

OFFICIAL

Youth Action Plan 2024-2027

Third Phase Consultation Report 2024



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Acknowledgement of Country

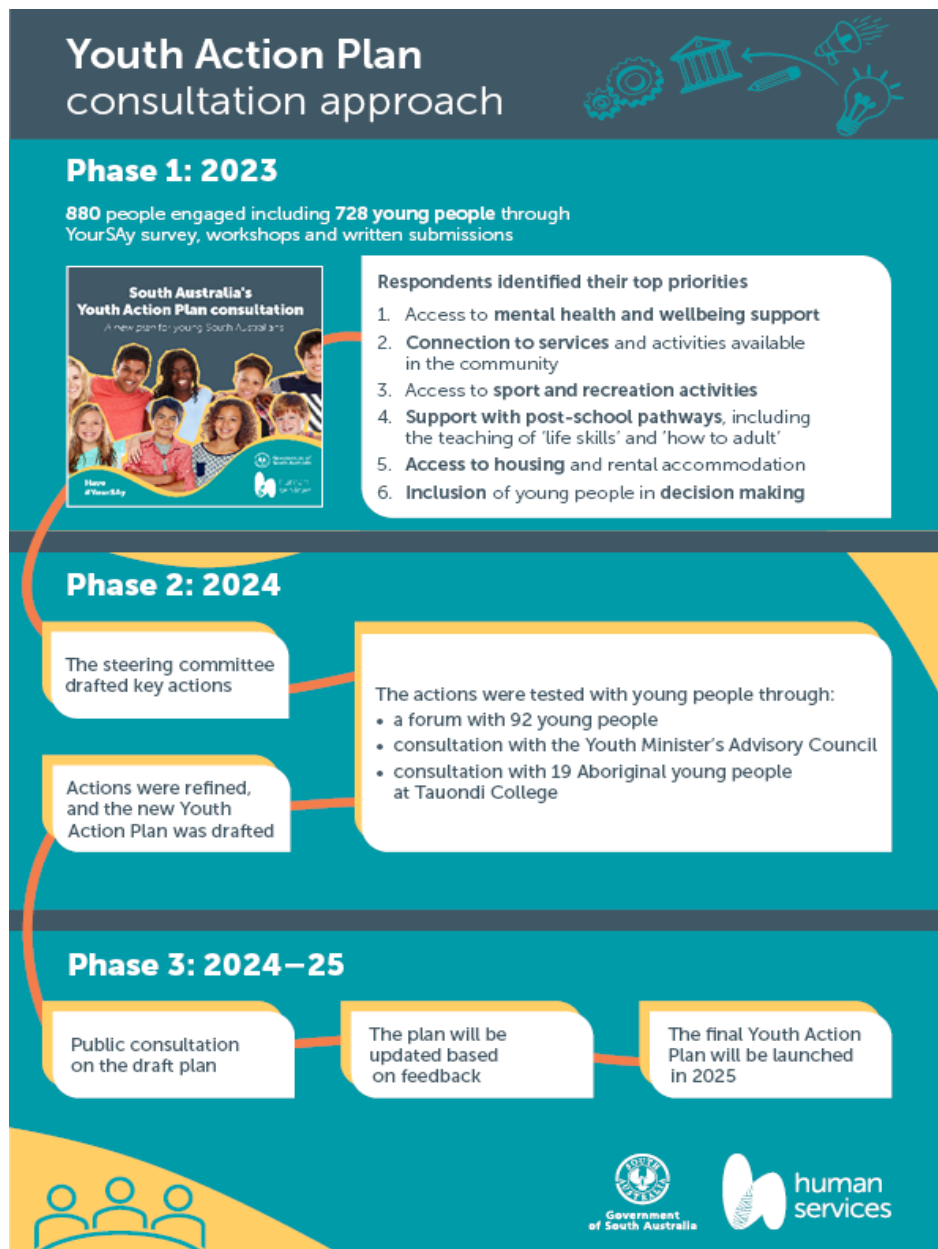
The Department of Human Services acknowledges and respects Aboriginal Peoples as the State's first people and recognises Aboriginal Peoples as traditional owners and occupants of lands and waters in South Australia. We acknowledge that the spiritual, social, cultural, and economic practices of Aboriginal peoples come from their traditional lands and waters, that they maintain their cultural and heritage beliefs, languages, and laws, which are of ongoing importance, and that they have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the State.

