



State of the Youth Report 2023

Fraser Coast





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References





We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia and pay our respects to Elders past and present. The Hervey Bay Community Centre is located on the country of the Butchulla people, in the Great Sandy region on the South East Coast of Queensland.





Trigger Warning:

Some sections of this report discuss mental health issues, suicide as well as domestic & family violence which may be distressing to some readers.

NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?

Don't go it alone. Please reach out for help.

Lifeline:

13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au

Beyond Blue:

1300 22 4636 or beyondblue.org.au

Kids Helpline:

1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au

Headspace:

1800 650 890 or headspace.org.au

13YARN:

Speak to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crisis supporter on 13 92 76 or visit 13yar.org.au

WHERE TO FIND HELP

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual abuse or family violence contact:

National Sexual Assault, DV Counselling Service 24 hour helpline:

1800 RESPECT on 1800 737 732

24-hour Emergency Accommodation helpline:

on 1800 800 588

Safe at Home helpline:

1800 633 937

National Violence and Abuse Trauma Counselling and Recovery Service:

1800 385 578

or Rainbow Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Helpline 1800 497 212

SHE (free and confidential counselling and support):

6278 9090

Sexual Assault Support Services:

6231 1811 or after hours 6231 1817

Family Violence Crisis and Support Service:

1800 608 122

Bravehearts-Sexual Assault Support for Children:

1800 BRAVE 1

Wide Bay Sexual Assault Service:

4194 5230



WHO ARE OUR YOUTH?

13% of the Fraser Coast population are 12-24 years old

2% are First Nations children & youth 5-24 years old

6% of youth 12-17 years are culturally diverse

1

WHAT DO YOUTH THINK?

Youth are worried about Mental Health, Housing & AOD

Youth would like to see more vibrant, safe spaces in the community to hang out, more acceptance of youth, less judgement, and more mental health supports



2



3

WHERE ARE YOUTH LIVING?

90% of 12-17 year olds live with their parents

20% of homeless are youth 12-24 years old

20% of youth 12-14 years old have felt unsafe at home



WHAT ARE YOUTH DOING?

81% average attendance rate at high schools

15% of Fraser Coast workforce are youth aged 15-24 years old

17% of youth 17-24 years old are disengaged from education & employment

4

5

HOW ARE YOUTH DOING?

34% of youth 12-17 years old report accessing mental health services

62% of youth in regional areas feel isolated

Suicide, self-inflicted injury and anxiety are the main burden of health issues for youth



Youth Snapshot

Fraser Coast State of the Youth Report 2023



Executive Summary

The HBNC is pleased to present the first Fraser Coast State of the Youth Report 2023.


If we as a community want to more effectively empower local youth, we need to clearly know the 'lay of the land'. In this spirit, the State of the Youth Report has been developed to present the voice of our local youth as well as relevant data to create a complete snapshot of Fraser Coast young people. This inaugural report highlights improvements in supporting youth, ongoing and new challenges, gaps in service delivery, as well as what young people believe are solutions.

The recent Department of Social Services (DSS) Bundaberg-Hervey Bay Local Services Plan 2023 prioritised improving community services including supporting the collation of community data at a regional level as a recognised need and gap. With the recent launch of the Social Shift in July 2023, HBNC was selected by DSS as the Brokerage Organisation for Hinkler to facilitate the Community-Led Support Fund initiative. Additionally, HBNC has been engaged by DSS to provide capacity building initiatives for the region including the collation of data. The State of the Youth 2023 report covers the Fraser Coast area, as it was already being developed prior to becoming a Brokerage Organisation. However, HBNC plans to update this document annually and to include Hinkler-specific data moving forward. HBNC also plans to develop and roll out further 'State of' Reports across a number of areas including mental health and families.

Data for this report has been collected in a number of ways:

- Using data HBNC has collected over a number of years through our Family, Children & Youth services delivery and annual Fraser Coast Youth Survey.
- Research conducted from the social services sector and our community partnerships.
- HBNC consulted with local youth through a number of Youth Voice Workshops (contracted through JR Marketing Group) and a strategic planning workshop to capture what young people are worried about locally, how they feel they are perceived by our community and what they would like to change.
- Queensland and National data have also been researched for comparison for a wider snapshot.

Challenges in developing this report included the lack of region-specific data for young people 12-24 years old, with many statistics being relevant to different regional government areas and differing age groups, or only available at a Queensland or National level. This makes it difficult to draw comparisons in some areas (e.g. employment and education, and health), but highlights the need to invest and develop mechanisms that can collate this local data moving forward to ensure we have an accurate snapshot. It is hoped the wider community sector will contribute information collected towards future State of the Youth reports in preparation for Youth Week 2024.



