Cardinia Shire Council
Youth forum survey 2015

Report of findings

Table of contents

Figures

1   Cardinia Shire snapshot

Cardinia Shire is located south-east of Melbourne and is one of 10 'interface councils' around the perimeter of metropolitan Melbourne, providing a transition between urban and rural areas. The primary urban centre is Pakenham, which is 55km from Melbourne's central business district (CBD).

The Princes Highway and Gippsland railway corridor runs east-west through the centre of the Cardinia Shire, providing a key road and rail link between Melbourne and West Gippsland. The western end of this corridor comprises the Cardinia Shire growth area (about 10% of the Shire's land area).

Cardinia Shire has a large rural population outside the urban growth area, resulting in unique service provision issues. The northern part of the Shire is set in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges, and includes Bunyip State Park and Cardinia Reservoir. Koo Wee Rup swamp and Westernport Bay are significant features of the southern part of Cardinia Shire.

Cardinia Shire is among the fastest and largest growing Local Government Area's (LGA) in Victoria and across Australia. Approximately five families move into Cardinia per day. The most recent population estimate is 87,008 (June 2014 ERP), an increase of 3,011 from 2013. Cardinia Shire's population is expected to increase by approximately 41,000 over the next 10 years (2025) and 81,887 over the next 20 years, to a total of 168,895 by 2035.

Cardinia Shire has a higher than average youth population, with approximately 21 per cent of the population aged between 10-24 years (18,768). It is projected that the 10-24 age group will increase by approximately 17,164 to a total of 35, 932 by 2035.

To service the municipality's young people, Council provides a generalist youth service. The service is predominantly funded by Council, while State government provides a small proportion of funding for targeted events and programs. Its activities incorporate health and wellbeing, support and leadership programs, youth events and school holiday programs.

2   The youth forum survey

Council acknowledges that youth is a crucial period for establishing positive health and social behaviours and it is during this period young people acquire a range of skills and behaviours, face a range of life events, and make decisions that can influence their physical and psychological health, their social development, and their educational and employment opportunities (WHO 2010).

To enhance the wellbeing of young people and their families Council has conducted a number of information gathering and evaluation exercises to assess the views, needs and aspirations of young people who have strong connections to the Cardinia Shire.

The youth forum survey aims to:

- capture local issues
- identify trends
- provide geographic and age comparisons
- better target and improve service provision
- inform Councils Business Planning, Youth Strategy implementation and the future development of a Child, Youth and Family Plan

Council welcomes the voices, opinions and ideas of young people that are shared through the 2015 youth forum survey. This information assists in shaping policy, planning service delivery and creating strategies for improving the health, wellbeing and development of Cardinia Shire's young people and their families.

Survey results will also assist Council's youth services to plan and advocate for the needs of local young people and allow for young people's voices to be heard by regional networks, State and Federal governments, service providers and the general community.

3 Survey distribution

The 2015 youth forum survey was distributed in a variety of ways to reach a broad cross-section of young people aged between 12 and 24 years who have strong connections to the Cardinia Shire.
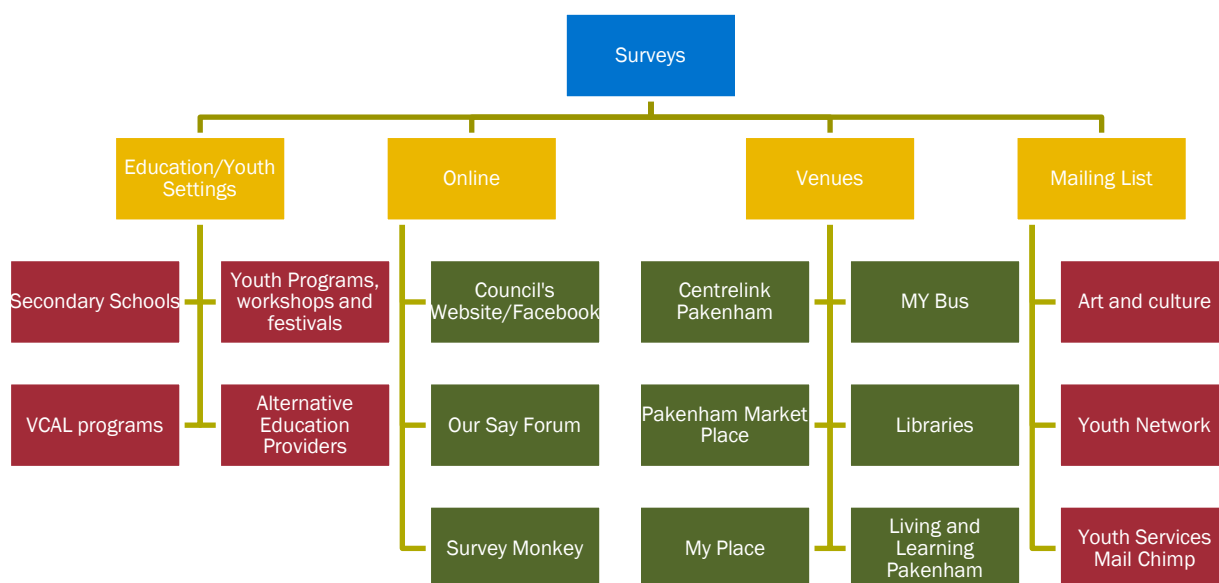
Figure 1. *The data was collected over an eleven week period from 13 April to 26 June 2015.*

4 Methodology

This year some changes were made to the youth forum survey. These changes included the addition of two new questions and the removal of two questions. One of the new questions asks

if young people experience stress what are the things that make them feel stressed. This question was added as stress was the highest ranked issue in the 2013 survey and it was important to explore this issue in greater depth with the anticipation that stress may again rank high in the 2015 survey. The second addition asks young people what stops them from participating in activities, school or work. Both questions capture vital information for future service planning.

In previous youth forum surveys young people have been asked about issues of concern. This year the question has been changed to if you have experienced any of the following problems in the last year, please tick in the boxes the issues that were of concern to you. There were 30 options for young people to select. Young people could select as many options that were applicable to them instead of only picking their top three as was the case in the 2013 survey. They were also given the option to provide other suggestions if their problem was not listed or to select 'no issues'.

There were two questions that were removed from this year's youth forum survey. The question asking young people if they have a mental or physical disability seemed to confuse young people in the 2013 survey. Some young people who had ADHD or autism did not identify as having a disability and other young people did not want to disclose if they had a disability. The other question removed was if you, or a friend have experienced some problems as a young person and someone could have offered support, at what age do you think that would have been? Young people found this question difficult to understand and therefore the data gathered did not clearly capture what was intended.

5   Profile of respondents

A total of 2320 young people responded to the youth forum survey in 2015. Young people from the ages of 12–24 were represented. It is however important to acknowledge that there were responses from 24 young people aged 10-11 which is outside the target age range for the survey. Responses from 10-11 year olds were similar to that of the 12-14 year olds. The majority of respondents were students, of the remainder 221 respondents were in full-time employment or undertaking an apprenticeship/traineeship and 41 respondents were unemployed/not studying.

The largest group of respondents were aged 12–14 and the smallest group were the young adults aged 18–24. As highlighted in Figure 2 the responses from the 12–14 year old age group totalled 62 per cent of all respondents, which is a similar response rate to the 2013 youth forum survey from this age group. In 2013, 74 per cent of respondents from this age group were received. This result is significant and will invariably influence the findings in this report in terms of overall ratings for each question.

The second highest response rate was received from the 15–17 year age group at 33 per cent and the 18–25 year age group response rate was 5 per cent.

5.1 Age breakdown

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents %
12 - 14 years	1422	62
15–17 years	755	33
18–24 years	119	5
Total	2296	100

Figure 2. Age profile of respondents

5.2 Gender breakdown

Gender breakdown	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents %
Female	1140	50
Male	1090	47
Gender Other than male/female	66	3
Total	2296	100

Figure 3. Gender profile of respondents

5.3 Country of birth

The 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reported that 21 per cent of residents were born overseas. Cultural diversity is not as pronounced in Cardinia Shire as in other municipalities, as only 8 per cent of people in the Shire come from a non-English speaking background.

In the 2015 youth forum survey, young people were asked to state their country of origin to capture the migration pattern of new families and those from new and emerging communities that have chosen to settle in Cardinia Shire.

The number of respondents who stated Australia as their country of birth was 1,955 or 88.5 per cent. The next highest country/continents of birth were the United Kingdom, Africa and Asia all with 43 or 2 per cent of respondents each. This was followed by New Zealand with 37 or 1.7 per cent of respondents and the Middle East with 20 or 1 per cent of respondents.