Please note the term Aboriginal is used throughout this document to include all people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent in South Australia.

1 Background

To ensure the new Youth Action Plan 2024-2027 (the Plan) genuinely reflects the needs and aspiration of South Australia's young people, the Department of Human Services has actively partnered with young people throughout the development of the Plan. This involved two rounds of prior consultations, engaging with nearly 1,000 people, including 820 young people.

Through this process, young people's voices were prioritised, and their feedback used to directly shape the Plan. Additionally, a Youth Action Plan Steering Committee, comprising young people and youth sector and government representatives and was established to oversee to guide and oversee the Plan's development.



2 Who we engaged

The third phase public consultation on the draft Youth Action Plan was held on YourSAy, with all South Australians having the opportunity to complete a feedback survey or provide written feedback.

The consultation was open for five weeks from 11 December 2024 to 15 January 2025. During this period, 883 people visited the YourSAy webpage to view the draft Youth Action Plan, 33 of those provided feedback via the survey. In addition, 11 organisations provided written submissions.

The breakdown of those who provided feedback on the Draft Plan is as follows:

Participant type	%
Young people (aged 12-25)	31%
Parents and/or carers of a young person	17%
Someone who works with young people / organisations	39%
Not provided	13%

Participants who engaged through the YourSAy survey were able to provide identifying information, the breakdown of how participants identify is as follows:

Identified as	%
Culturally and linguistically diverse	6%
Neurodivergent (e.g. autistic, ADHD)	13%
LGBTIQA+	19%
Remote or regional	11%
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	9%
Living with disability	8%
Young people struggling financially	2%
Young women	11%
Young people with caring responsibilities	6%
Not applicable or not provided	34%

3 What we heard

Feedback in this third phase of consultation sought feedback on the draft Plan. Overall, feedback on six key themes and draft actions was positive.

The following tables represent the YourSAy survey responses to the draft Plan's key themes and actions. Participants provided comments through the YourSAy survey and written submissions, with feedback summarised under the relevant action or topic:

3.1 Key Themes

The **key themes** identified during the consultation process have set the basis upon which the Plan's actions have been designed.

The six key themes of the Plan are:

- Increased access to mental health and wellbeing support
- Increased connection to services and activities available in the young person's community
- Increased access to sport and recreation activities
- Increased support with post-school pathways, including the teaching of 'life skills' and 'how to adult'
- Improved access to housing and rental accommodation
- Inclusion of young people in decision making

Do you think the six key themes represent the priorities of young people?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
84.4%	0%	15.6%

Participant comments and feedback:

- Good representation of issues affecting young people.
- Include climate change and sustainability.
- Participation in decision-making should be prioritised.

3.2 Online youth hub

Overarching action to develop an online youth hub.

The action proposes to develop an online youth hub, in collaboration with young people, which provides information on:

- supports and opportunities available in the young person's community,
- gaining independence, be 'work-ready', and develop life-skills,
- increase understanding of democratic processes, rights, politics in practice and how to participate in decision making, and
- other topics important to young people.

Is this action clear in what we want to achieve?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
93.3%	0%	6.7%

Do you support this action?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
70%	26.7%	3.3%

Participant comments and feedback:

- Consider information on: how to navigate government services to obtain a birth certificate, Medicare card, Tax File Number, navigating the health system, general health (such as maintaining a healthy lifestyle and understanding nutrition and the health impacts of diet choices), engaging in local activities, addiction to social media and gambling, healthy relationships and consent, making positive independent choices, workplace rights, rental rights, financial literacy, job readiness, responding to incidents of abuse within workplaces and fair financial remuneration, legal rights (such as talking to police, accessing legal advice, engaging with the justice and civil law systems), democratic processes and participation in decision-making.
- Utilise existing information for amalgamation into a central hub, and ensure the platform is co-designed with young people.

