




YOL 1000

Youth Out Loud 1000 (YOL1000) **report**

THE YOL1000 COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK
each and every one of the Mackay region youth who
lent their voices to this project, all 1000 of them.



OVERVIEW



Youth Out Loud 1000 (YOL1000) is a collaborative change project seeking to effect change for young people aged 10-21 years in the Mackay region. In doing so the project seeks to listen to young people across a broad spectrum of backgrounds to engage and support their involvement in a social change process to support collaboratively designed solutions to meet their identified needs.

The aim of YOL1000 is to amplify young people's voices in making decisions about their future in the Mackay region, to provide young people with opportunities to fulfil their potential, and to enable young people to be valued by, connected to and engaged with their community.

In understanding the needs of young people across our region, YOL1000 seeks to implement localised solutions to address local needs.

METHODOLOGY

To hear the voice of our young people from across the region it was decided to have 1000 conversations with them. Having conversations with young people encouraged and empowered them to share more openly about their experience of growing up and living in the Mackay region. Having conversations further meant that, rather than asking for specific answers to our questions, we were looking for key themes and overall stories emerging from the open questions we put to the young people.



To achieve the conversations, a working group made up of professionals from across the youth sector developed a conversation tool to collect their stories. The conversations consisted of two main questions:

1. What is good/bad about growing up in Mackay?
2. If you could change anything, what would it be?

In addition, basic demographic data was collected to ensure a broad reach of conversations to young people from across the region, from diverse backgrounds, ages, gender, sexuality and abilities.

A wide variety of opportunities to engage with young people were used, including:



Visiting schools



Thursday late-night shopping at Caneland Central



Via social media and online platforms



At events



At locations where young people gather (libraries and The Sugar Bowl)



Through youth services



At CQ University and other training institutes



WHAT WE HEARD:



Through our engagement with young people, we heard about what it's like to be a young person living in the Mackay region and we heard about some of the issues and opportunities that young people saw as important.

Through providing an opportunity for young people to have a say, a clear enthusiasm emerged around young people having a voice and being actively involved in their community and in decisions that affect them.

When we spoke to young people about what they liked about growing up in the Mackay region, we heard **positive** sentiments about the:



PLACES AND SPACES TO VISIT IN OUR BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



RANGE OF SPORTING AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We also heard about some of the **challenges** associated with growing up in Mackay including:



ACCESS TO AND AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT



LACK OF ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS



CONCERNS OF PUBLIC SAFETY

WHAT ELSE WE KNOW:

The young people we spoke to are a diverse group of young people living in rural and regional communities across the Mackay region. With a median age of 15 years, the young people who shared their perspective are:



ALMOST ONE FIFTH ARE CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

11%

ARE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQIA+

12%

ARE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

23%

IDENTIFY AS TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OR ABORIGINAL



CONCLUSION



YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE UP 10% OF OUR POPULATION,
SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO CLARIFY THEIR NEEDS AND GIVE THEM A VOICE.



Young people make up 10% of our population, so it is important to clarify their needs and give them a voice. These conversations gave a remarkable insight into the needs, hopes and dreams of Mackay's future generation whilst giving them the chance to have a say in how to make the region a better place to live. Simply listening to young people and validating their experiences has empowered them. Realising young people's opportunities and challenges not only makes us more aware of their capability and desire to be involved in solutions, but also forces us to consider how we can best support them to do this. The conversations, across a broad age group, highlighted the unique opportunities and challenges for each of the groups.



The consistent factor in the conversations is that Mackay is a good, safe place to live, and most young people appreciate our beautiful environment and want to utilise it. However, there are common themes reflecting the challenges young people face. Emerging themes include:



A safe space to connect with peers independent from parents and schools



Transport



The need for more youth friendly events

It is important to note that the conversations were held with many groups in Mackay and the results do not reflect the views of any one particular group.

This report is designed to be used for public reporting, decision making and action by our wider community and leaders. The findings of the conversations inform the Youth Out Loud program and shape the design of new initiatives and collaborations.

CALL TO ACTION

WHO CAN BE INVOLVED?

**ANY INDIVIDUALS/SERVICES
YOUNG PEOPLE
BUSINESSES**

HOW CAN THEY BE INVOLVED?