Executive Summary

Key Findings of the State of the Youth 2023 Fraser Coast report include:

- Youth are worried about mental health, the housing crisis and alcohol/drugs in the local community.
- They would like to see more vibrant, safe places to hang-out with friends and socialise, and more mental health supports.
- Youth would like to see a shift in negative culture towards young people in the wider local community, with less judgement, more acceptance, more kindness, less criticism, more optimism, and less doom.
- Youth homelessness is an ongoing issue with 12.5% of youth reporting having experienced homelessness at some point in their lives, and 20% of the homeless population on any given day being young people 12-24 years old.
- Youth unemployment rates have majorly improved, going from around 17% in 2021 to 11.9% in 2023.
- Youth crime has risen 4.4%, with 531 more offences reported in 2022 than in 2021.
- Suicide, self-inflicted injury and anxiety are the main burden of health issues for youth, with 34% of youth reporting having accessed mental health services in 2022.
- Social isolation and loneliness are also an ongoing challenge, with 62% of youth in regional areas reporting feeling isolated.
- The use of alcohol and drugs among youth has dropped, however the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) has increased with the ready availability of vapes to young people without proper regulation (however government is moving to address access to e-cigarettes).

HBNC continues to support youth through a number of initiatives and presents a host of new initiatives being developed as part of the HBNC Strategic Plan 2023-2026. HBNC is keen for collaboration and partnership with the wider community and hopes that the State of the Youth 2023 Fraser Coast report will serve as a starting point for discussion and collective action for the ongoing support of young people to thrive in our local community and live vibrant, fulfilled lives.



 **HBNC**
Creating Connected Communities



 Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Want to know more about the
Social Shift (Community-Led
Support Fund Initiative?)

SCAN ME





1. Youth In their Own Words

What do young people think?



1.1 Youth Voice

How do youth feel they are perceived by the wider community?

HBNC contracted JR Marketing Group in 2023 to conduct a number of youth workshops to capture the Youth Voice of the Fraser Coast. In total there were 6 workshops with 72 young people. The Youth Voice included capturing how young people feel youth are perceived by the local community, the struggles they are facing, what they think would help them, and what are the positive words and phrases they would like to see wider community using towards youth.

The word cloud below shows what local youth reported hearing when the wider community describes them. This revealed an overwhelmingly negative perception by local community towards young people.



What are local youth worried about and what are their challenges?

In addition to the Youth Voice consultation, HBNC also conducted a strategic planning consultation in 2023 with Fraser Coast young people 18-24 years old at the LIFT Lounge (Local Industry Futures Training Program) weekly employment lounge to chat about issues and concerns as part of the development of the next HBNC Strategic Plan 2023-2026. Across these workshops young people described their worries and challenges as:

- Mental Health
- High expectations
- Parents' unwillingness to get kids help


- 
- Rising cost of living
 - Discrimination
 - Homelessness/ broken families
 - Drugs/alcohol
 - Social media
 - Competitive job market
 - Lack of opportunities
 - Lack of financial incentives to follow dreams
 - Being forced out of school due to disengagement
 - Cyberbullying/ bullying
 - Sexism
 - Nothing to do in the area
 - Housing- homelessness
 - Crime
 - Mental Health support (wait times are long)
 - Not feeling safe
 - Drugs & alcohol
 - Living expenses

What do local young people think are the solutions?

When asked what they would like to see in the local community, youth answered:

- Vibrant, safe places to hang-out with friends and socialise
- More mental health supports
- Culture- more acceptance, less judgement; more kindness, less criticism; more optimism, less doom.
- More activities like Bay Beats Skate events
- Real life skills in schools- tax, mortgages, budgeting
- Bring back go-kart track and indoor skate park

When asked what is the one thing that would help them, youth answered:

- Older generations educating themselves on topics they might not understand
 - Easier access to help/mental health
 - More free activities
 - Early personal/ family interventions
 - Youth drop in centre
 - Youth housing
 - Being shown people actually care
 - More training
 - Being given a chance
- 



What do youth think are the most important issues across the rest of Queensland & Australia?

According to the 2022 Mission Australia Youth Survey, the top 3 most important issues in Australia for young people were:

1. The Environment: 51% identified it as one of the most important issues in Australia.
2. Equity and Discrimination: 35.9% identified it as one of the most important issues.
3. Mental Health: 33.9% identified it as one of the most important issues.

On the same survey, young people listed their top personal challenges as:

1. School Challenges: 41.5% listed challenges with school including academic pressure, high workload, challenges with teachers, learning difficulties, and general school challenges.
2. Mental Health Challenges: 22.7% listed challenges around mental health including low mental state, stress, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem or self-harm.
3. Relationship Challenges: 19.7% listed challenges with relationships including death, abuse, challenging relationships with family, friends or significant others.
4. Covid-19 Challenges: 14.7% listed challenges with Covid-19 including lockdowns, home schooling and getting Covid.


Mission Australia asked the same young people for solutions to these challenges, with suggested solutions including:

- Having more and/or different supports available inside schools
- Asking family and friends for additional support
- Asking for help from healthcare professionals like psychologists, counsellors and doctors
- Supports and systems to manage future pandemics and cope with the effects

In terms of school challenges, solutions included:

- Having more balanced and manageable workloads at schools
- Helping parents understand deadlines and stress at schools
- More understanding from teachers about stress levels
- Help getting organised and managing time

For mental health challenges, solutions included:

- Talking to family and friends about how I am feeling
 - Asking health care professionals for help
 - Learning strategies to reduce stress
 - Having more emphasis on mental health and wellbeing in schools
 - Feeling more comfortable talking to school counsellors/ teachers about issues
- 



For challenges around relationships, solutions included:

- Talking through concerns with family and friends
- Being comfortable asking for support
- Creating deeper relationships
- Having a more diverse network of support
- More understanding from family

In terms of addressing Covid-19 challenges, solutions included:

- Additional help to recover from the impacts of lockdowns and remote learning
- Better online school system if we ever go into any future lockdowns
- Mental health impacts to be considered for future pandemic restrictions
- Help transitioning back to face-to-face learning
- No more lockdowns

According to the Mission Australia Survey Report 2020, friendship is important for 4 out of 5 youth. The 2021 Australian Youth Barometer also found that youth find relationships with their friends more important (82.5%) compared with their family (78.9%).

According to the Queensland Government Youth Discussion Paper, youth have also voiced the following:

- More things to do in regional and remote areas
- Space to hang out that are adequate for our age, and specific spaces for people who identify as LGBTQIA+, young people with a disability and with mental health issues
- Youth want an improvement in public transport options to support independence
- Youth don't feel ready for adulthood and would like more skills and supports to become independent
- There is not enough emergency housing available, especially ones that are culturally safe and appropriate. More suitable, safe, and affordable housing is needed
- It can be difficult for young people to access support for domestic violence. Queensland youth want easier access to supports, and more education on healthy relationships from an earlier age

Source:

Mission Australia 2022 Youth Survey: <https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/research-impact-policy-advocacy/youth-survey>

Mission Australia Survey Report 2020: <https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/publications/youth-survey/1717-mission-australia-youth-survey-report-2020/file>

Queensland Youth Discussion Paper 2022: https://www.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/302184/qld-youth-discussion-paper.pdf





2. Demographics

Who are the Fraser Coast Youth?

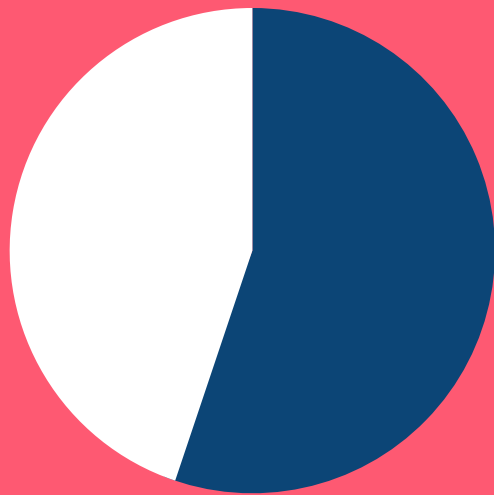


2.1 Youth Population

The Fraser Coast has less youth than the rest of QLD and Australia

Youth is defined by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare as the period from 12–24 years of age. This period includes the three main stages of adolescence—early, middle and late—during which physical, intellectual, emotional and social changes take place. According to the 2021 Census, there were 14,730 young people on the Fraser Coast. This includes 8,124 12-17 year olds and 6,606 18-24 year olds. This is roughly 13% of the population of the region. This is expected to grow to 15,420 youth in 2026 and 17,631 by 2041. The Fraser Coast has a lower percentage of youth than the rest of Queensland (nearly 20%), and Australia (18.2%).

Number of Fraser Coast Youth



18-24 years old
44.8%

12-17 years old
55.2%

Of the total Youth on the Fraser Coast, 55% were 12-17 years old & 45% were 18-24 years old



