			Consultation with YAC	No. of young people consulted in Charter development	2006
			Research & Admin time	Charter endorsed by WESROC	2006

Regional Approach Focus Areas	Objective	Strategic Actions	Resources Task	Evaluation	Time Frame
	To maintain the WESROC Youth Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate a representative from each Council to work as a part of the WESROC Youth Committee. Allocate the funds annually in individual Council budgets for the implementation of WESROC Youth Needs Study initiatives Work collaboratively to develop an accompanying plan which documents implementation process and structure of Implementation Team, including clear nomination of equally shared roles and responsibilities of Team members 	<p>Regular attendance at meetings</p> <p>Budget input</p> <p>Budget input (for Officer time)</p> <p>Meeting time to assign roles</p> <p>Admin hours</p>	<p>Regular representation by all Councils at scheduled meetings</p> <p>Each Council has WESROC Youth Needs Study Implementation as line item in budget</p> <p>Finalised document stating Team member roles and responsibilities</p>	<p>2005/06 2006/07 2007/08</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>2005</p>
	To enable positive communication with young people in the WESROC region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and include a regional youth communication strategy Youth Communication Strategy to include establishment of central points for information dissemination 	<p>Input into strategy</p> <p>Coordinate draft strategy</p> <p>Compilation external consultant to compile Youth Communication Strategy</p> <p>Make contact with these groups</p>	<p>Finalised document outlining best methods of practice for communicating with youth</p> <p>No. of points established for regular dissemination of information</p>	<p>2006/07</p> <p>2006/07</p>

Regional Approach Focus Areas	Objective	Strategic Actions	Resources Task	Evaluation	Time Frame
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidelines for promoting to young people and distribute to relevant stakeholders • Council style guides to include provision of <i>youth friendly</i> formats e.g. colourful, graphics • To develop a regional calendar of youth events 	<p>Disseminate information & maintain information flow</p> <p>Compilation of information</p> <p>External consultant to layout and present information</p> <p>Develop recommendations for 'youth friendly' formats</p> <p>Gathering of event information</p> <p>Coordination of design/production and calendar dissemination</p> <p>Design/Production/ Printing</p>	<p>Current accurate information available at established points</p> <p>No. of guidelines distributed</p> <p>No. of Council style guides including 'youth friendly' formats</p> <p>No. of calendars of youth events distributed</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>2006/07</p>
	To portray a positive image of young people in our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WESROC Councils to generate 12 positive stories about young people in local media 	Write media releases/ organise accompanying photo/ liaise with local media	No. of positive 'youth related' stories printed in local media	Ongoing

Regional Approach Focus Areas	Objective	Strategic Actions	Resources Task	Evaluation	Time Frame
	To inform the wider community of young people and their needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a project team including young people to develop and maintain a regular youth page in the local press. Investigate the areas of sponsorship through local business and community group contribution 	Liaise with local business Write proposal Liaise with local media Include YAC members in proposal Update meetings	No. of youth pages included in community newspapers No. of young people and service providers contributing to youth pages	2006/07
	To engage young people in local government decision making processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the establishment and maintenance of Youth Advisory Councils in WESROC councils. Conduct regional YAC/youth meetings twice a year (current) Incorporate consultations with young people during Council planning processes 	Ongoing promotion of YACs Coordinate and hold meetings Invite young people to community consultations Administrative tasks	No. of young people in the WESROC area involved as Youth Advisory Council members No. of Regional YAC/youth meetings No. of Council projects that include young people in their consultation	Ongoing Ongoing 2006/07
	To establish collaborative partnerships with business, government, community and educational institutions to meet youth needs at a regional and local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for and facilitate the provision of upper primary educational information sessions on the role of local government. 	Write to local primary schools Investigate existing process	No. of schools provided with information on local government	2007/08

Regional Approach Focus Areas	Objective	Strategic Actions	Resources Task	Evaluation	Time Frame
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to all relevant State Government departments, businesses and community groups detailing outcomes and proposed actions of the WESROC Youth Needs Study and detailing essential areas requiring state government support: Authorities to be contacted include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sport and Recreation, ▪ Community Development (Children and Youth/Volunteering) ▪ Office of Crime Prevention ▪ Planning and Infrastructure ▪ Culture and Arts ▪ Dept. of Justice ▪ Disabilities Services Commission ▪ Department of Health ▪ Department of Housing ▪ WA Police Service ▪ Perth Transport Authority ▪ Relevant community groups ▪ Relevant businesses 	Compile package of steps to run program Coordinate visits Research Letter drafting Endorsement & Admin	No. of stakeholders informed of youth needs study outcomes	2006
Health	To raise young peoples awareness of health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a letter of support to the Divisions of General Practice regarding the promotion of Medicare information sessions and <i>Youth Friendly</i> doctors in schools and offer ongoing assistance and advice with this process. 	Draft letter Endorsement & Admin	No. of contacts/partnerships between WESROC Councils and identified health agencies	2006

