

Amplifying young voices



Outcome: Young people have a voice that is heard, shaping their world, while feeling valued, recognised, and celebrated for their invaluable contributions.

Amplifying the voices of young people is about hearing what they have to say and valuing and acting on what they say so that they are involved in meaningful ways.

Young people told us that:

I feel like young people get looked down on by people who think we are not knowledgeable enough. I wish we have more representation and say on matters that will affect us now in the future. 12–18 years old, Perth

We heard that young people want to be included in conversations in ways that reflect who they are, how they communicate, be taken seriously and given opportunities to lead.

The WA Government is already delivering or supporting a range of initiatives such as:

- **Ministerial Youth Advisory Council**
- **Youth Week WA & Youth Ambassador Program**
- **Youth Parliament**
- **Premier's Science Awards**

We will undertake **12 actions** to support amplifying the voices of young people, including:

Supporting young people to attend the annual **National Youth Forum** and advocate for the perspectives of young Western Australians.

Supporting Youth Advisory Councils (YAC) and Youth Action Plans (YAP) by funding resources for local governments, not-for-profits, and community groups to establish YACS and develop local YAPs.

Amplifying the voices of young consumers by working to include or involve young people on Consumer Protection committees, such as the Consumer Advisory Committee.

Revamping the Youth Participation Kit with best practice resources for government and organisations who wish to engage with young people.

Giving school students a say through the WA Student Council engaging with other advisory groups, such as the National Student Voice Council, to amplify the views of students on issues that are important to them.

To learn more, please refer to the full version of the Youth Action Plan at www.communities.wa.gov.au/youthactionplan

Climate action



Outcome: Move towards achieving net zero emissions. Equipping young people with the knowledge, resources, and infrastructure needed to lead climate action, drive sustainable environmental practices and adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Climate change impacts everyone and addressing it is a responsibility shared by government, business and individuals.

Young people told us that:

Climate change needs to be changed before it gets beyond the point of no return, and this will only happen if everyone gets on board and is willing to help
Young Person, South Metropolitan Perth

We heard a range of concerns about climate change from young people. Many were concerned about the loss of biodiversity and extreme weather changes. Some also felt that anxiety about climate is making it difficult to focus on their education, career and future. Young people called for actions to lessen climate change, more educational programs and the promotion of jobs that can help make a difference.

The WA Government is already delivering or supporting a range of initiatives such as:

- **Emission reduction targets**
- **Natural bush classrooms initiative**
- **State Electric Vehicle Strategy**
- **Climate adaption and disaster resilience education**
- **Implementing the Native Vegetation Policy**

We will undertake **16 actions** to support climate action, including:

Embedding sustainability in the school curriculum through the 'Caring for Country Together' framework and **delivering the disaster resilience education** targeting regional and remote schools

Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy which aims to promote and enhance tree canopy and greening across the Perth and Peel regions.

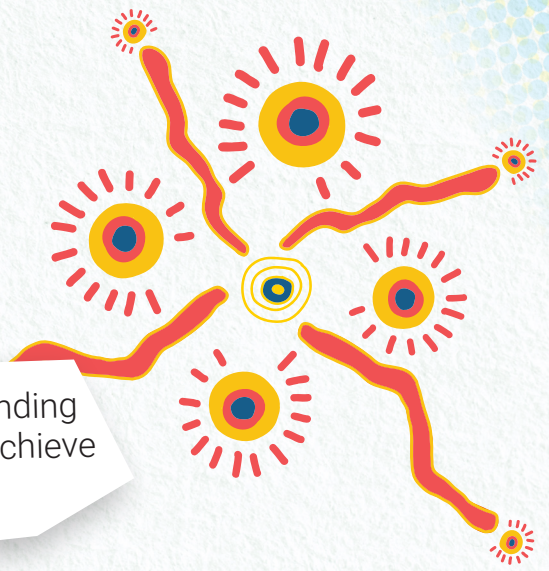
Reducing Government emissions by 80% by 2030, by closing State-owned coal fired generators and finding energy efficiencies within government, like increasing Public Transport Authority solar power capacity by 30 per cent and adding 18 new electric buses to the State's public transport fleet.

WA Plan for Plastics which will save 1.1 billion single-use plastics annually from entering WA landfill.