14,730

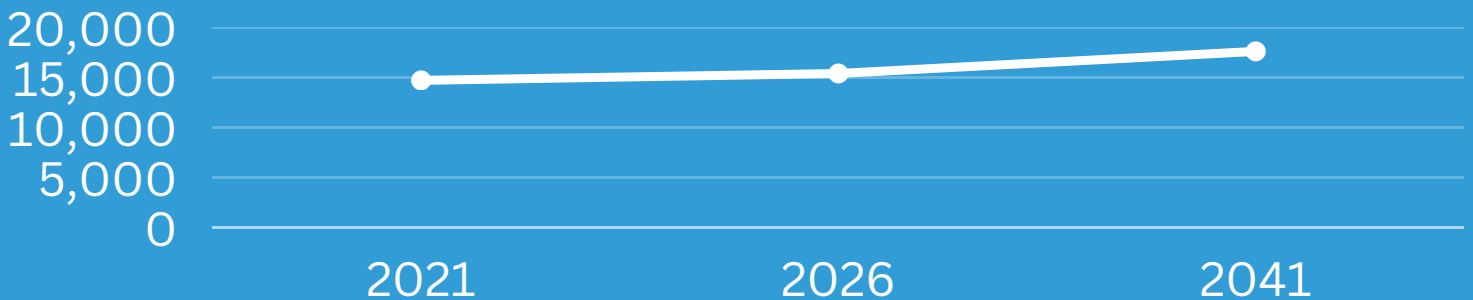
Fraser Coast Youth



13%

Of Total Fraser Coast Population

Projected Youth Population- Fraser Coast



Source: Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2041, prepared by .id (informed decisions), January 2023.

AIHW 2011 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/14eed34e-2e0f-441d-88cb-ef376196f587/12750.pdf?inline=true>

ABS Population Census 2021.

Queensland Youth Discussion Paper 2022: https://www.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/302184/qld-youth-discussion-paper.pdf

2.2 First Nations Youth

First Nations Youth make up 2% of the Fraser Coast population

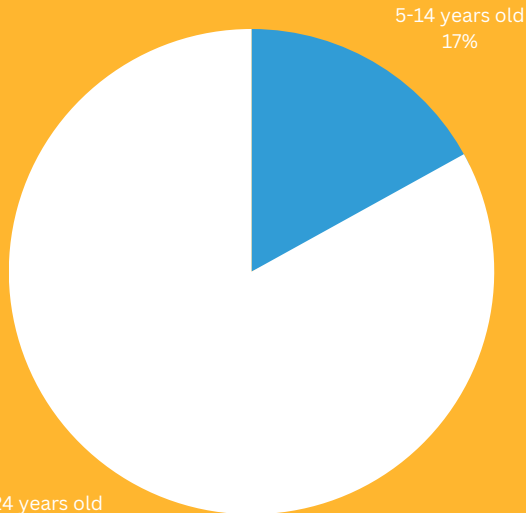
According to the 2021 Census, there were 2,349 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people on the Fraser Coast. This included 1,349 5-14 year olds and 1,000 15-24 year olds. No figure for 12-24 year olds age group could be found. The majority of First Nations people on the Fraser Coast are young with the median age being 23 years old. My School data for 2022 shows an average of 9% of students at Fraser Coast High Schools are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

On the Fraser Coast there was a total Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population of 5,652 people. This is 5% of the total Fraser Coast population. This proportion of First Nations population is comparable to Queensland (4.6%) and higher than Australia-wide (3.2%).

First Nations youth make up 42% of the total First Nations population of the Fraser Coast and 2% of the total Fraser Coast population. This proportion of younger people is comparable to rates among Queensland First Nations populations (42%), but higher than Nationally (40.6%).

Maryborough Central- North had the highest proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population on the Fraser Coast.

First Nations Youth



Of the total First Nations Youth on the Fraser Coast, 17% were 5-14 years old & 83% were 15-24 years old.



2349

First Nations Young People



2%

Of Total Fraser Coast Population

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented in Atlas.id by .id (informed decisions). My School <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

2.3 Cultural Diversity

An average 6% of youth at high school are culturally diverse

An average 6% of students across all Fraser Coast High Schools are from a culturally diverse background according to 2022 data on My School. No figure for 12-24 year olds was found ready available. Across the whole Fraser Coast, 2021 Census data shows there were 16,679 people born overseas. This was 15% of the total Fraser Coast population. Among these, 1,327 were recent arrivals. Of the total migrant population, 4,284 spoke a language other than English. The top 5 countries of birth were:

- United Kingdom (5.5%)
- New Zealand (3%)
- Philippines (0.7%)
- Germany (0.6%)
- South Africa (0.5%)

HBNC also implements a Fraser Coast Youth Survey annually in partnership with local high schools and youth service providers. The survey is completed by youth aged 12-17 years old. On the 2022 Fraser Coast Youth Survey, 4% of the 872 students surveyed were from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

Australia wide, 25% of Australian youth were born overseas according to data from AIHW for 2021.



16,679

Migrants on the Fraser Coast



1,327

New Arrivals



4,284

Non English Speakers



6%

Average of youth at high schools are culturally diverse

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented in Atlas.id by .id (informed decisions). HBNC Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2022. My School <https://www.myschool.edu.au>.

