

Our ref: MD: SM: COS15

27 November 2017

Hon Peter Tinley AM MLA
Minister for Youth
7th Floor
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

By email: youngpeople@dlgc.wa.gov.au; Minister.Tinley@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Minister

RE: SHIRE OF BROOME SUBMISSION – *BETTER CHOICES: YOUTH IN WA* DISCUSSION PAPER

Thank you for the opportunity for the Shire of Broome to contribute feedback on the *Better Choices: Youth in WA* discussion paper. The following feedback is informed by the Shire's Youth Framework 2016 – 2018, which was developed in consultation with young people and youth sector stakeholders in the Broome region. Further to the responses below, the Shire of Broome Youth Framework 2016-2018 is attached for your information.

Focus Question Responses:

- **What specific programs would help young Western Australians make choices about their future?**
 1. Access to Skills Development Support: A range of factors such as low levels of literacy, low level parent involvement, financial disadvantage and low self-esteem can lead to poorly developed personal or "life skills". Skills such as the ability to obtain a driver's license, basic interpersonal skills, and financial literacy are often taken for granted.
- **Do you have suggestions on how to implement these programs?**
 1. Alignment with Future Opportunities: Young people in the Broome region identified education, training and employment opportunities as being an important factor for their long term health and wellbeing. Education and training underpins a wide range of opportunities for young people. However, there is a need to ensure that education and training programs align directly with real job opportunities and employment pathways are available to young people in Broome.
 2. Co-design: Young people tell us that it is important for them to feel represented by their government and be included in decisions that affect them. Engagement with young people must be meaningful and genuinely considered in the decision making process. Token gestures are easily identified as such and only damage young peoples' trust in the organisation or project.
- **Do you know of existing programs that can be leveraged to complement these suggestions?**

The Shire is aware of the following in the Broome region:

- Broome Senior High School
- St Mary's College
- Alternative learning programs (Broome Girls Academy and PCYC)
- Kimberley Training Institute
- Kimberley Group Training
- University of Notre Dame
- Workforce Development Centre
- Employment services, in school transition support and vocational training programs, supported accommodation (Horizon House and MADALAH)

- **How can we improve access to young people and the youth sector to relevant programs?**
 1. Improved Coordination: The Broome region has a large number of service providers who deliver a diverse range of support services for young people. Some coordinated networks exist around particular interest areas such as the Youth at Risk interagency meetings, however coordination of government and non-government youth services is not the responsibility of one group or organisation – and there are opportunities for improvement in this area.
 2. Improved Referrals and Marketing: Referral pathways help to ensure young people are connected with the most relevant and useful service for their needs, however there is a general lack of awareness and understanding of the services available to young people and information about services is not always accessible or easy to find.
 3. Support to Access Education, Training and Employment: Many young people are not able to access education and employment close to home and need to either travel into Broome from remote communities or leave the region to pursue education and employment opportunities. Support in the areas of travel, accommodation, life skills and study methods is required for young people to access education, training and employment opportunities. Support for disengaged and at-risk youth to engage in education, training and employment has been identified as a priority

- **Do you have suggestions for specific programs in regional areas?**
 1. Health and Wellbeing: The Shire recognises the critical role family and friends play as the primary source of support in young people's lives. Some of the challenges facing families of young people include high incidences of domestic violence, suicide, alcohol and other drug use and the prevalence of young people on the streets at night – and there is a need for ongoing wrap-around projects to address these issues.
 2. Alcohol and Other Drugs: Young people identified underage drinking, drug abuse, binge drinking, smoking and peer pressure as their top concerns around alcohol and other drugs. Young people are particularly concerned about the increasing use of ice (methamphetamine) and marijuana among youth in the Broome region.

- **Do you have suggestions for specific programs in metropolitan areas?**

Most of the Shire's focus has been support for young people within the local government region, although it recognises that support services in the metropolitan area are vital for youth who relocate away from family support.

- **Where should the focus of youth programs lie? eg: on access and engagement, targeted intervention, or redirection services?**

The Shire's Youth Framework sets out ten key priorities for young people in Broome and illustrate a vision for the outcomes and opportunities for young people in Broome:

1. A Voice for Youth
2. Community Participation and Leadership
3. Education, Training and Employment
4. Youth Service Coordination
5. Health and Wellbeing
6. Alcohol and Other Drugs
7. Safety
8. Recreation and Leisure
9. Events and Entertainment
10. Accommodation and Transport

These priorities were ranked and based on the following factors:

- What matters most to young people
- Areas where the Shire of Broome can make the biggest impact or has influence
- Issues identified as having the greatest need or requiring the most attention
- Activities that are considered core business for the Shire of Broome

While the Shire of Broome recognises that these priorities are based on a regional local government context, it believes that they can still inform the development of the State's Youth Strategy.

Should the Department of Communities wish to seek any further clarification or require more information, please contact Mark Davis, Manager Community and Economic Development on 9191 3456 or mark.davis@broome.wa.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

SAM MASTROLEMBO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER