

Youth Development Strategy



Introduction



The Shire of Pingelly recognises that there is a need to engage young people in planning for the future of the place and the future of the young people themselves. The Shire of Pingelly is committed to the Youth Development Strategy and the need to support our young people to live healthy, happy lives full of success and accomplishment.

The young people of Pingelly are talented, energetic and have a lot to contribute to the community. However, there is also stress amongst young people. This shows in a high rate of mental health issues amongst young people in Pingelly, with both suicide and attempted suicides being higher than the WA average. The community has been devastated by these tragic events in recent times and there is a strong commitment by Council, community and key stakeholders to make a safer and healthier community for our young people.

This Youth Development Strategy was developed with input from the Pingelly community with a specific focus on collecting input from young people aged 25 and under. It proposes the following priority program areas:

- Life Skills: ensuring our youth are equipped with basic skills to navigate through life and face everyday challenges.
- Work Ready: giving young people the best chance to secure meaningful employment.
- Exploring Dreams: allowing young people to explore all opportunities to find their true talent and passion.

The Youth Development Strategy was adopted by Council on 19 October 2016.

The Shire of Pingelly Youth Development Strategy has been developed with the assistance of funding provided by the Department of Local Government and Communities Youth Friendly Communities Program.

Quotes from Pingelly youth:

“Pingelly is a friendly community with people who are always willing to help”

“There isn't much to do in Pingelly but it's getting better”

PINGELLY YOUTH TREE



Life Skills

Gaining life skills is critical to enable people to be able to lead a rich and successful life, participating in community and making a contribution. Children and young people are largely reliant on their parents or carers and school teachers to instill basic life skills and sometimes there are gaps for one reason or another.

The Shire will focus on supporting and facilitating connections to programs that teach young people basic life skills such as literacy, communication, budgeting, time management, coping with stress, conflict management, cooperation and problem solving.

By ensuring young people are equipped with some of these life skills they will be better prepared to meet the challenges of everyday life. Research has found that young people with basic life skills such as those outlined above are less likely to participate in risky behavior (such as unprotected sex, drug use and participation in illegal activities). They can also lay the foundations for young people to have successful education experiences and workforce participation¹.



Work Ready

Young people in Pingelly are finding it difficult to gain and secure employment with many lacking the basic skills and requirements to do so. Building on the Life Skills Program, the Shire will focus on assisting young people to become “work ready”. The focus will be on connecting young people to programs and initiatives that assist young people to:

- undertake career planning
- access tertiary training and education
- understand how to find and apply for work
- develop resources such as resumes and skills in addressing selection criteria
- job interview preparation
- connect with local business community

Early intervention is critical to ensure any barriers are minimised so that young people in Pingelly are given the best chance at securing meaningful employment. It is critical that initiatives are supported and implemented that ensure our young people have access to suitable and quality education, information, advice and guidance.

“It is important for young people to dream big, to aspire, to envisage the kind of future they want and genuinely to feel able to chase that dream. And it’s equally important for the rest of their community to support and encourage them to go for it.”

Reach
Foundation²

Exploring Dreams

One of the unique and wonderful aspects of being young is being able to dream big and imagine the endless possibilities for the life you want for yourself. Having dreams is important but being able to explore them is even more so. It allows young people the opportunity to express themselves, build capacity and gain clarity around their passions and skills². Young people are the future of Pingelly and the Shire believe their enthusiasm should be supported.

The Shire will seek to establish and facilitate connections to programs that will allow young people in Pingelly to explore their dreams. This will vary from person to person but may involve identifying and connecting young people with mentors, assisting young people to identify work experience programs or opportunities to undertake some casual training.

At the core of the Exploring Dreams Program is real experiences and personal connections that will allow young people to imagine, plan and create their desired future. Without these opportunities to explore dreams and aspirations young people can become stagnant and disconnected.

Next Steps

The Shire of Pingelly believes the role of the Local Government is critical to shaping a community that is responsive to young people but also understand that there are a range of stakeholders required to make a real difference in the implementation of this strategy. The Shire will take an active leadership role and facilitate strong relationships with key agencies and groups to ensure that the strategy is effective and contributes to meaningful change. The Shire will work with the local and district schools and the Youth Group collaboratively.

References

¹http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Gender/1323447_AGI_LearningFromPracticeSeries.pdf

² <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/reach-foundation/hopes-dreams-full-report/>