This year has seen an increase in the amount of young people responding from Africa, Asia and the Middle East. We have grouped some of the countries to reflect continents to provide a good representation of the different countries of birth.

A total of 111 respondents did not state their country of birth.

Country	Number	Percentage
Australia	1955	88%
United Kingdom	43	2%

Africa*	43	2%
Asia*	43	2%
New Zealand	37	1.7%
Middle East*	20	1%

Africa* includes Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Mauritius.
Asia* includes India, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia, China, Bangledesh and East Timor.
Middle East* includes Afghanistan, Egypt, Israel and Bahrain.

Figure 4.   Country of birth of respondents

5.4   Location of respondents

Almost all townships and towns in the municipality were represented by responses, in addition to a number of townships outside the Shire. These responses were received from students attending schools in the municipality. Pakenham recorded 640 responses, which was 21 per cent of the total number of responses received.

The locality breakdown of each ward for the purpose of the survey results are as follows:
Central Ward includes the townships of Beaconsfield, Officer and Pakenham.

The *Ranges Ward* has been defined as those townships north of the Princes Highway. They include Pakenham Upper, Dewhurst, Guys Hill, Beaconsfield Upper, Maryknoll, Mt Burnett, Gembrook, Cockatoo, Emerald, Avonsleigh and Menzies Creek.

The *Port Ward* has been defined as those townships south of the Princes Highway. They include Nar Nar Goon, Garfield, Tynong, Bunyip, Longwarry, Rythdale, Cardinia, Tooradin, Koo Wee Rup, Caldermeade, Lang Lang Catani, Cora Lynn and Vervale.

Respondents classified under 'Other' were from neighbouring municipalities including City of Casey, Yarra Ranges Shire and Baw Baw Council.

Location of respondents across the Shire and neighbouring municipalities indicates the percentage of respondents received from each of the Shire's three regions and neighbouring municipalities.

Locality Breakdown	Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
Central Ward	667	29%
Ranges Ward	636	28%
Port Ward	438	19%
Other	555	24%
TOTAL	2296	100%

Figure 5.   Locality breakdown
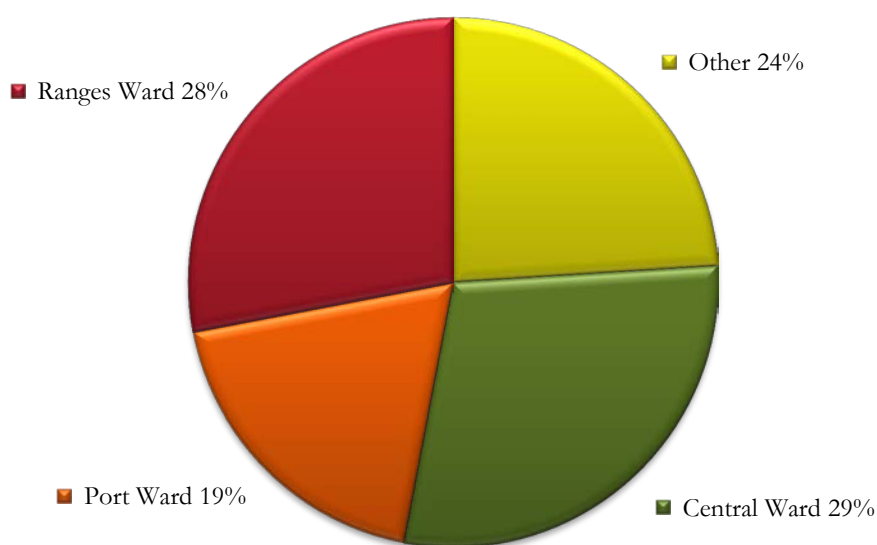
Figure 6.   Location of respondents across the Shire and neighbouring municipalities

6   Issues of concern that young people have experienced in the past year

6.1   Top ten issues of concern for young people in Cardinia Shire

Young people were asked to identify issues that were of concern to them over the past year. They were provided with 30 options and the opportunity to state an issue of concern if it did not appear in the list provided.

Respondents were also provided with the option to select no issues. Overall 22% of respondents stated they didn't have any issues of concern. This is an increase from the previous survey (2013) at 17%. This suggests that one in five youth in Cardinia are not experiencing any significant issues. More specifically, of those who had no issues of concern;

- 27% were male

- 25% were aged 12 to 14 and 15 to

- 24% were from the Central Ward and Ranges Ward

- 19% were from areas outside Cardinia Shire

- 17% were from the Port Ward

- 16% were female

6.1.1   Top ten issues of concern - overall

The remaining respondents identified issues that were of concern to them over the previous year. Figure 7 shows the top ten issues of concern, overall, for young people participating in the youth forum survey in 2015.

Top 10 issues of concern	
1. School or work related stress (35%)	6. Life Changing Events (15%)
2. Stress (31%)	7. Bullying (15%)
3. Being Unhappy (29%)	8. Financial/money (9%)
4. Anxiety (22%)	9. Being Overweight (9%)
5. Body Image (18%)	10. Peer Pressure (9%)

Figure 7.   Top ten issues of concern

The top ten issues of concern identified by young people in the Cardinia Youth Forum Survey mirrors the findings of the 2014 Mission Australia Survey. The National youth survey reached a total of 13,600 young people aged 15-19 years with 22.9 per cent of respondents being from Victoria.

The Mission Australia Report highlights;

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 41.6% of respondents indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (17.4%) or *very concerned* (24.2%) about this issue.

- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 40.8% (*extremely concerned*: 17.7%; *very concerned*: 23.1%) of young people.

- *Body image* was also an important issue of concern for 30.4% of respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.7% v*ery concerned*: 17.7%).

6.1.2   Top ten issues of concern - age

Top issues of concern by age group were similar to the overall issues of concern; however, there were differences in rankings for each age group. Figure 4 provides the top ten issues of concern by age group.

Due to changes in age structure, direct comparisons cannot be made to previous results. However, results for 2015 were very similar to 2013 for all age groups.

	Ages 12-14 (n=1422)		Ages 15–17 (n=755)		Ages 18–24 (n=119)	
1	School stress	28%	School/work stress	44%	Stress	41%
2	Stress	26%	Stress	38%	Being unhappy	37%
3	Being Unhappy	23%	Being unhappy	37%	School/work stress	36%
4	Anxiety	16%	Anxiety	28%	Anxiety	33%
5	Bullying	16%	Body Image	25%	Financial/Money	27%
6	Body Image	14%	Life Changing events	17%	Body Image	26%
7	Life changing events	14%	Bullying	14%	Being overweight	22%
8	Peer Pressure	8%	Mental Health issues	13%	Life changing events	21%
9	Being overweight	7%	Financial/money	12%	Mental Health Issues	20%
10	Financial/money	7%	Being overweight	11%	Transport	15%

Figure 8.   Top ten concerns that young people have experienced in the past year, by age group

6.1.3   Top ten issues of concern - gender

Whilst males experienced 'no issues' at a higher rate than females (27% compared to 16%), gender did not appear to be a deciding factor in the top three challenges young people had experienced over the previous year. Figure 9 provides the top ten issues of concern by gender.

- School or work related stress, stress and being unhappy were top issues of concern regardless of gender.
- However, anxiety and body image were experienced at a much higher rate by those identifying as female and neither male nor female compared to those identifying as male.

	Females (n=1140)		Males (n=1090)		Gender other than male/female (n=66)	
1	School/Work Stress	42%	School/Work Stress	26%	Being unhappy	42%
2	Stress	38%	Stress	23%	Anxiety	36%
3	Being unhappy	36%	Being unhappy	21%	School/Work stress	36%
4	Anxiety	30%	Life changing events	13%	Stress	35%
5	Body image	27%	Bullying	13%	Body image	29%
6	Life changing events	17%	Anxiety	11%	Bullying	27%
7	Bullying	17%	Body image	8%	Drugs	27%
8	Being overweight	11%	Financial/money	7%	Financial/money	27%
9	Mental health issues	11%	Peer pressure	6%	Gender identity	26%
10	Financial/money	10%	Being overweight	6%	Alcohol	24%

Figure 9. *Top ten issues of concern by gender*

6.1.4 *Top ten issues of concern - a time series*

The question relating to issues of concern was presented in a different format in 2013 and 2015 as it was in previous years, so caution should be exercised when comparing results (see Methodology). The method introduced more variability in options provided. It is therefore likely that stress and school or work related stress have been common issues facing young people for some time, but having this option available enables young people to easily communicate this. Figure 10 provides a time series of the top ten issues of concern from 2009 to 2015.

