



WA local government (LG) youth networks: survey results

From August to September 2017, the Department of Communities undertook an audit of existing local government engagement with young people, youth services networks and activities in Western Australia. The survey was distributed to all 139 local governments in WA, including the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Shire of Christmas Island.

93 LGs responded to the survey

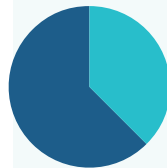


81.9% of LGs consult with young people regarding future planning



Over half

of LGs have a Youth Advisory Council



Three out of five

LGs without a Youth Advisory Council have another mechanism to consult and engage with youth

More than **two thirds** of LGs consult with youth both generally and in a targeted fashion



63.6%

LGs which have been involved in National Youth Week in the last five years and facilitated an event



Three fifths

of LGs have had a youth network or join in with other local governments to form a regional network to discuss youth matters

Two thirds

of LGs are not affiliated with the Youth Advisory Council of WA (YACWA)



Six most prominent issues

for youth in local governments:

1. Alcohol and drug/substance issues
2. Employment/independence issues
3. Boredom/lack of activities
4. Lack of youth spaces, facilities, programs and services
5. Lack of education/training and opportunities
6. Mental health and suicide issues

85.7%

LGs interested in attending a skill building/youth networking event. At such an event, LGs requested the following youth-focused topics to be covered:

- Alcohol and drug use
- Engagement strategies for youth involvement
- Funding (seeking and opportunities for)
- Youth employment
- Cultural programs/connection

79.2%

LGs believe they are undertaking strategies to address the six most prominent issues for youth.



LG strategies to address issues

68.6%

of LGs think other supports or services such as an online network or information/resources would benefit young people.

- Drug and alcohol programs
- School holiday programs
- Recreational/social activities (such as sports)
- Encouraging training and employment within area
- Promoting pro-social and anti-drug initiatives