



**Youth
Solutions**

Promoting Health • Preventing Harm

Strategic Plan

2023-2026

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Our approach

Youth Solutions Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2026 involved consultation with our participants, stakeholders, staff and Board. Their feedback, ideas and suggestions have been incorporated.

We are confident that the operationalisation of the Strategic Plan will ensure that our vision of **‘A community of young people with the capacity to live healthy, safe and well-connected lives’** is at the forefront of everything we do.

We have defined four key priority areas of: Young People & Engagement, Community & Partnerships, Excellence & Leadership and Growth & Position. These give focus to our participants and stakeholders, service and funders, as well addressing our responsibility to build our capacity to create a strong and sustainable future for Youth Solutions, the broader sector and the growing community we serve.

We look forward to reporting our achievements in the coming years.

Peter Campbell
President

Geraldine Dean
Chief Executive Officer

Who we are

Health Literacy, advocating for young people's health

Non Government Sector

Connectors Registered Charity
Promote Health. Prevent Harm.

Community Service **Youth Health Service**

Not for profit Health & Wellbeing
Health Education, Empowerment and Support **Winning Award**

Leader Health Promotion,
Drug and Alcohol Prevention

Our place

Our health promotion programs and campaigns are delivered with young people and the community living on Dharawal land, through to Gundungurra land, NSW.

We service and support the Macarthur region on the south-west fringe of outer-metropolitan Sydney, through to the south to the regional areas of Wingecarribee Shire.

Suburban cities fill pockets of the Macarthur, while rural townships to isolated acreages exist in the south. Whilst we proudly provide service and support within our home regions, the growing demand for our programs spans beyond our current geographical boundaries.

Our people

For Youth Solutions, the diverse communities we service in the Macarthur and Wingecarribee regions are our passion and our strength.

Within our region you find a mix of urban and rural living, higher rates of immigration and a rich tapestry of cultural diversity. Nearly a fifth of our region's population are young people and many of our cities and towns rank notably high among those with elevated levels of socio-economic disadvantage, whilst others sit favourably higher.

Our diverse population, with differing needs, is bracing itself to increase by over 69% in the next 20 years. Currently, higher smoking rates, mental health, population growth, diversity and equity and lifestyle risks, coupled with increasing demand for health literacy resources, are among the top priorities within our region.

Our vision

A community of young people with the capacity to live healthy, safe and well-connected lives.

Our mission

Youth Solutions works to educate and empower young people to be healthy, safe and well-connected. Our targeted drug, alcohol and wellbeing strategies focus on tailored learning, active participation and support.

Our values

Supportive Accountable

Empowering

Collaborative

Responsive

Innovative

Our guiding principles

Evidence informed
Person centred approach
Prevention
Early intervention
Harm minimisation
Health promotion
Youth participation
Community engagement

Guiding frameworks + plans

[National Preventive Health Strategy 2021 - 2030](#)

[National Drug Strategy 2017 - 2026](#)

[National Alcohol Strategy 2019 - 2028](#)

[National Wellbeing Framework 2023](#)

[National Tobacco Strategy 2023 - 2030](#)

[NSW Youth Health Evaluation Framework 2017 - 2024](#)

[SWS PHN Primary Health Network 2021 - 2026 Strategic Plan](#)

[South Western Sydney Local Health District Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027 Framework](#)

[Youth Action 2021 - 2024 Strategic Plan](#)

[Camden Youth Strategy 2022 - 2026](#)

[Wingecarribee Shire Council Youth Strategy & Action Plan 2016 - 2026](#)

[The Australian Student Wellbeing Framework](#)

Attributes + resources

Youth Solutions acknowledges our key attributes and resources that will support our service in operationalising the Strategic Plan.

In particular, our need to commit and invest in sound governance, professional development, innovation, and research will assist in realising our goals and objectives.

We understand that to be responsive to the community's needs we must continue to grow, prioritising financial efficiency and partnering with like-minded services.

Reporting

Youth Solutions Strategic Plan will be operationalised and reported against in Youth Solutions' Operational Plan.