- Stress and school or work related stress featured as the top two issues of concern in both the 2013 and 2015 results.

- Bullying has been identified in the top ten issues of concern for young people for the past six years.

- In years 2011 and 2009 bullying ranked as the top issue of concern overall. In 2013 bullying ranked as the third most challenging issue overall and in 2015 it is now the seventh issue of concern for young people overall.

	2015	2013	2011	2009
1	School/Work stress	Stress	Bullying	Bullying
2	Stress	School/Work stress	Alcohol	Drugs
3	Being Unhappy	Bullying	Drugs	Activities
4	Anxiety	Being unhappy	Violence	Transport
5	Body Image	Body image	Smoking	Boredom
6	Life Changing events	Life changing event	Transport	Vandalism
7	Bullying	Being overweight	Boredom	Alcohol
8	Financial/money	Peer pressure	Vandalism	Smoking
9	Being Overweight	Mental health/	Activities	Safety
10	Peer Pressure	Transport	Shopping	Skate parks

Figure 10.   Top ten issues of concern overall- a time series

6.2   Exploring the top five issues of concern for young people in Cardinia Shire

- In 2015 bullying was not identified in the top five issues of concern for young people in Cardinia Shire as it was in 2013.

- In 2015 anxiety replaced bullying in the top five issues of concern for young people in Cardinia Shire. Anxiety was only introduced as an option in 2015 and therefore may have been hidden as another issue in previous years. Since 2013 there has been a focus on raising awareness of youth mental health through school educational programs and youth mental health services outreaching to Cardinia.

- The remaining top five issues of concern have been consistent between 2013 and 2015. That is; stress, school or work related stress, being unhappy and body image were all identified in both surveys.

- However, being unhappy increased from 18% in 2013 to 29% in 2015.

Top 5 Issues of concern 2013 and 2015	
2013	2015
1. Stress (32%)	1. School or work related stress (35%)
2. School or work related stress (27%)	2. Stress (31%)
3. Bullying (19%)	3. Being unhappy (29%)
4. Being unhappy (18%)	4. Anxiety (22%)
5. Body Image (17%)	5. Body Image (18%)

Figure 11.   Top 5 issues of concern for 2013 and 2015

1. School or work-related stress:
   - Overall, school or work related stress was ranked the highest issue of concern for youth in Cardinia Shire at 35%. This increased from 27% in 2013. Refer to figure 11.
   - School or work related stress was highest for those aged 15 to 17. Refer to figure 8.
   - School or work related stress was highest for those identifying as female. Refer to figure 9.

2. Stress:
   - Stress is separate to school or work related stress in that it includes all causes of stress other than school or work. These are defined in figure 13 where young people identified school, family, media/other, friends, work and bushfires as causes of stress. To gain a better understanding of how young people define and feel stress, further investigation is needed.
   - Overall, stress was ranked the second issues of concern for youth in Cardinia Shire at 31%. This decreased slightly from 32% in 2013. Refer to figure 11.
   - Stress was experienced highest by those aged 18 to 24. Refer to figure 8.
   - Stress was experienced highest by those identifying as female

3. Being Unhappy:
   - Overall, being unhappy was ranked the third issue of concern for youth in Cardinia Shire at 29%. This increased from 18% in 2013. Refer to figure 11.
   - Respondents age 15 to 17 and 18 to 24 experienced the highest rates of being unhappy. Refer to figure 8.
   - Respondents identifying as gender other than male/female experienced the highest rates of being unhappy. Refer to figure 9.

4. Anxiety:
   - Overall, anxiety was ranked the fourth issue of concern for youth in Cardinia Shire at 22%.
   - Anxiety did not feature in the top issues of concern for 2013. Refer to figure 11.
   - Respondents aged 18 to 24 experienced the highest rates of anxiety. Refer to figure 8.
   - Respondents identifying as gender other than male/female experienced the highest rates of anxiety. Refer to figure 9.

5. Body Image:
   - Body image is defined as the perception that a person has of their physical self, but more importantly the thoughts and feelings the person experiences as a result of that perception. It is important to understand that these feelings can be positive, negative or a combination of both and are influenced by individual and environmental factors. (National Eating Disorders Association, 2011)
   - Overall, body image was ranked as the fifth issue of concern for youth in Cardinia Shire at 18%. This is similar to the 2013 results at 17%. Refer to figure 11.
   - The rate of body image as an issue of concern was highest for respondents aged 18 to 24, followed closely by respondents aged 15 to 17. Refer to figure 8.
   - The rate of body image as an issue of concern was highest for respondents identifying as gender other than male/female, followed closely by those identifying as female. Refer to figure 9.

6.3 Top five issues of concern - by ward

Figure 12 provides the top five issues of concern according to the Ward respondents live in.

- Location did not appear to be a decisive factor in issues of concern for young people
- Those who resided outside Cardinia Shire had similar results to those who resided in the three wards within Cardinia Shire, meaning issues of concern are not Cardinia Shire specific, rather youth specific.

Rank	Central Ward	%	Port Ward	%	Ranges Ward	%	Other location outside Cardinia	%
1	School or work related stress	30	School or work related stress	27	School or work related stress	36	School or work related stress	43
2	Personal stress	29	Personal stress	23	Personal stress	32	Personal stress	37
3	Being Unhappy	27	Being Unhappy	21	Being Unhappy	31	Being unhappy	35
4	Anxiety	20	Anxiety	18	Anxiety	22	Anxiety	25
5	Life Changing Event*	17	Body Image	13	Body Image	20	Body Image	23

Examples of life changing events as listed in the survey were moving school and parents splitting up. Young people who have experienced a large disruption throughout their life may have ticked life changing events as well.

Figure 12.   Top five issues of concern based on ward

7 Causes of stress in young people in Cardinia Shire

Respondents were asked, if they had experienced stress over the past year, to identify the causes of their stress. Respondents were provided with six options including 'other/what they see in the media'. The majority of respondents (98%) selected a cause of stress. See figure 13 for results.

- The highest cause of stress, by far, was School. Combined with work almost three quarters of respondents selected school or work as their cause of stress.
- This aligns to results in section six where school or work related stress was identified as the top issue of concern.
- One third of respondents selected 'other or what they hear in the media' as their cause of stress. Please see figure 14 for details about these concerns.
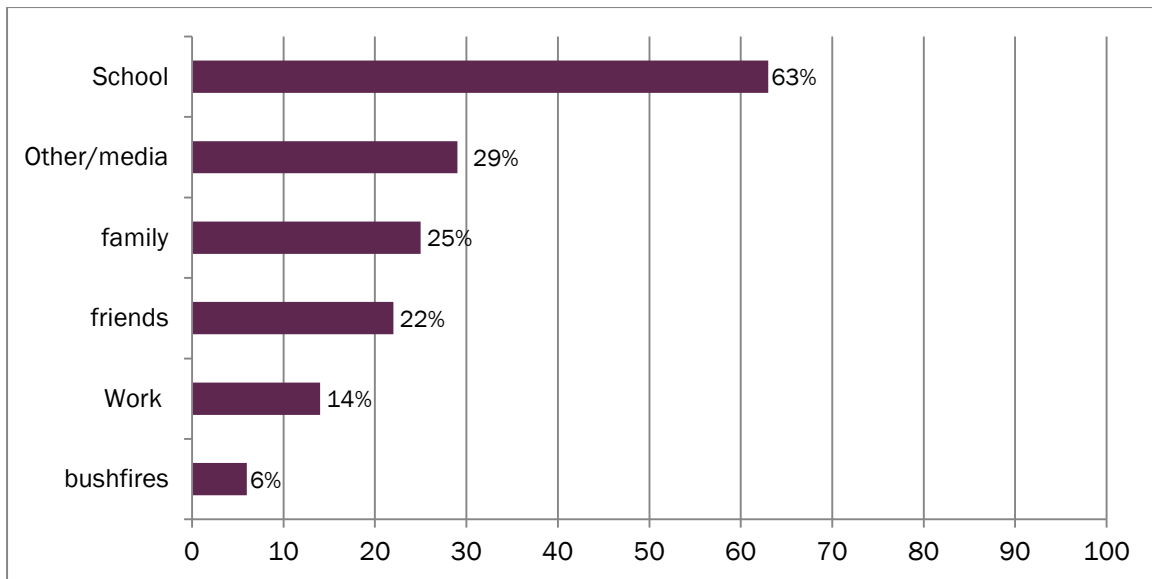- One quarter of respondents identified family as a cause of their stress.