New climate change laws were introduced to the WA Parliament to ensure Government accountability on climate change, formalise long-term emissions reduction targets, and provide certainty of our state's enduring commitment to climate action for present and future generations.

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Achieving goals



Outcome: young people to gain a better understanding of post-school pathways and crucial life skills to achieve their goals and/or pursue purpose-driven careers.

Pursuing your goals isn't always easy. Young people need solid information and opportunities to build important life skills and discover what inspires them. This will help them understand the best way to get to where they want to be.

I think the training and education needed is that we should have a class on how to properly look after our finances, bills etc, and how to do a proper resume, how to apply for scholarships and also investments and starting businesses.
14–17 years old, Fremantle

Young people told us that:

Most young people said their goal was to land their dream job – one that's more than just a source of income and that makes a difference to people, the environment or the community. Young people shared that they wanted more support to build life skills and to figure out what to do after school. They emphasised wanting to learn about all the different pathways and opportunities available to them.

The WA Government is already delivering or supporting a range of initiatives such as:

- **Quality Teaching Strategy**
- **Apprenticeships and traineeships**
- **Year 9 Career Taster Program and industry-relevant training for school students**
- **Girls in Engineering Tomorrow Program**
- **Jobs and Skills Centres and Fee-Free TAFE and Lower Fees, Local Skills discounted TAFE Courses**

We will undertake **22 actions** to support young people achieving their goals, including:

Working with a range of stakeholders to support training and mentoring programs that **enable young Aboriginal people to secure skills and job pathways within the tourism and hospitality industries.**

Improve post-school pathways and support young people reach their full potential through post-school study, training, or employment pursuits.

Empowering young people with real-world life skills by funding organisations to deliver life skills education to young people, empowering them to confidently transition to adulthood equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive and achieve their goals.

Raise awareness of employment rights for young people through a proactive educational campaign focussing on the key issues of when young people can work and where they can access support.

Providing work experience placements for young people at State Government camps, ensuring that young people have career pathways into **careers in the recreational outdoors sector.**

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Cost of living

Outcome: young people have access to supports that assist them with cost of living pressures, and access to safe and affordable transport to get to the places they need to.



Cost of living pressures have made it challenging for young people to meet their needs, and they often need to prioritise what they will spend their money on. Access to safe, reliable, and timely transport options is also having an impact on the everyday lives of young people.

The cost-of-living crisis makes me scared for the future as I do not think that I will be able to reach the same milestones my parents did as easily, or ever. 18–21 years old, Wheatbelt

Young people told us that:

Young people highlighted the impacts of cost of living expenses and transportation access, particularly how it can contribute to stress and anxiety. For many young people, financial assistance is critical to achieving their education goals, especially given that most of their income is going towards rent, food and other essentials.

The WA Government is already delivering or supporting a range of initiatives such as:

- **\$24.4 million WA Rent Relief Program**
- **Resources for making purchases & other financial decisions**
- **Capping training course fees for selected qualifications to \$400 a year**
- **Free public transport for school students and Sundays**
- **KidSport Program offering \$300 per year towards club fees**

We will undertake **12 actions** to support young people navigate the cost of living, including:

Support the rights of young renters by updating and strengthening protections for renters in the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* (WA)

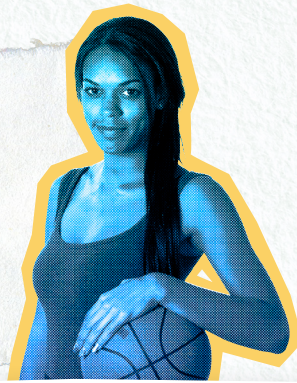
Removing barriers to getting a driver's licence by developing a strategy to expand the reach of the Driving Access and Equity Program, which supports young people with improved access to a vehicle, supervisor/instructor/mentor and assistance with licensing costs.

Increasing the financial support for regional families getting kids to and from school, with the Student Transport Conveyance Allowance more than doubling from 25.24c per kilometre to 55.6c per kilometre.

New SmartRider and add value machines are to be installed, **making it easier to pay for public transport.**

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Supporting wellbeing



Outcome: young people have access to resources, education, and programs supporting mental wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, and connections with family, friends, and community.