Progress on the Operational Plan is reported from staff to the CEO on a quarterly basis in the Quarterly Operational Plan.

The Strategic Plan and Operational Plan will be monitored by the Board.

Strategic Priorities, Goals + Objectives

2023-2026

1

Young People + Engagement

2

Community + Partnerships

3

Excellence + Leadership

4

Growth + Position

Young People + Engagement

By engaging with young people and meeting their needs through flexible strategies, we build their capacity and connections to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes for themselves and their peers.

1.1 Embed a strong culture of youth participation into our service.

Strengthen active youth participation in project design, delivery and evaluation.

Actively create opportunities to ask, listening and incorporating the voices of young people.

Utilise peer education within programs.

1.2 Engage with young people through drug, alcohol and wellbeing strategies and projects that are responsive, flexible and targeted.

Deliver health education/capacity building programs for young people.

Deliver health education/capacity building programs for stakeholders to support young people.

Provide referral and information services to young people, stakeholders and the broader community.

Deliver outreach activities to engage with young people in community.

Community + Partnerships

By collaborating with stakeholders through various strategies and settings, we improve equity and accessibility for young people and their supporters to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

2.1 Connect and collaborate with key sector stakeholders to better support our young people and community.

Develop mutually beneficial engagement partnerships to strengthen sector capacity and support positive community action.

Complement our strategies by working in partnership with other youth, health and wellbeing services.

Enhance community relations and engagement by hosting and participating in community events and activities.

Enhance referral pathways

2.2 Collaborate with other stakeholders outside of our sector to enhance our reach and engagement with young people.

Complement our strategies by working in partnership with other stakeholders.

Increase equity and access to health promotion, health education, referral and information for all young people

Excellence + Leadership

By striving for and celebrating excellence, Youth Solutions will be held in high regard by our young people, stakeholders and community. Youth Solutions will be an organisation of choice for employees and volunteers alike, with a commitment to continued improvement and learning.

3.1 Engage in sound governance practices that are transparent and accountable to funders, stakeholders, participants and community.

Maintain robust governance processes.

Submit all reports required from external funding bodies on a timely basis.

Communicate outcomes (including reports) to participants, stakeholders and funders.

3.2 Commit to evidence informed practice, continued quality improvement and benchmarking.

Research and maintain knowledge of currently accepted good practice.

Incorporate research learnings into strategy and design.

Add value to our sector by disseminating our learnings.

3.3 Live and celebrate a culture of learning and sharing knowledge.

Seek appropriate professional development opportunities for staff and volunteers.

Continue sharing knowledge and skills with the staff and volunteers to enhance service governance and service delivery.

Champion the efforts and success of individuals and teams.

Seek external support for leadership and innovative practice.

Growth + Position

By pursuing thoughtful and measured growth, Youth Solutions strives to build our capacity to provide for our diverse and growing communities as well as increased demand for our Service.

4.1 Maintain a well-positioned organisation, including planning for service scope and design.

Develop and maintain systems for understanding the needs of our community.

Foster an appetite for growth to identify and be ready to embrace opportunities in the sector.

4.2 Maintain a well-managed organisation, including planning for workforce development, consumer feedback and service evaluation.

Develop and maintain systems for workforce development, including physical and human resources.

Develop and maintain systems for participants and stakeholders to provide feedback to Youth Solutions.

Growth + Position

4.3 Create and embrace appropriate opportunities to enhance service capacity and sustainability.

Develop diverse opportunities for all stakeholders to invest in Youth Solutions to achieve our vision.

Seek fundraising and income generation opportunities through corporate sponsorship, government grants, community grants and donations.

Develop partnerships to deliver additional complimentary strategies.

4.4 Provide meaningful service offerings that meet current and emerging needs

Review service offerings including type and reach against current and emerging needs (identify gaps and address priorities).

Add value to our Service by incorporating learnings.

Diversify offerings and relevance for all young people.

Generate income through fee for service activities and consultancy.

Connect with Youth Solutions



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