Figure 13. *If you have experienced stress, what are the things that make you feel stressed?*

Top themes for other causes of stress (29%)

1. World events such as ISIS, Terrorism, Racism, War and Conflict, discrimination, and tragic stories

2. Media/Social Media

3. Relationships/ family breakdown

4. Homework

Figure 14. *Top themes for responses included in 'other/what you see in the media' as a cause of stress*

8   Participation of young people in Cardinia Shire

Respondents were asked to identify what things are stopping them from participating in or attending activities, school or work. Respondents were provided with ten options including an opportunity to list other reasons if not provided.

Almost half of respondents said that nothing was stopping them from participating in or attending activities, school or work. Figure 14 provides details of what stops participation or attendance for the remaining respondents.

*   Lack of confidence was identified by 25% of respondents

*   Anxiety was identified by 17% of respondents. This aligns with anxiety appearing in the top ten issues of concern for young people.

*   Other causes were identified by 13% of respondents. See Figure 16.

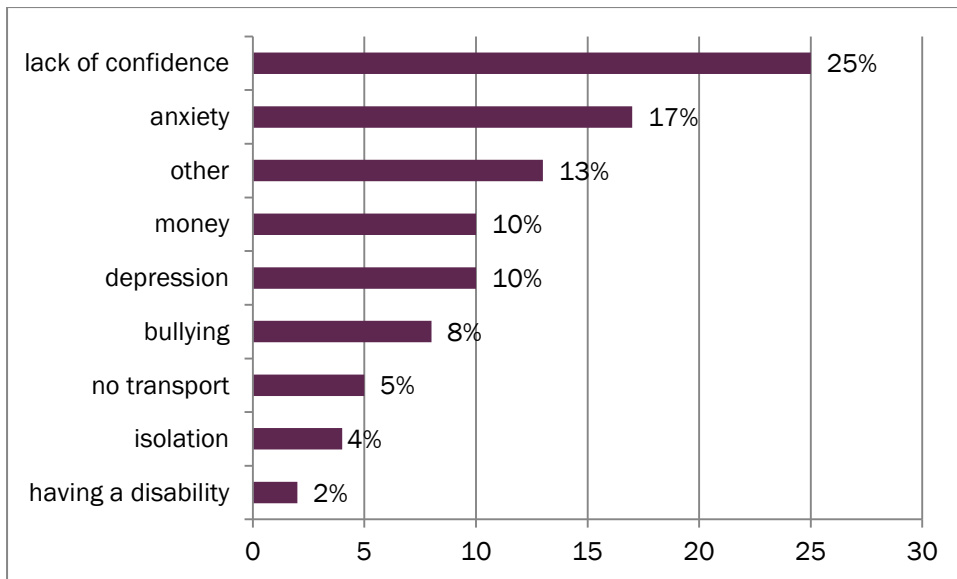*   Money was identified by 10% of respondents

Figure 15.   What are the things that stop you from participating in or attending activities/school/work?

Top reason for 'other' causes stopping participation/attendance (13%)

1. Being sick or other medical reasons

2. Lack of motivation

3. Sleep deprivation and homework

Figure 16.   Top themes for other causes stopping participation

8.1   Who or where do young people turn to for information, advice or help?

Young people were asked who or where they turn to for information, advice or help. They were provided with 17 options ranging from their family to social media and were able to select all that apply.

Overall, the top four responses were:
1. Friends
2. Immediate family
3. Extended family
4. School teachers

These responses were similar to those from the 2013 survey however their ranking differed slightly. Figure17 presents the top ten places respondents turn to for help or advice.

- In 2013 immediate family was the most common response, followed by friends, teachers and extended family. Teachers have dropped below extended family which may have a connection to the high level of school related stress.

- There were also a larger number of responses in each category compared to last survey suggesting that either young people are requiring more information/advice/help or have gained more confidence in seeking the information/advice/help they require.

- The majority of young people are turning to their friends for information, advice or help compared to much lower proportions turning to professional assistance provided by school counsellors or youth workers. It is likely that when seeking advice or support from friends there is little engagement with local support agencies and/or professional assistance.
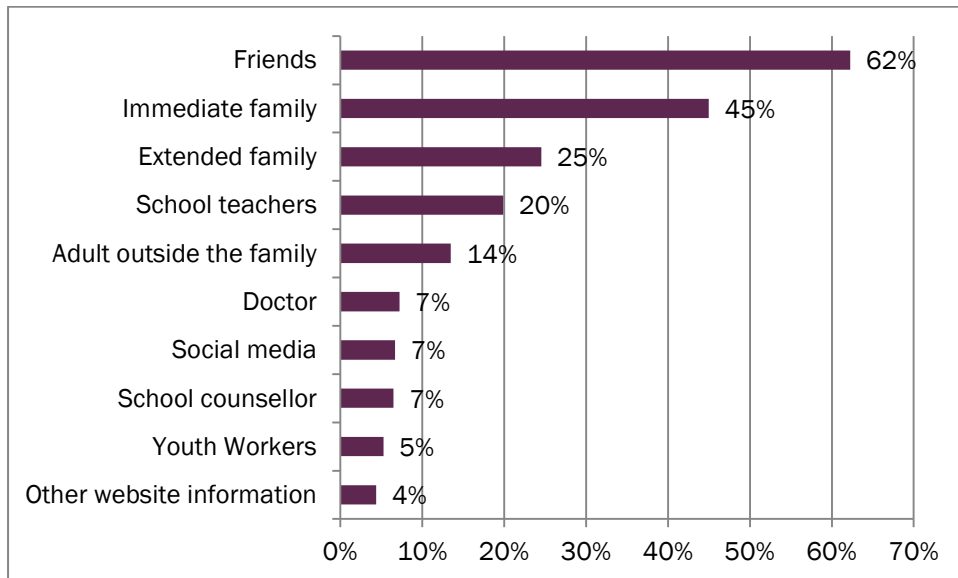

Figure 17. Who or where do you turn to for information, advice or help

Close to one fifth of respondents (18%) selected 'other' for who or where they turn for information, advice or help. The majority of these responses did not provide an answer or the answer was 'I don't know'. Those who did provided a response related to keeping it to themselves and not asking anyone for help.

This aligns to broader findings which suggest that help-seeking among young people is generally low. Rickwood et al. (2007) states that while young people have the greatest need for mental health interventions, they are the least likely group to seek help for such issues. It is also clear that among young males the rate of seeking help is even lower still. This may have influenced the high percentage of males identifying no issues of concern, however further investigation is required to validate this.

Whilst social media only represented 7% of responses for where young people turn to for help, email and Facebook represented over half of the ways in which they would like to receive updates about services or programs from Council. Interestingly, this suggests they do not believe they are turning to social media for help but are significantly accessing the internet and social media as a means for receiving updates about current programs/activities/events, which are ultimately a form of help.

Almost one quarter of respondents (24%) did not know how they would like to receive information from Council on programs/events and 12% selected other and did not provide a response. Figure 18 provides the top ten ways in which young people would like to receive information from Council on programs or events.
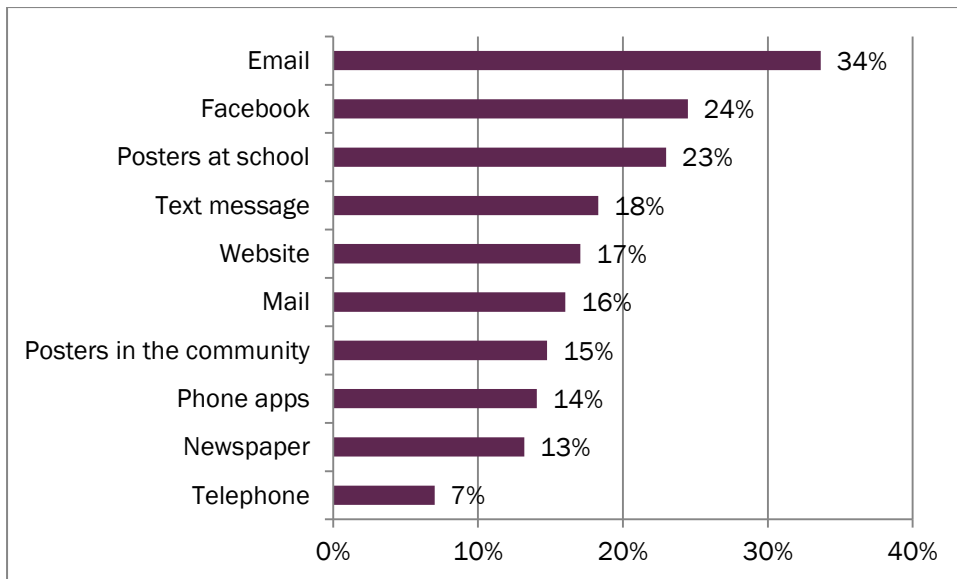
Figure 18. How would you like to receive information from Council on programs/events?