Regional Approach Focus Areas	Objective	Strategic Actions	Resources Task	Evaluation	Time Frame
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a letter to North Metro Health Unit, North Metro Community Drug Service Team and FPWA detailing the findings of young peoples knowledge of health services and perceived gaps, and offer ongoing assistance and advise with this process 	Draft letter Endorsement & Admin	No. of Council events including health promotion messages	2006
	Actively support Health Promotion initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite relevant health promotion agencies to be involved in youth events. 	Communication & Administration	No. of health promotion agencies at events	Ongoing
Safety	To raise young people's awareness on personal safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WESROC to write a letter of support to Crime Prevention Office detailing the benefits of the 'City After Dark' program and other relevant community safety programs. Copies of letters to be sent to all local Officers in Charge of local Police stations. 	Draft letter Endorsement & Admin	Continuation of 'City After Dark' program within schools in WESROC area	2006
	To have young people aware of and feel safe in their local environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write to the Perth Transport Authority (PTA) to highlight the issues of concern to young people and seek update on PTA priorities in the WESROC region Inform Community Safety Officers and TravelSmart Officers of youth safety issues to incorporate into Community Safety and Crime Prevention plans and work with them to implement strategies proposed in this action plan. Coordinate the provision of affordable 	Draft letters Endorsement & Admin Make presentation at Crime Prevention/Safety Officer meeting Liaise with TravelSmart Officer Liaise with PCYC's &	No. of young peoples issues identified by Study that are responded to by PTA No. of strategies included in Community Safety and Crime Prevention plans relating to young people No. of joint initiatives between Youth Officers and Community Safety Officers No. of safety/health related	2006 2006 2006/07 2006/07

Regional Approach Focus Areas	Objective	Strategic Actions	Resources Task	Evaluation	Time Frame
		courses or training in response to youth safety needs <i>e.g.</i> self defense courses	Heartbeat to organise 2 programs Promote programs within own LGA	courses offered. No. of young people attending courses	Ongoing
	To ensure our communities are accessible and inclusive to all young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for Disability Access and Inclusion Plans to reflect the needs of young people with disabilities • To provide information on universal access in partnership with Disability Services Commission (DSC) to local business, community groups and Council staff • All WESROC youth and/or community development programs to be accessible to people of all abilities. 	Liaison with relevant internal staff members Liaise with DSC, business and groups. Compilation & distribution of information	No. of youth related issues included in Council Disability Plans No. of businesses & community groups accommodating people with disabilities No. of youth events held in accessible venues	as Disability Service Plans are reviewed 2007 Ongoing
Recreation & Leisure	To provide events and activities in response to youth recreation needs at a regional level Support external recreation services to provide programs relevant to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a working party to investigate potential opportunities for the provision of a variety of youth events accessible to youth in the WESROC area • Use elements of Communication Strategy including LINCS database to convey info. re: local recreational opportunities for youth 	Establish working party Support maintenance of accurate records on LINCS database	Relevant tangible plan for 'youth events' in the WESROC region	2006/07 Ongoing

Regional Approach Focus Areas	Objective	Strategic Actions	Resources Task	Evaluation	Time Frame
	young people				
	To develop appropriate youth spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and help existing community groups and local business to develop youth friendly spaces, eg PCYC, local shopping centers, cafes • Refer to the WESROC recreation audit to acknowledge current resources, service goals and documented need for youth space. 	<p>Identify possible partnerships</p> <p>Support partnerships (grants/information/promotion)</p> <p>Consider the findings in regional youth planning</p>	No. of stakeholders positively responding	2006/07 Ongoing
	To establish collaborative partnerships with business, government, community and educational institutions to meet youth needs at a regional and local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of developing a local youth film festival, including film making workshops. • Inform young people of existing relevant recreational options, including PCYC programs, low cost gyms etc. • Encourage Youth Advisory Council members to write to local recreation services such as; fitness centres, pool, dance schools to increase awareness of youth needs with the aim of increasing youth participation opportunities. 	<p>Research partners and funding from appropriate bodies eg ArtsWA, FTI</p> <p>Support and promote programs (linked to comm/cation strategy)</p> <p>Identify rec providers Write letters Follow up</p>	<p>Comprehensive proposal to be tabled at Youth Initiatives meeting</p> <p>No. of local groups/businesses contacted</p>	2007/08 Ongoing 2006/07

Note

- Where this document makes reference to 'young people' it is inferred to be interpreted as 'young people living, studying or recreating in the WESROC area'.