3.3 Mental health and wellbeing

Seven actions have been proposed the support **theme 1: Mental health and wellbeing – young people are healthy and well.**

- Support the development of local, community-based, non-clinical, peer-to-peer mental health programs, including increasing the provision of Teen Mental Health First Aid training.
- Review and strengthen consent and respectful relationships education (CRRE) in every government school, connected to the Australian Curriculum and the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum.
- Support schools to give students a say in how to strengthen safety and enhance a sense of belonging at their school.
- Support educators and schools with training and resources to better understand the challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ students, including bullying and wellbeing.
- Provide training on bullying prevention in schools to staff and students, including peer-to-peer student training initiatives in-line with the Safe and Supportive Learning Environments Plan of Action 2024-2026.
- Provide evidence-based resources to schools and students for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention education and programs, including resources informed by young people.
- Facilitating connection to Country, culture and community by providing culturally safe and responsive mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services and programs to meet the needs of Aboriginal young people.

Are the actions in theme 1 clear in what we want to achieve?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
80%	20%	0%

Do you support the actions under this key theme?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
76.7%	23.3%	0%

Participant comments and feedback:

- Support for actions relating to peer-to-peer support, respectful relationships education, and culturally responsive mental health services.
- Consider access to affordable clinical mental health services and targeted training.
- Recommendations for better access to diagnostic services for conditions like ADHD and Autism.
- Consider including suicide prevention as a focus across actions, and the impact of housing security on mental wellbeing.
- Expand trauma-informed, inclusive mental health programs upon implementation.
- Support for non-clinical, community-driven mental health initiatives.

3.4 Connection to services and information

Two actions have been proposed the support **theme 2: Connection to services and information – young people have access to information and services to meet their needs.**

- Increase the provision of accessible menstrual products in primary and high schools, sporting clubs, and other community hubs.
- Establish and/or strengthen data capturing and sharing to support the identification of young people and families at-risk who require early intervention support and inform future policy and practice.

Are the actions in theme 2 clear in what we want to achieve?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
83.3%	10%	6.7%

Do you support the actions under this key theme?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
83.3%	16.7%	0%

Participant comments and feedback:

- Understanding and support for the online youth hub to address key theme 2.

- Consider increased investment in community programs to provide support to young people and families who have been identified as being at-risk following action 10.

3.5 Recreation, community spaces and activities

Three actions have been proposed the support **theme 3: Recreation, community spaces and activities – young people have spaces and activities to make friends and be active.**

- Explore and implement initiatives that target cost barriers to participation to support young people from low-income families to participate in recreation activities.
- Investigate and develop a pilot program to utilise existing school or community equipment and/or facilities to provide low-cost semi-structured sport and recreation activities outside of school hours.
- Support local councils and communities to create opportunities for social connections with young people through sport, art & cultural experiences, nature play and other recreation activities.

Are the actions in theme 3 clear in what we want to achieve?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
80%	16.7%	3.3%

Do you support the actions under this key theme?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
80%	20%	0%

Participant comments and feedback:

- Actions to foster inclusion and safety, combat stigma, and strengthen peer-to-peer connections.
- Leverage and support existing community programs to foster inclusive, health-promoting environments in sporting clubs, and increase youth engagement and reduce risks associated with disengagement.