9   What is important to young people

9.1   Top ten things important to young people - overall

Young people were asked to select the things that are most important to them. Respondents were provided with 24 options ranging from friends to the environment. The top three things important to young people overall were;

1. Friends: 68% of respondents selected this option
2. Family: 65% of respondents selected this option
3. Feeling happy: 53% of respondents selected this option

The 2014 Mission Australia report also showed that young people highly value friendships (76.9%) and family (74.4%).

Almost half of respondents ranked both their education and being successful as important which is reflected in the high proportion experiencing school and work-related stress. See Figure 19 for full details.

Figure 19.   Please tick the things that are most important to you

9.2   Top ten things important to young people - gender

- Friends and family were important to young people no matter their gender.

- Sport was the next most important thing for those identifying as male, whereas for females and gender other than male/female it was feeling happy.
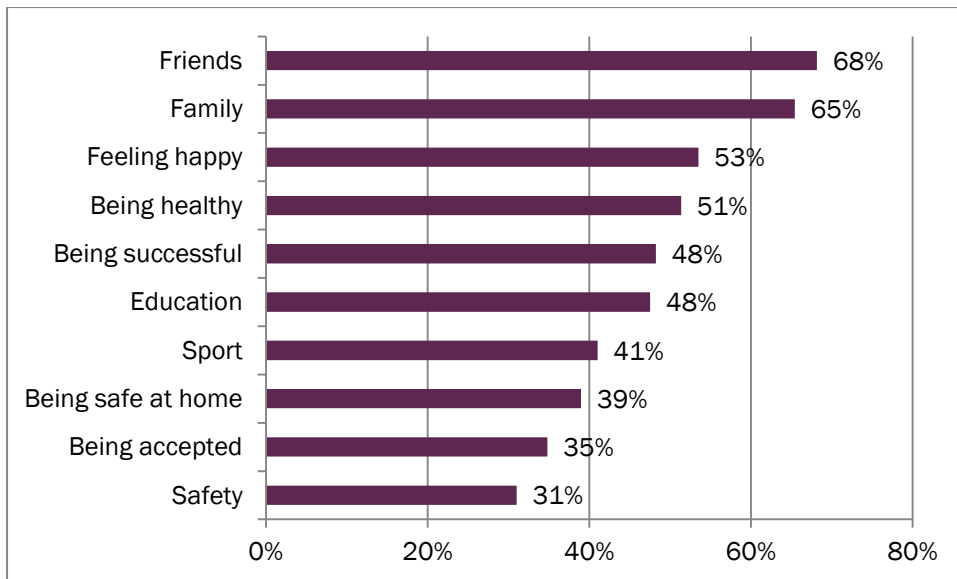
- Being safe at home was identified by 43% of female respondents, higher than 33% for males and 30% for those identifying gender other than male/female. Figure 20 provides the top ten things important to young people by gender.

Rank	Females (n=1140)	%	Males (n=1090)	%	Gender other than male/female (n=66)	%
1	Friends	72	Friends	61	Friends	44
2	Family	71	Family	57	Family	44
3	Feeling happy	58	Sport	47	Feeling happy	44
4	Being healthy	55	Being successful	46	Money	38
5	Education	52	Feeling happy	45	Sport	36
6	Being successful	48	Being healthy	45	Being healthy	36
7	Being safe at home	43	Education	40	Education	33
8	Being accepted	37	Being safe at home	33	Being safe at home	30
9	Music/art	34	Being accepted	30	Being successful	29
10	Safety	34	Money	29	Safety	27

Figure 20.   Top then things important to young people by gender

9.3   Top ten things important to young people- age

- Friends, family, feeling happy and being healthy were the top important things across each age group. Figure 21 provides the top ten things important to young people by age.

- Money was important to 40% of respondents aged 18 to 24. This aligns with results in section 6 where money was identified as an issue of concern for 27% of respondents aged 18 to 24.

Rank	Ages 12-14 (n=1422)	%	Ages 15–17 (n=755)	%	Ages 18–24 (n=119)	%
1	Friends	66	Friends	65	Friends	61
2	Family	64	Family	61	Family	57
3	Being healthy	49	Feeling happy	56	Feeling happy	57
4	Feeling happy	48	Being healthy	50	Being healthy	50
5	Education	46	Being successful	49	Being successful	49
6	Being successful	45	Education	46	Relationships	42
7	Sport	44	Relationships	36	Education	41
8	Being safe at home	39	Being accepted	35	Money	40
9	Mental health	37	Sport	34	Equality	38
10	Being accepted	33	Being safe at home	34	Mental health	35

Figure 21.   Top things important to young people by age

9.4   Activities young people do in their spare time

Young people were asked to nominate what activities they do in their spare time. They were given 30 options with no limit on the number of choices. Overall the ten most popular activities for respondents in 2015 were:

1. Hanging out with friends: 51%
2. Internet: 48%
3. You Tube: 46%
4. Instagram: 41%
5. Hanging out with family: 39%
6. Facebook: 36%
7. Gaming: 33%
8. Music (band/lessons/playing): 31%
9. Outdoor sports activities: 31%
10. Snapchat: 27%

In 2011 and 2013, the internet was the most popular activity for young people and has again proved to be a popular pastime with 48% of respondents engaging in this activity.   Other responses such as You Tube, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and Gaming also include the use of the internet. This is consistent with youth asking for increased internet reception in sections 10

(figure 23). In contrast, half of the respondents chose hanging out with friends. What is involved in hanging out with friends is unclear and it is possible that this too involves the use of internet. Figure 22 below captures the range of respondents, by age group, partaking in different activities in their spare time.

- Hanging out with friends and using the internet were the most popular activities regardless of age
- However, respondents aged 12 to 14 are spending more time on YouTube and the internet in general than Facebook when compared to the older age groups. Respondents appear to be spending more time on Facebook once they reach the age of 15.

Respondents	Age group		
Range	12 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24
51% or more of respondents	• No activities were selected by 51% or more of respondents aged 12 to 14	• **Facebook (54%)** • **Hanging with friends (51%)**	• **Facebook (54%)**
41-50% of respondents	• **Hanging with friends (48%)** • **Internet (45%)** • **You tube (44%)** • Instagram*	• **Internet (50%)**	• **Hanging with friends (49%)** • **Internet (46%)** • Hanging with family
31-40% of respondents	• Gaming • Hanging with family	• Gaming • Hanging with family • Instagram • Mobile phones • Music	• Mobile phones • Shopping • Study
21-30% of respondents	• Arts • Facebook • KiK* • Mobile Phones • Music Outdoor Sports • Parties • Shopping • Snap Chat*	• Arts • Parties • Shopping • Snapchat • Study • Work • Outdoor sports	• Arts • Clubbing/partying • Gaming • Instagram* • Music • Parties • Snapchat • Work • YouTube
11-20% of respondents	• BMX/Bike trails • Indoor Sports • Parties • Study • Vine*	• Indoor Sports • Tumblr	• Outdoor sports • Tumblr*
0-10% of respondents	• Clubbing/Partying • Dating websites • Drift Triking • Gambling • Gaming • Religious Activities • Scooter/Skateboarding • Tumblr • Twitter* • Volunteering • Work • Nothing • I don't know	• BMX/ bike trails • Clubbing/partying • Dating Websites • Drift Triking • Gambling • KiK • Religious activities • Scooter/skateboarding park • Twitter • Vine • Volunteering • Nothing • I don't know	• BMX/ bike trails • Dating sites • Drift Triking • Gambling • Indoor Sports • KiK • Religious Activities • Scooter/skateboarding • Twitter • Vine • Volunteering • Nothing • I don't know

Instagram, KiK, Snap Chat, Vine, Twitter and Tumblr are different social media platforms that allow young people to use photos, blogs, chat and film to communicate.

Figure 22.   Activities young people do in their spare time by age

10 Opportunities young people want in their local area

10.1 Opportunities young people want in their local area- overall

Respondents were asked what services, activities, programs, events or other opportunities they would like to see in their home town/area. Respondents were given 17 options with no limit on the number of options they chose. They were also given the opportunity to list their preferred service, activity, program or event if it did not appear in the options list.

The top three things requested, overall, related to social activities/'things to do' such as Cinemas (53%, Sporting activities (31%) and music festivals (30%).

