

Comments on the Draft Sydney East Regional Youth Strategy

17 September 2014

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

Ms Mia Zahra
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Office of Communities
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Dear Mia

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Sydney East Regional Youth Strategy. We have collated comments from our member Councils below that focus on what Councils plan to be doing (as opposed to already doing) and which align with the identified strategies.

In general terms, Councils already do a lot in terms of consulting with and engaging young people, sponsoring and managing youth programs and providing youth services. SSROC member Councils support the development of regional youth strategies, and in many cases would like to contribute more but generally lack the resources to do so. Where Councils are listed as a Lead or Link agency under the strategies, they request that the NSW Government fully consult with them about their role and the resources available to support them.

Strategy 1: Community Participation and Engagement

Waverley Council

A.C.2 Council runs an annual Young Local Hero Awards (13-25 years) and will profile all its Young Local Hero winners and their achievements to a wider audience in the build up to 2015 Waverley Local Hero Awards

NS.C.1 Council to introduce a youth focus within their Community Gardens program to engage young people to contribute to their own community garden (painting water tanks, building ponds, retaining walls, harvesting crops etc). Council will address needs of young people in open space through plans of management, Recreation Needs Study and community development activities.

City of Canterbury Council

Expressed concern about lack of reference to the specific engagement of CALD and ATSI young people.

City of Canada Bay Council

A.C.2 More effort could be directed to promoting and profiling young people who volunteer.

Burwood Council

A.C.3 Council plans to focus on developing links between young people and local libraries.

Strategy 2 Identity, Culture and Value in Diversity

City of Canada Bay Council

IE.I.1 Council recently joined the national campaign 'Racism. It stops with Me.' to educate young people how to deal with racism. Initiatives such as this could be coordinated on a regional level for greater input.

Strategy 3 Employment, Education & Training

No comments

Strategy 4 Wellbeing, Mental Health & Health Services

Councils generally feel they are not resourced enough to deal with health issues, particularly mental health. Domestic squalor and hoarding is a considerable resource drain on councils and is generally poorly managed. This should be addressed on a regional basis.

Strategy 5 Housing & Homelessness for Young People

Hurstville Council

SS.H.1 it should be noted that UpZone Youth Health Centre ceased to exist several months ago with the opening of the Headspace facility.

City of Canada Bay Council

IE.H.1 Council is in the process of developing a protocol for staff in regard to provision of support for homeless people. The Five Dock Library currently provides a youth drop-in program and could potentially provide referrals to homelessness services. Council would be prepared to undertake other activities to support regional responses where appropriate and possible.

City of Canterbury Council

The reforms in relation to homelessness are called the Going Home Staying Home Reforms – this needs to be corrected throughout various parts of the document.

Strategy 6 Public Safety

Hurstville

SS.P.2 The reference to Hurstville LAC should now read St George LAC since the amalgamation. Also, MTC no longer has an outreach worker in the St George Region.

Strategy 7 Recreation and Local Activities

City of Canada Bay Council

IE.A.2 Council seeks a collaborative approach to addressing the opportunities presented through the WestConnex and Parramatta Road revitalisation projects.

Strategy 8 Services Accessed by Young People

City of Canada Bay Council

A.S.1 Council suggests establishing links to appropriate umbrella organisations to coordinate the process of establishing teams of young people to test, trouble shoot and explore service website and promotional material.

Strategy 9 Transport & Accessibility

City of Canada Bay Council

A.T.1 Further collaboration and regional coordination would assist addressing opportunities for all members of the community to use walking and cycling.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Sydney East Regional Youth Strategy. If you require any further information, please call me on 9330 6455.

Kind regards

Gina Ross

Program Officer, SSROC