Collaborate on projects that highlight those emerging themes for young people



Contributing and being involved in ongoing projects



Sponsoring events and activities for young people



Involving young people in planning and operations



Become involved in YOL1000 committees and be drivers in our next steps

If you are interested in being involved in any of the above ways, contact Cara or Antoinette via email cara.gjuzi@mackay.qld.gov.au or antoinette@gwcommunities.org.au



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Youth Out Loud 1000 (YOL1000) is a collaborative partnership realised by Mackay Regional Council and Greater Whitsunday Communities. We would like to thank our key partners for their ongoing support and efforts for YOL1000:

- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Queensland Government Department of Communities, Housing & Digital Economy
- Queensland Government Department of Education
- Queensland Government Department of Seniors, Disability Services & Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- MADEC Ltd

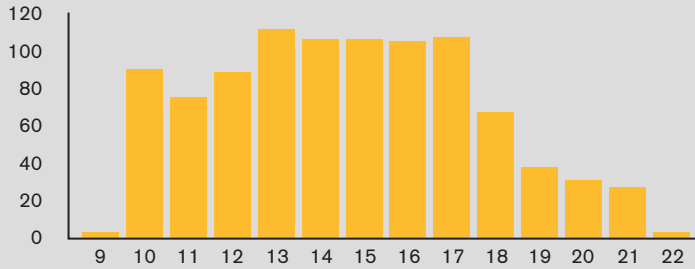
We also extend our gratitude to the many stakeholders who have supported the efforts in achieving the 1000 conversations, including youth services, schools, recreation, sporting and leisure groups across the Mackay region.

Photos thanks to: Leah McLean Photography / FYA

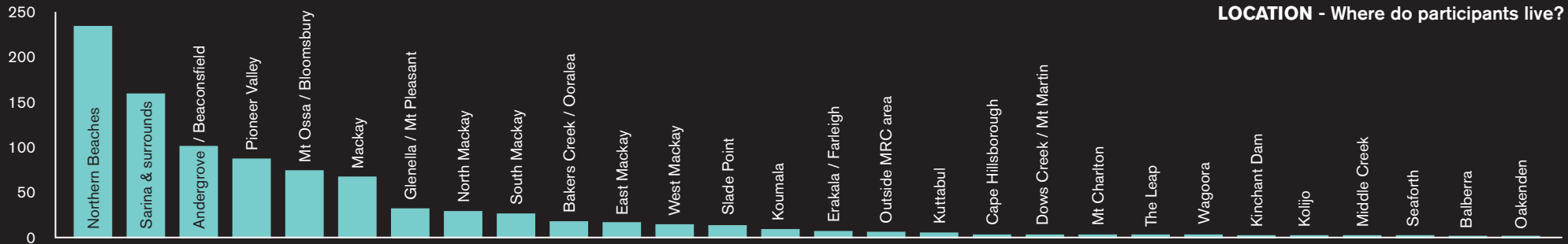
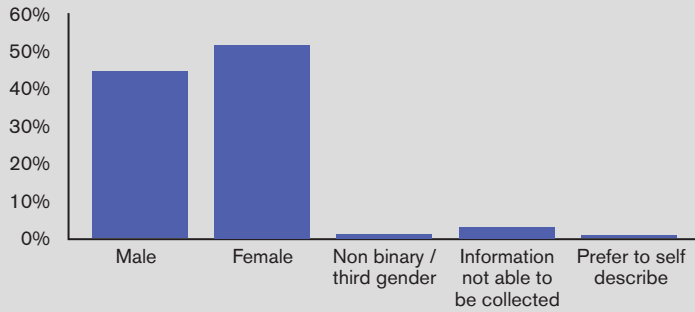


YO! 1000 VOICES

AGE - How old are participants?



GENDER - How would the young person describe their gender?



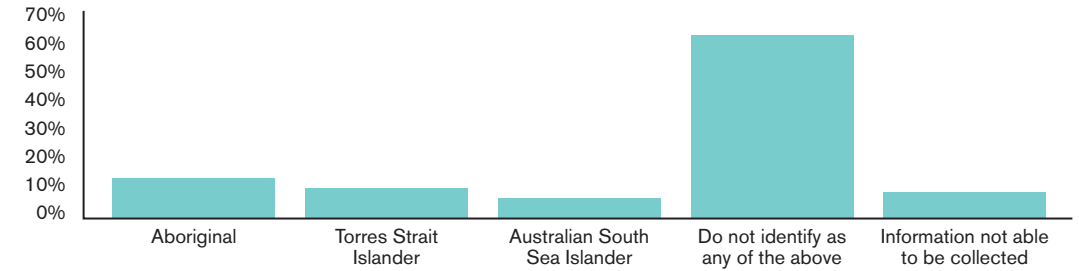
LOCATION - Where do participants live?

WHO HAVE WE TALKED TO?