The overall responses for the most requested fell into four categories;

1. Social activities / things to do:
   - Cinemas (53%)
   - Sport related (31%)
   - Music festivals/gigs/concerts (30%)
   - Places to hang out (27%)
   - Shopping centres (26%)
   - Art programs (15%)
   - Skate Parks (13%)
   - Playgrounds (12%)
   - Volunteering (9%)

2. Services:
   - Counselling services (7%)
   - Support groups (same sex attracted/mental health) (6%)
   - Youth centres (6%)
   - Forums/committees for you to have a voice (4%)

3. Education / employment:
   - Job opportunities (25%)
   - Educational programs/courses (13%)
   - University (11%)
   - Tafe (7%)

4. Other:
   - Improving the environment (15%)
   - I don't know (13%)
   - Other (12%). See figure 23 for details about requests provided when respondents selected other.

Themes for other for services/activities/events in area (12%)
Better access to, and improved speed of, the internet
Internet cafes
Improved access to transport
More fast food options

Figure 23.   Themes for other services/activities/events or opportunities in local area

10.2   Opportunities young people want in their local area- by Ward

The top three opportunities identified by ward, highlighted in figure 24 below, were the same as those identified overall. The Port Ward identified shopping centres as an opportunity equal in popularity to music festivals. This is expected, given there are no major shopping precincts located in this ward.

Respondents	Location			
Range	Central Ward (n=667)	Port Ward (n=438)	Ranges Ward (n=636)	Location outside Cardinia Shire (n=555)
31% or more of respondents	• **Cinemas (40%)**	• **Cinemas (39%)**	• **Sport (32%)** • **Cinemas (53%)**	• **Music Festivals (34%)** • **Cinemas (48%)**
21-30% of respondents	• Job opportunities • Places to hang out • Shopping • Centres • **Music festivals (30%)** • **Sport (29%)**	• **Music festivals (22%)** • **Shopping Centres (22%)** • **Sports (29%)**	• Job Opportunities • Places to hang out • Shopping Centres • **Music festivals (30%)**	• Places to hang out • Shopping Centres • Sport • **Job opportunities (30%)**
11-20% of respondents	• Art programs • Education programs or courses • Improving the environments • Universities	• Art programs • Improving the environment • Job opportunities • Places to hang out	• Art programs • Education programs or courses • Improving the environment • Playground • Skate Parks	• Art Programs • Education programs or courses • Improving the environment • Play grounds • Skate Parks • University • Volunteering
6-10% of respondents	• Counselling services • Playgrounds • Skate Parks • Support Groups • Tafe • Volunteering • Youth Centres	• Education programs or courses • Playgroups • Skate Parks	• Counselling services • Tafe • Support groups • University • Volunteering	• Counselling • Tafe • Youth Centres
0-5% of respondents	• Forums or committees to have a voice	• Counselling services • Forums or committees to have a voice • Support Groups • Tafe • University • Volunteering • Youth Centres	• Forums or committees to have a voice • Youth centres	• Forums or committees to have a voice • Support Groups

Figure 24.   Opportunities for the local area by ward

11   How young people get around

Young people were asked to select the ways they get to their daily activities. They were provided with 11 options.

- Parents driving, walking and taking the bus were the top three methods overall and for respondents aged 12 to 17. Respondents aged 18 to 24 were more likely to drive themselves than walk.

- Other responses provided included the nightrider, taxi and hitching. These options were selected by 3-9% of respondents in each of the age categories.

Category	Pedestrian access			Public Transport		Car		
Age	Walk %	Bike %	Skate %	Train %	Bus %	Drive myself %	Parents drive %	Friends drive %
12 to 14	39	15	7	11	34	1	69	15
15 to 17	48	12	6	28	52	4	70	22
18 to 24	31	6	4	22	32	50	36	23
Overall	43	14	7	18	41	5	71	18

12   Changing one thing to help young people in Cardinia Shire

Respondents were asked to identify one thing they would change in Cardinia Shire to help young people. This was an open ended question to provide respondents with the opportunity to articulate their needs and aspirations. The responses cover a broad range of issues and provide context and meaning to the quantitative data collected in the previous questions.

There were 731 responses provided (32%) and these responses were grouped into 31 categories. 112 respondent's suggestions fell into other categories (5%). These and the top five categories are presented in the boxes below.

There were 1453 respondents that did not identify anything they would change in Cardinia Shire (63%). See Appendix 3 for a table detailing the number of responses for all 31 subcategories.

Q: If you could change one thing for young people in Cardinia Shire what would that be?

---

1. **More activities** for young people to do that are fun, affordable and inclusive (n=61)

…*"Getting people off the streets, more activities in the shire"*

…*"For every person to enjoy life so more recreation activities and council groups"*

…*"There should be more fun activities to motivate young people "*

…*"I would change community involvement to try and get more people around and in the community to participate in more activities together to try and bring the young people closer and safer"*

…*"Have more activities to do so that the kids don't get bored and become destructive with vandalism and burglary"*

The most common thing respondents would change for young people in Cardinia Shire was to have more activities in general. The requests for more activities largely related to boredom and a desire to participate in fun and engaging activities rather than anti-social or dangerous ones.

2. **More sporting groups and activities** that promote exercise such as playgrounds, football grounds, bike tracks, basketball courts and paths for bikes, skateboards and scooters. (n=59)

…*"When people try out for sports, whether they're good or bad, they [should] get in"*

…*"More opportunities for teens to play sports even if they are not particularly good at it."*

 …*"To add more things like sports centres and more interesting things outside so kids get out more"*

… *"More bike tracks so kids can get themselves fitter and to more places"*

…*"Better and more updated sporting facilities, both indoors and outdoors"*

The second most common thing respondents would change for young people in Cardinia Shire was also related to more activities; however these responses specifically referred to increasing sport/exercise opportunities. With sport being the second most important thing to males, and the most popular activities, overall, identified as hanging out with friends and using the internet, this request identifies the impact sporting opportunities can have not only on the physical health and wellbeing of young people in Cardinia Shire but also their social wellbeing by encouraging more inclusive sporting opportunities as opposed to internet based activities with friends.

3. **Ensuring people feel safe** at home and in public, from crime and from behaviour of others (n=58)

…*"For them to feel safe and happy without any fear of walking down the street being scared that they're going to be picked on because they might be different"*

…*"For everyone to have a place that they can feel safe"*

…*"Feeling safe at home. Which I do but other people don't."*

…*"make sure young people are safe where ever they go "*

…*" Get rid of lad gangs, it make us feel unsafe"*

The concept of safety in this findings report is interesting because whilst the word 'safe' was used it often related to different perceptions of 'safety'. More of an understanding regarding what young people in Cardinia Shire consider safety to be is required.

4.	Increase equality and decrease discrimination, increase acceptance of differences including cultural differences (n=57)

..."I need to feel included by the rest of the community. Even though I'm an adult, older persons still look at me and see horrible things. I'm not a burden or a waste of potential, I'm sick, I'm trying to get an education, I'm making an effort but they don't care"

..."I'd give them a place that they can be themselves. a place where the mask can slip away and people can truly interact"

..."The thing I would change for the young people in Cardinia Shire would be for them/us to have ability to be themselves, accept others as they are and respect the people around them."

..."To everyone be friendly and kind to one another and to not be a racist community like hating on Muslim's."

..."Everybody is EQUAL and awesome and feels like they can be who they wanna' be"

Comments around equality focused on the need for young people to be treated equally and have the ability to be themselves without fear of rejection, discrimination or harm.

5.	Stop bullying, raise awareness of bullying and increase support for those being bullied (n=53)

..."stop all the bulling like at home at school and in all public places, verbal physical and sexual and just all types of bullying should be stopped"

..."The amount of bullying occurring through social media"

..."to have more meetings within school to see how bad bullying is"

..."will someone please notice that people are getting bullied right under your nose"

..."Showing off in public. Being mean to other kids. Bullying. Harassing"

The desire to decrease bullying suggests it may be a contributing factor to the high rates of school or work related stress. Social media is mentioned as a cause of bullying which indicates that the form bullying takes may have adapted over time as social media has become more common. Bullying can now occur at any time, online and very publically, which may be contributing to the high rates of stress for young people. Bullying has remained a consistent issue of concern since the survey's conception and given the significant rates of young people engaging in these types of activities in their spare time, this is an area which needs to be investigated further. In light of this, some of the comments captured below around limiting the use of internet are not surprising.

Other (n=112)
From the 112 responses categorised as other, two themes appeared. The first of which was improving the access to, and speed of, the internet and reception, whilst in contrast the second was the need to limit the use of internet and social media. …"it would be to stop people playing on their IPad and social media and play more sport" …"faster, better internet please"

More investigation into the use of social media by young people and the effect this has on their social, mental and physical health is required.