AIHW, 2021, Demographics of Australian young people and their families <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/australias-youth/contents/demographics>



3. Housing, Family & Social Support

Where are Youth living?



3.1 Living Arrangements

Most young people on the Fraser Coast are living with their parent(s)

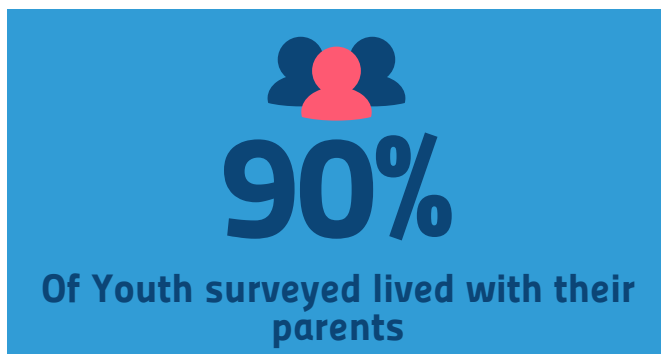
According to the HBNC 2022 Fraser Coast Youth Survey, 90% of youth 12-17 years old lived with their parents, 5% in other arrangements (unstated), 2% lived with other family members, 2% lived with grandparents, 2% in foster care and 1% on their own.

In terms of household size, 54% lived in a household of 3-4 people, 32% in a household of 5-6 people, 8% in a household of more than 7 people, 6% in a household of 1-2 people. No data for 12-24 year olds was readily available.

According to the 2021 Census, there are 14,138 parents with children on the Fraser Coast (13% of total population). This includes 8,899 couples and 5,239 single parents. Among the total, 5,310 were parents with older children (15 years and older), 6,604 were parents with younger children (aged under 15 years old) and 2,224 were parents with mixed age children (one or more children under 15 and one or more children over 15). Between 2016 and 2021, the number of households with children increased by 1,027 households or 7.8%.

The largest change in households with children in this area between 2016 and 2021 was single parents with older children (+397 households).

In comparison, in Queensland, approximately 41.2% of households are families with children. Australia-wide, 70.5% of households are families.



Source:
Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions). HBNC Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2022.
Queensland Government Statisticians Office 2022 <https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/issues/11951/qld-compared-other-jurisdictions-census-2021.pdf>
ABS 2021 Snapshot of Australia <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/snapshot-australia/2021>

3.2 Youth Homelessness

12.5% of Youth on the Fraser Coast have experienced homelessness

According to the 2022 HBNC Fraser Coast Youth Survey, 12.5% of young people reported experiencing homelessness, couch surfing or without a safe place to stay at some point in their lives. 1% were currently homeless, 8% had been homeless over 12 months ago, 2% were homeless within the last 6 months and 1% had been homeless within the last 12 months.

According to the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc., in 2021, there were 1,835 people who experience homelessness every day in the Wide Bay Region and 19.7% of these are young people 12-24 years old. This is comparable with Queensland statistics where 20% of homeless are youth 12-24 years old. Australia-wide, 23% of the homeless population were youth.

The Foyer Foundation's Australia-wide data states the main reasons for homelessness as Domestic & Family Violence, housing crisis and relationship or family breakdown, with contributing factors including mental health and alcohol & other drug issues. Even where these are not issues, a lack of affordable housing on the Fraser Coast is a major current challenge and impacts on young people.

The HBNC Strategic Housing Issues Paper v.2 notes barriers to finding housing for young people include:

- Lack of affordable housing stock on the Fraser Coast causing blockages in crisis housing accommodation as there are no properties for people to move on to.
- There can be up to 50 applications for a rental property. Some properties are not advertised as real estate agents already have lists of approved tenants.
- Increasing cost of living and cycle of poverty- rental increases mean less money to spend on food and other living costs.
- Young people often have no rental history and are unable to apply for properties as they cannot compete with other adults with a rental history.



Source: HBNC Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2022.

Facts & Figures: Young People in the Wide Bay 2021, Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc https://www.qyhc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/QYHC_Fact-Sheet-2021_Wide-Bay.pdf

The Foyer Foundation, 2022. [Foyer.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/FoyerFoundation_UnderOneRoof_FULLReport2023.pdf](https://www.foyer.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/FoyerFoundation_UnderOneRoof_FULLReport2023.pdf)

HBNC Strategic Housing Issues Paper v.2, 2022.