Good health and mental health help us to get through daily life and to bounce-back from challenges. Leading a healthy lifestyle allows young people to flourish and means that they can be at their best for themselves and for others.

Young people told us that:

Normalise mental health as something that is just as important as physical health.
12–17 years old, South Metropolitan Perth

Young people spoke of the importance of having accessible services in schools and communities, addressing stigma so people can more easily come forward to seek help and ensure young people get the help they need when they need it. They also felt it was important to promote physical health and wellness. This includes efforts to reduce vaping and encouraging healthy choices through affordable and easy-to-access recreational and sporting activities.

The WA Government is already delivering or supporting a range of initiatives such as:

- **'Find Your Way to Okay' mental wellbeing public education campaign**
- **'Get the Facts' website about sexual health, relationships and blood-borne viruses**
- **Funding organisations to deliver sport and recreation opportunities to identified low participation cohorts**
- **WA Mental Wellbeing Guide 2023–2025 which aims to support optimal wellbeing**
- **Investing in Community Youth Centres**

We will undertake **12 actions** to support young people's wellbeing, including:

Reducing young people's use of vaping, tobacco and e-cigarettes through education and enforcement of rules.

Funding for programs that improve health and build the emotional and social wellbeing of young people through the arts or increasing mental health and wellbeing through community sport.

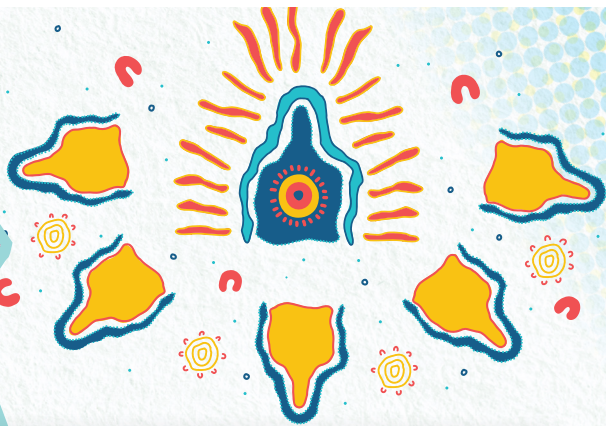
Deliver a campaign to educate young people on their right to safe and ethical mental health support

Ensure that young people have access to outdoor recreation activities through the outdoor Active Recreation Participation Grant program

Provide artistic opportunities for young people to create and engage in schools through the Creating Learning Funding Program

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Embracing diversity and inclusion



Outcome: young people are actively engaged in community life, included, valued and celebrated for their diversity; fostering a strong sense of belonging and connection.

The diversity of WA is a strength that we should all celebrate. Fostering inclusion and sense of belonging supports young people's wellbeing and helps them to thrive.

Young people told us that:

Australia is a very diverse country and we want to ensure that everyone is included. This can be done by having programs that include all cultures, religions and people from similar backgrounds to recognise cultures and feel accepted/welcome.
15–17 years old, South Metropolitan Perth

Young people shared that welcoming environments are needed, where they feel safe to express who they are, no matter their age, gender, or sexual orientation, and where cultural diversity is celebrated. Young people stressed the importance of addressing bullying and discrimination and promoting inclusion, kindness and respect.

The WA Government is already delivering or supporting a range of initiatives such as:

- **Programs that raise awareness of Aboriginal people, their culture and heritage and ways of caring for Country**
- **Professional learning on creating supportive and inclusive environments for gender-diverse**
- **Drafting Equal Opportunity Laws and laws to criminalise LGBTQIA+ conversion practices**
- **Stronger Together' plan for gender equality**
- **Free period products in all public schools and TAFE colleges**

We will undertake **14 actions** that support embracing diversity and the inclusion of young people, including:

Celebrating multiculturalism in schools by reviewing and updating 'Countering Racism' and 'A World of Difference' resources to help schools promote multiculturalism and anti-racism education.

Expand support and initiatives for respectful relationships education in schools that aim to impact long-term cultural change.

Reviewing the 'Nearer to Nature' programs to promote accessibility for neurodiverse young people

Provide funding through the Connecting to Country Program for Aboriginal people and organisations to undertake the on-Country activities to support the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, to strengthen culture identity and communities

Abolish the Gender Reassignment Board to streamline the administrative process for sex and gender recognition through the Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

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