13 How previous survey findings have benefitted young people

Council's Youth Services have undertaken the Youth Forum Survey since 2007. Since this time the input received has been instrumental in influencing program and service development/delivery both internally and by external youth agencies.

Council has a key local leadership role in developing an integrated approach to planning and service provision for young people and their families. In addition other health, welfare and recreation services will be required to support the needs of young people.

The provision of generalist youth services is critical to support the health and wellbeing and development of young people. Health and wellbeing refers to 'a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing.' Council's Youth Services works to improve the capacity and resilience of young people through the provision of services, programs and activities.

Cardinia Shire Council Youth Services deliver a range of prevention an early intervention health; well-being and developmental programs; services; activities; and events to young people who have strong connections to the Shire - enabling them to build resilience around issues they may face, fulfil their potential and develop themselves as young adults and community members.

A number of programs, events, projects, and activities have taken place over the past two years as a direct result from what young people told us in 2013.

13.1 Youth Services delivered the following services and programs for young people since 2013

13.1.1 Mobile Youth Bus (MYBus)

The Mobile Youth Bus has delivered a range of recreational and personal development opportunities to students across 95% of local secondary schools. The service visited 15 rural townships within the Shire during after school site visits. During these visits young people were provided with; advice, support, referral and recreation. The service also attended a number of community events to engage with the broader community.

13.1.2 My Place - Pakenham Youth Facility

My Place provides a central point of contact for young people, parents, carers and professionals to access information and receive advice on a range of topics pertaining to youth health, wellbeing and development including but not limited to; education, training and work, drugs/alcohol misuse and housing. The internet café has eight computers with internet connection.

The facility provides a dedicated youth space for young people to participate in a range of youth specific programs and activities that are tailored for those aged 12-24 years and delivered by both external agencies and Council's Youth Service team. The services provides education, recreation and development opportunities through a team of qualified staff on-site each day including wellbeing support and referral to specialist youth services.

The facility also provides specialised health services whereby youth can access medical advice including mental health plans, psychologists and drug and alcohol counselling.

13.1.3 Youth Services Programs - After-school

Youth Services have delivered a number of after-school programs both from My Place and in the rural townships based on the needs and interests of young people. Some examples of the programs delivered since 2013 are; cooking, art, photography, event management, drama, film and music.

Young people have been provided with the opportunity to be a participant on various youth committees. The committees provide young people with the opportunity develop skills in leadership, project and event management, team work, communication and build connections with peers and the wider community.

13.1.4 Youth Services Programs - In-School

A number of personal development programs and workshops have been delivered within schools. In response to what young people told us were the key issues of concern for them in the 2013 youth forum survey topics delivered included; self-awareness, resilience, self-esteem, help seeking, positive body image, communication, team work, problem solving, relationships, sexual health, positive mental health, self-control, effects of drug and alcohol use and mindfulness.

Another key component of the in school programs has been providing young people with the opportunity to build work skills and also provide employment, education and training pathways.

13.1.5 Events

In 2013 young people told us that they would like to have more music events and festivals. Youth Services have supported youth committees to host a number of music events, pool parties, festivals, skate, bmx and scooter competitions, trivia nights, and movie nights across the Shire over the past two years.

13.1.6 Social Support Groups

Youth Services provides a range of social support groups. These include two young mums groups and the Be Ur Self program for young people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI).

13.1.7   *Teenage School Holiday Program (TSHP)*

The TSHP provides young people aged 12-7 years with a range of affordable and fun experiences during the school holidays. Since 2013 young people have had the opportunity to attend; a football game, cricket match, the zoo, a Lion King theatre show, the snow and Funfields. There has been a range of free activities held during the school holidays at My Place which have included, tie dying, chocolate making, skate deck design, cartoon drawing and games day.
The TSHP program also delivers the Portsea Camp during the September school holidays.

13.1.8   *Youth Consultation*

In order to keep up to date with the changing needs, views and aspirations of young people consultation and evaluation activities take place regularly throughout the year with young people who are engaged in Councils activities and/or who are attending My Place Youth Facility.

13.1.9   *External Grants*

Youth Services have been successful in obtaining external grants to support the development and delivery of youth events, activities and services for young people. These include;

- Engage (Department of Health and Human Services)
- FReeZA (Department of Health and Human Services)
- L2P (Vic Roads)
- Community For Children Plus (Department of Social Security)
- National Youth Week (Department of Health and Human Services)

14   Council's actions to address these issues

14.1   Information dissemination

The Youth Forum Survey Report is distributed internally as well as externally on Council's website. Council's Youth Services distributes the results to local agencies and organisations through Cardinia Shire Council youth network so that it can inform future program planning and encourage new partnerships to be developed. Results are also shared with members of the Cardinia Shire Council Youth Network, local Secondary Schools and the Cardinia Shire Council Youth Strategy Reference Group. The reports are made available to the wider community via Council's website.

14.2   Planning

The data from the survey feeds into local service and program planning, Council's business planning, implementation of the Cardinia Shire Council Youth Strategy and the future development of a Child, Youth and Family Plan.

14.3   Advocacy and commitment

Due to various organisations and levels of government having designated responsibilities and portfolios, Cardinia Shire Council may not have direct responsibility for addressing all concerns and gaps raised by survey respondents. However, Council is committed to listening to young people, their families and community partners to continually improve and develop local services for young people.

Council uses the results of the survey when advocating for increased services and programs as well as developing local infrastructure which will meet the needs of local young people. Through

Council's commitment to working in partnership with government and local partners, it will share information to support the development of a more effective and joined up service system.

Council's Youth Services has used, and will continue to use, the results of the survey when advocating for an increase in specialist services (such as counselling and mental health services) within the municipality, as well as advocating for increased funding, grants and sponsorship.

Appendix 1

Youth forum survey 2015
Cardinia Shire Council wants to hear what you have to say. Learning about what is important to you as a young person in Cardinia helps us to consider the kinds of services and support young people would like and possibly need.

Age: .... **Gender** ❑ female ❑ male ❑ other *(please tick)*

What country were you born in? .... or ❑ would rather not say

What town do you normally live in/stay? ....

What language/s do you speak at home? ....

Please tick what is relevant to you;

☐ Apprenticeship/traineeship   ☐ Full-time employment   ☐ Part-time/casual employment   ☐ Primary school

☐ Secondary school   ☐ TAFE   ☐ Unemployed/not studying   ☐ University

☐ VCAL, CGEA, Oakwood School   ☐ Volunteering   ☐ Other

Question 1
If you have experienced any of the following problems in the last year, please tick in the boxes the issues that were of concern to you.

☐ Alcohol	☐ Anxiety	☐ Being overweight	☐ Being unhappy
☐ Body image	☐ Bullying	☐ Cyber bullying	☐ Disability
☐ Discrimination	☐ Drugs	☐ Family violence	☐ Financial/money
☐ Gender Identity	☐ Graffiti	☐ Isolation	☐ Life changing events (e.g. moving school, parents split up)
☐ Mental health issue	☐ Not attending school	☐ Peer pressure	☐ School disengagement
☐ School/work stress	☐ Sexual health issue	☐ Sexuality	☐ Smoking
☐ Stress	☐ Transport	☐ Victim of violence	☐ Violence in public spaces
☐ No issues	☐ I don't know	☐ Other	

Question 2
If you have experienced stress, what are the things that make you feel stressed? (*please tick all that apply*)

☐ Bush fires   ☐ Family   ☐ Friends   ☐ School   ☐ Work

☐ What I see and hear in the media *(specifically)* ....

☐ Other ....

Question 3
What are the things that stop you from participating in or attending activities/school/work? (*please tick all that apply*)

☐ Anxiety	☐ Bullying	☐ Depression	☐ Having a disability
☐ Isolation	☐ Lack of confidence	☐ Money	☐ No transport

☐ Nothing is stopping me   ☐ Other
                              *(what?)*_____

Question 4
If you need some information, advice or help with a problem who are the people or places you turn to? (*please tick all that apply*)

☐ Adult outside the family	☐ Case Manager	☐ Council website information	☐ Doctor
☐ Extended family (e.g. aunty, uncle, grandma)	☐ Friends	☐ HeadSpace (centre or online)	☐ Immediate family (e.g. mum, dad, brother, sister)
☐ My Place Youth Facility	☐ Other website information	☐ Phone apps	☐ School counsellor
☐ School teachers	☐ Social media	☐ Telephone (e.g. kids help line)	☐ Youth Workers
☐ Other_____	☐ Other _____	☐ Other _____	☐ I don't know

Question 5
Please tick the things that are most important to you?