Queensland Youth Discussion Paper 2022. https://www.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/302184/qld-youth-discussion-paper.pdf

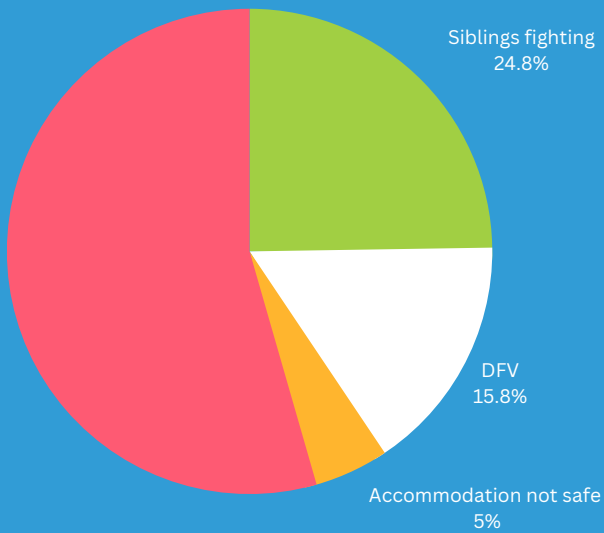
ABS 2021

3.3 Safety

20% of Fraser Coast Youth have felt unsafe at home

The 2022 HBNC Fraser Coast Youth Survey revealed 20% of young people have felt unsafe at home (a 4% increase from 2021). The main reasons stated for feeling unsafe were siblings fighting, didn't want to say, domestic and family violence and accommodation not being safe. The same survey also revealed 14% of youth have run away from home. Since the first HBNC Fraser Coast Youth Survey in 2019, the rate of young people feeling unsafe at home has gone up 6%. No data for 12-24 year olds was readily available. No data for QLD and national comparison could be found around youth safety.

Reasons for Feeling Unsafe



20%

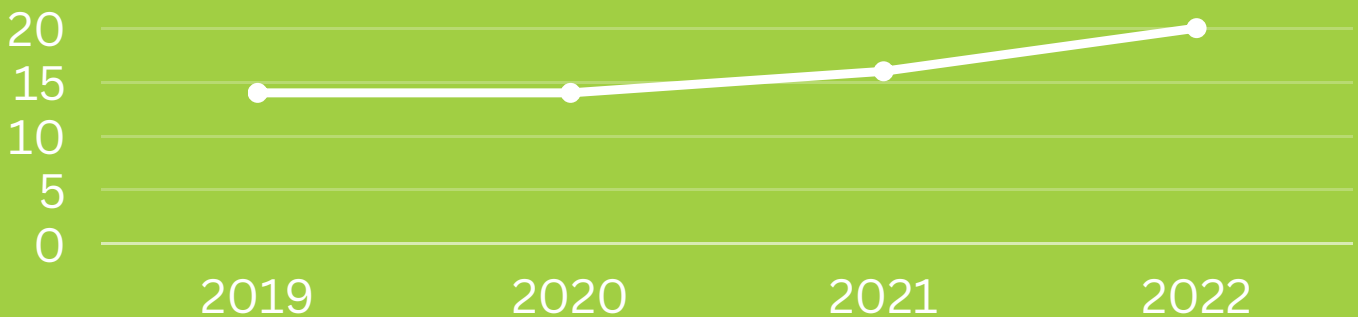
Have felt unsafe at home



14%

Have run away from home

FC Youth Survey- Feeling Unsafe



Source: HBNC Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2022.

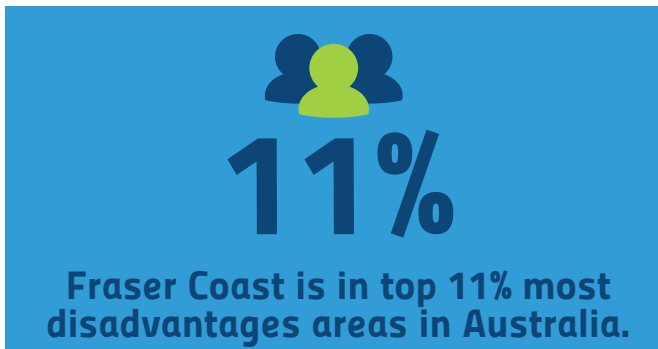


3.4 Youth Disadvantage

Fraser Coast is one of the most disadvantaged regions in Australia

There is no data specifically relating to youth disadvantage on the Fraser Coast region. This continues to be a gap in local knowledge. However, the 2021 Census SEIFA scores showed the Fraser Coast as being one of the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas in the whole of Australia (in the top 11% of regions experiencing high levels of disadvantage). Eighty nine percent of Australian regions have higher levels of socioeconomic advantage in comparison with Fraser Coast population.


High levels of disadvantage also include major challenges around intergenerational cycles of poverty. The Foyer Foundation notes that once a young person is caught in the cycle of disadvantage, the lifetime cost to government to support them is \$386,000.