WE'VE HAD **1000** CONVERSATIONS

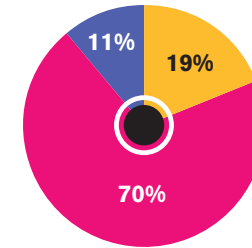
IDENTITY

Does the young person identify as: (multiple selections can be made)

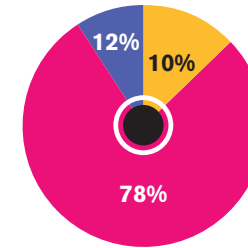


Does the young person identify as:

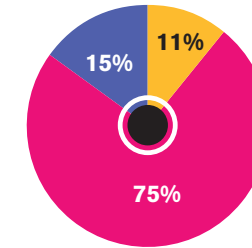
Being culturally or linguistically diverse?



Having a disability or learning difficulty?



Being part of the LGBTIQ+ community?

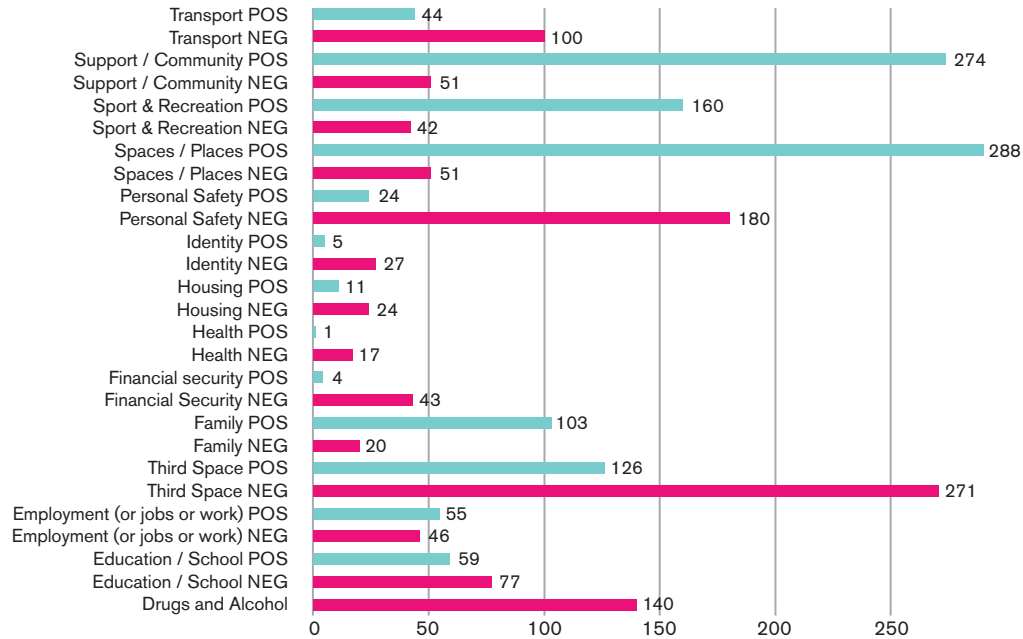


● Yes
● No
● Information not able to be collected

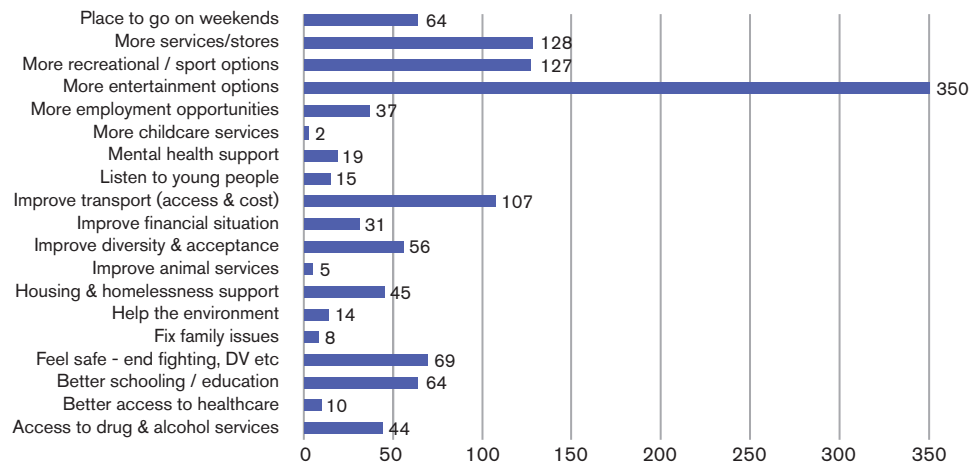
WHAT HAVE WE HEARD?

POS = positive | NEG = negative | third space = a space outside home (first space) or school/work (second space)

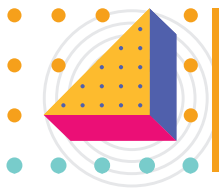
What is good/bad about growing up in Mackay?



If you could change anything, what would it be?



This spread was prepared by the YOL1000 Data Collection Working Group, based on analysis of the record of conversations by the YOL1000 Engaging Young People Working Group, as at 14/10/2022.



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