☐ Access to support services	☐ Being accepted	☐ Being healthy	☐ Being safe at home
☐ Being successful	☐ Body image	☐ Education	☐ Environment
☐ Equality	☐ Family	☐ Feeling happy	☐ Friends
☐ Mental health	☐ Money	☐ Music/art	☐ Place to hang out
☐ Recreational activities	☐ Relationships	☐ Safety	☐ Sexual health
☐ Sport	☐ Work	☐ World affairs	
☐ Other _____		☐ Other _____	

Question 6
Please tick what activities you do in your spare time

☐ Arts (dance/theatre/drawing)	☐ BMX/Bike trails	☐ Clubbing/pubs	☐ Dating websites
☐ Drift triking	☐ Facebook	☐ Gambling	☐ Gaming
☐ Hanging out with family	☐ Hanging out with friends	☐ I don't participate in any activities	☐ Indoor sports activities
☐ Instagram	☐ Internet	☐ KiK	☐ Mobile phone (sms-ing)
☐ Music (band/lessons/playing)	☐ Outdoor sport activities	☐ Parties	☐ Religious activities
☐ Shopping	☐ Scooter/Skateboarding park	Snapchat	☐ Study
☐ Tumblr	☐ Twitter	☐ Vine	☐ Volunteering
☐ Work (part-/full-time)	☐ You Tube	☐ I don't know	☐ Other_____

Question 7
Please tick what services, activities, programs, events or other opportunities you would like to see in your home town/area?

☐ Art programs	☐ Cinemas	☐ Counselling services	☐ Educational programs/courses
☐ Forums/committees	☐ Improving the	☐ Job opportunities	☐ Music

for you to have a voice   environment   festivals/gigs/concerts

☐ Places to hang out   ☐ Play grounds   ☐ Shopping centres   ☐ Skate Parks

☐ Sport   ☐ Support groups (Same sex   ☐ TAFE
attracted/mental health)

☐ University   ☐ Volunteering   ☐ Youth Centres

☐ I don't know   ☐ Other _____

Question 7
Please tick the ways you get to your daily activities.

☐ Bike   ☐ Bus   ☐ Friend drives me   ☐ Hitchhike

☐ I drive myself   ☐ Nightrider bus   ☐ Parent drives me   ☐ Skate/scooter

☐ Taxi   ☐ Train   ☐ Walk

☐ Other _____   ☐ Other _____

         a.   Question 8
Please tick the ways that you would like to receive or find out information from Council about youth programs, services and events?

☐ Email   ☐ Facebook   ☐ Mail   ☐ Newspaper   ☐ Phone apps

☐ Posters at   ☐ Posters in the   ☐ QR codes   ☐ Telephone   ☐ Text
school   community   message

☐ Website   ☐ I don't know   ☐ Other

         b.   Question 9
If you could change one thing for young people in Cardinia Shire, what would it be?

....

....

....

....

....

         c.   Question 10
Do you have any other comments to add?

....

....

....

....

....

Thanks for your time in completing this survey. We keep your identity confidential and the information collected will be pulled together so we can understand what is important to all young people across the Shire. Your voice counts!

Please send hardcopy surveys to:
Emma Carter – Youth Services Coordinator
Cardinia Shire Council
PO Box 7, Pakenham 3810

Or fax 5945 4401

If you have anything you would like to discuss with Cardinia Shire Council's Youth Services team or if you would like to talk to a youth worker, call 1800 4YOUTH or visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

Appendix 2

Evaluating the survey process

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data quality framework tool has been applied to the youth survey methodology and data collection to measure its "fitness for purpose". Fitness for purpose is an assessment of the survey outcomes with specific reference to it intended objectives. The quality statement below covers a number of dimensions including the data collectors, the relevance of the data, timeliness, accuracy, coherence, interpretability and accessibility.

Quality Statement

Data source:	Cardinia Shire Council Youth Forum Survey 2015
Institutional Environment:	Data Collector(s): Cardinia Shire Council's Youth Team is a local government organisation
	Collection authority: Cardinia Shire Council is bound under the privacy act and ensures confidentiality of the data provided.
	Data Compiler(s): Council complies the data
	Complete discretion and confidentiality is maintained in relation to the collection and reporting of the data.
Relevance:	Data topic: The data represents young people who have strong connections to the Cardinia Shire aged 12 to 25 years of age.
	Level of geography: The greater proportion of the data is provided at a local government level including Cardinia Shire and the neighbouring municipality of Casey.
	Key Data Items: The key data items collected from this survey were the top three issues of personal concern that young people had experienced over the past year, the modes of communication and transport they use, activities they participate in and one thing they would change.
	Numerator/Denominator Source: Rates and percentages have been calculated for a number of responses using the total sample size.
	The data was collected to assess the views, needs and aspirations of young people who have strong connections to the Shire.
	It will be used to better target and improve service provision and inform the development of Councils business planning, Youth Strategy and Child, Youth and Family Plan.
	The data collected provides a snapshot of personal issues of concern, what they are doing in their leisure time, and improvements they would like to see in their communities. .
	Standard classifications have not been used other than age groupings
Timeliness:	Data collected: The youth survey data has been collected since 2007 on a biannual basis.
	Data available: The data is available four months after collection.
	Referenced Period: The data reference period is 18 months.
	There are no updates or revisions to the data after its release, however it is compared to other data collection sources.

Accuracy:	Method of Collection: The data was collected in the form of hard copy and on line surveys from secondary schools. It was also available online from My Place, the Mobile Youth Bus and Council's website.
	Data Adjustments: The data was not adjusted in any way to account for non-response of the questions.
	Sample size: The total number of surveys received was 2320.
	Standard errors: A standard error count has not been included
	Under Counts: The number of young people aged 18 to 24 years of age was considerable less than the younger age groups. This was seen to be appropriate given that the main target group for Youth Services are the 13 to 17 years age group
	Over Counts: There were no issues with over counts
	The questions were open ended to minimise bias in answering. However in the younger age group, it was evident that groups of respondents provided the same answer.
	A code/numbering system was adopted this year to provide for more accurate interpretation of responses
	All age groups were represented in the survey and young people across the municipality well represented.
Coherence:	Consistency over time: There were year changes made to the survey this year with two questions removed and two new questions added to the survey.
	Consistency of jurisdictions: The data collected by Cardinia Shire is generally consistent with the youth data collected at the state and national level.
	Numerator/denominator: The data collected over the five year period for the majority of question s is comparable because of the relative consistency in survey questions and collection.
	There is a consistent time series for this data.
Interpretability:	Context: Cardinia Shire is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Victoria. Three new families move into the Shire every day, as a consequent many of the young people who participated in the survey would be part of the new and merging communities in the Shire.
	Other Supporting Information: A detailed explanation of the methodology and the respondents has been included in the report.
	There are no technical terms or service specific terms used in the report.
Accessibility:	Contact details: Cardinia Shire Council 1300 887 624
	The Youth Forum Survey 2015 Report of findings is available on Cardinia Shire Council's website.
	There are no privacy or confidentiality issues that prevent the findings being released.

Appendix 3

THEMED QUALITATIVE RESPONSES FOR WHAT RESPONDENTS WOULD CHANGE TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARDINIA SHIRE.

If you could change one thing for young people in Cardinia Shire what would it be?	Number of respondents
MORE SUPPORT SERVICES	
Drug and Alcohol	23
Mental Heatlh	28
CALD	4
GLBTI	4
General	24
Financial	15
Homelessness	5
TOTAL	**103**
MORE THINGS TO DO	
Festivals and Events	28
Sporting Clubs	59
Skate Parks	27
Places to hang out	48
Shopping Centres	13
Cinemas	19
Activities general	61
Volunteering	2
TOTAL	**257**
MORE SUPPORT FOR SAFETY ISSUES	
Feeling Safe	58
Graffiti	4
Violence	14
Bullying	53
TOTAL	**129**
MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT	
Tertiary Education	3
Secondary School	6
Education	40
Employment	33
TOTAL	**82**
MORE/ IMPROVED FACILITIES	
Community	6
Youth	24
Transport	23
Environment	17
TOTAL	**70**
BELONGING	
Equality/discrimination	57
Friendships	4
Self Esteem	29
TOTAL	**90**
TOTAL	**731**

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015 http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3401.0/

Estimated Resident Population, June 2014 http://economy.id.com.au/cardinia/population

Fact Sheet Body Image National Eating Disorders Collaboration 2, 2011 www.nedc.com.au

Mission Australia Survey, 2014
        https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/publications/research/young-
        people?view=docman

World Health Organisation, 2010 http://www.who.int/en/

Young people's help-seeking for mental health problems .http://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/
viewcontent.cgi? article=3159&context=hbspapers