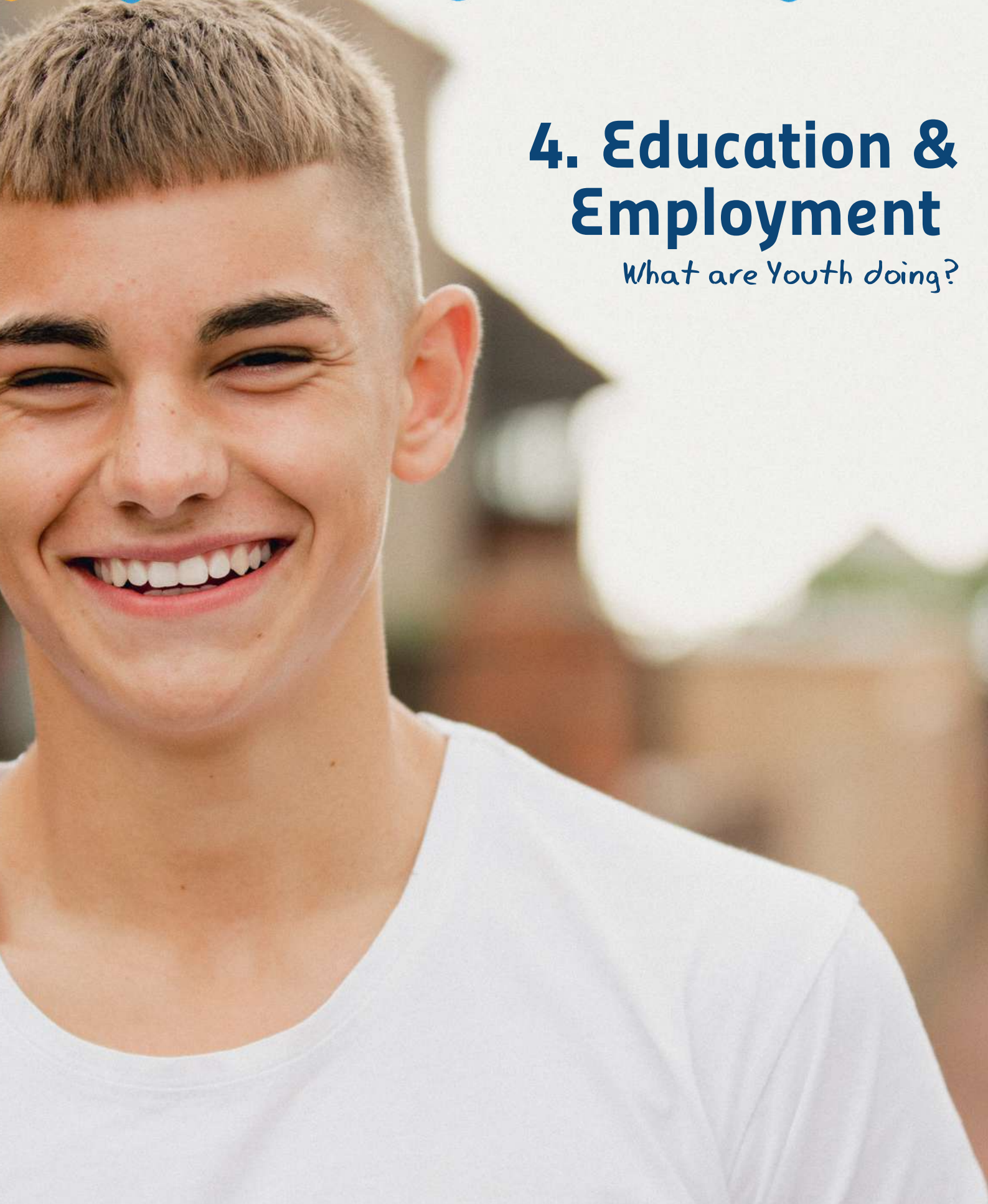


Source: HBNC Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2022.

The Foyer Foundation, Under One Roof <https://foyer.org.au/about-us/research-and-reports/>

Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing 2021](#). Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#) (informed decisions).





4. Education & Employment

What are Youth doing?