3.6 Transition to adulthood

Seven actions have been proposed the support **theme 4: Transition to adulthood – young people are supported to become independent adults and reach their potential.**

- Increase the awareness and capacity of community-based life skills programs.
- Provide housing support for young people in education and employment.
- Improve access to quality career education and guidance in secondary schools through a system-wide strategy that includes safe and structured workplace learning opportunities and individualised support for teenage workers using a variety of resources.
- Improve educational outcomes, skills development, and career readiness for Aboriginal young peoples.
- Support education and career pathways for SACE and non-SACE community language school students.
- Explore innovative ways to increase driver's licence attainment and the capacity of driving programs, targeting young people with limited family support in obtaining a licence.
- Develop youth-led campaign to promote volunteering opportunities and the benefits of volunteering, such as skill development, experience, connection and attainment of SACE credits.

Are the actions in theme 4 clear in what we want to achieve?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
83.3%	16.7%	0%

Do you support the actions under this key theme?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
76.7%	23.3%	0%

Participant comments and feedback:

- Consider connecting driver education programs with schools to enhance equity and engagement.

- Consistent support mechanisms including education pathways, financial aid, and transitional housing.

3.7 Housing and cost of living

Four actions have been proposed the support **theme 5: Housing and cost of living – young people have access to safe and secure housing and have the necessities to thrive.**

- Increase the supply of affordable housing that meets the needs of young people, including partnerships.
- Create fairer housing conditions and opportunities for young people.
- Support young people leaving care to access secure long-term housing.
- Improve access to home internet for families and provide free laptops to high school students on school card.

Are the actions in theme 5 clear in what we want to achieve?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
83.3%	13.3%	3.3%

Do you support the actions under this key theme?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
76.7%	20%	3.3%

Participant comments and feedback:

- Support for the focus on affordable housing, rental protections and diverse housing models for young people, especially care leavers.
- Consider inclusion of subsidized rentals and emphasis those at risk of homelessness.
- Consider the link between housing insecurity and mental health impacts to provide tailored resources.
- Consider low-cost or free public transport to improve accessibility to education and work.

3.8 Participation

Three actions have been proposed the support **theme 6: Participation – young people have a voice in decisions that impact them and their community.**

- Support the establishment of local Youth Advisory Committees across South Australia and improve connection and idea sharing between them and policy makers.
- State government agencies will seek input from young people on policies and initiatives which affect them.
- Implement innovative ways to encourage, and reduce barriers to, young people participating in engagement activities, to support diverse representation.

Are the actions in theme 6 clear in what we want to achieve?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
80%	5%	3.3%

Do you support the actions under this key theme?

Yes	Yes, subject to comments	No
73.3%	23.3%	3.3%

Participant comments and feedback:

- Embed youth voices in decision-making through advisory committees and youth summits.
- Youth sector is moving away from traditional Youth Advisory Committees and to focus efforts on innovative measures to reduce barriers and increase opportunities for young people to participate.
- Consider confidence-building initiatives to ensure effective utilisation of available resources.
- Consider increased involvement of organisations and youth-led groups in policy design.
- Ensure there's an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth representative on the Youth Minister's Advisory Council.
- Create mechanisms to embed Aboriginal youth voices in all action plans.

3.9 Other feedback

- Support for the plan's focus on highlighting the challenges and strengths of young people from diverse backgrounds.
- Support for the highly collaborative three phase consultation process.
- Culturally Responsive Programs:
 - Development of a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Action Plan.
 - Inclusion of culturally safe, trauma-informed initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and other underrepresented groups.
 - Addressing intergenerational trauma and systemic barriers impacting Aboriginal youth.
- Ensure initiatives address barriers faced by regional and vulnerable populations.
- Suggestions for evaluation frameworks and real-time monitoring to ensure progress and transparency.

4 Our next steps

This consultation report reflects the feedback from young people and youth stakeholders during the third phase of consultation on the draft Plan.

Based on feedback, the Plan will be strengthened where appropriate, with the majority of feedback being applicable to support the implementation of actions. Many youth organisations advocated for the group of young people who use their services, while this information has been summarised in the feedback summaries, consideration will be given for these priority cohorts of young people during implementation.

Following the release of the Plan, a Youth Action Plan Implementation Group will coordinate the implementation of actions across government.