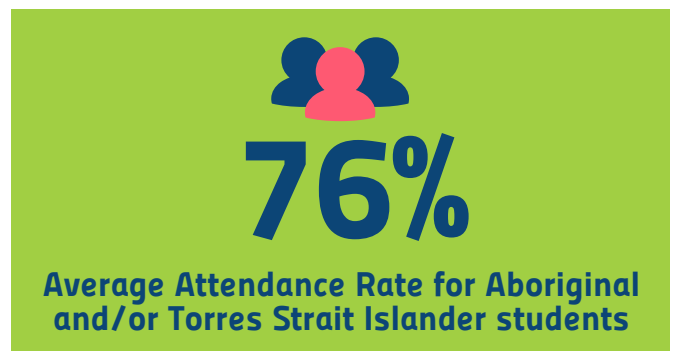
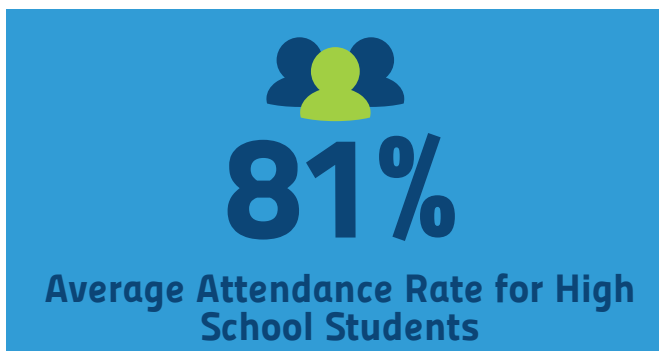
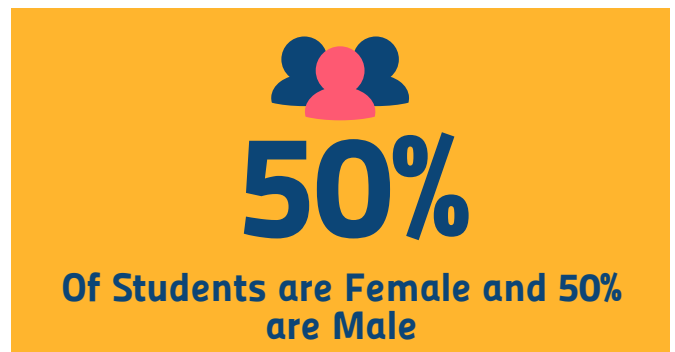


4.1 Youth At School- Attendance Rates

The average attendance rate for Fraser Coast High Schools is 81%

According to data from My School, there were 10,002 students enrolled in Fraser Coast Secondary Schools in 2022. This included 5,025 boys (50%) and 4,977 girls (50%). Using data from My School, the average attendance rate for students in 2022 was 81% for all students. This is lower than the Queensland school attendance rate of 85.6% for all students. On the Fraser Coast, the attendance rate for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students is 76%.

In terms of school drop out rates, no Fraser Coast specific data was found. However, according to the Department of Education, in 2021 there were 184,000 students enrolled in Years 10-12 at Queensland state secondary schools. In the same year, 12,589 students left school before completing the end of the year. This was 6.8% of students. All students who were left were assigned a destination by the Department with 38.6% of students going on to some other type of education & training, 37.7% going on to employment, and 23.8% not engaged in employment or education. Reasons for dropping out included to get a job/apprenticeship (27.8%), did not like school (18.9%), health reasons (11.8%), behaviour of other students disrupted my study (8.2%), study options did not meet my needs (7.4%) and difficult academically (6.8%).



Source: My School <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

Department of Education: qed.qld.gov.au/our-publications/reports/statistics/Documents/attendance-rate-year-level-region.pdf
2022 Early School Leavers Report. Department of Education Queensland <https://qed.qld.gov.au/our-publications/reports/statistics/Documents/esl-statewide-summary.pdf>



4.2 School Suspension Rates

Fraser Coast had a total 2,033 high school suspensions in 2021

In 2021 there were a total 10,002 students at Fraser Coast state high schools. In the same year, there were 2,081 student suspensions, exclusions and cancellations (based on local state high school annual reports). This included 1,947 short suspensions, 86 long suspensions, 17 exclusions and 31 cancellations.

According to the Department of Education Queensland, in the North Coast region (which extends from Bribie Island to Agnes Water and encompasses Fraser Coast) there was a total 116,806 students at state schools in 2022. In the same year, there were 16,337 suspensions, exclusions and cancellations. This was comparable to 2021 data where there was a total 17,343 suspensions, exclusions and cancellations against a total student count of 118,453.

Also according to Department of Education Queensland data, there were a total 83,095 suspensions at state schools in 2021.

Suspension is defined as a serious disciplinary consequence that prohibits an enrolled student from attending school and any school-related activities, for a set period of time. A suspension of 1 to 10 school days is known as a 'short suspension'. A suspension of 11 to 20 school days is known as a 'long suspension'. A school's Student Code of Conduct will explain the school's expectations about behaviour and outline the possible range of consequences, such as suspension, that may be used to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

No specific 'suspension rate' information could be found for schools.



Source: Hervey Bay High School Annual Report 2021.

Urangan State High School Annual Report 2021.

Maryborough State High School Annual Report 2021.

Aldridge State High School Annual Report 2021.

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.

Department of Education Queensland: Disciplinary Absences <https://qed.qld.gov.au/our-publications/reports/statistics/Documents/sda-by-region.pdf>



4.3 Year 12 Outcomes

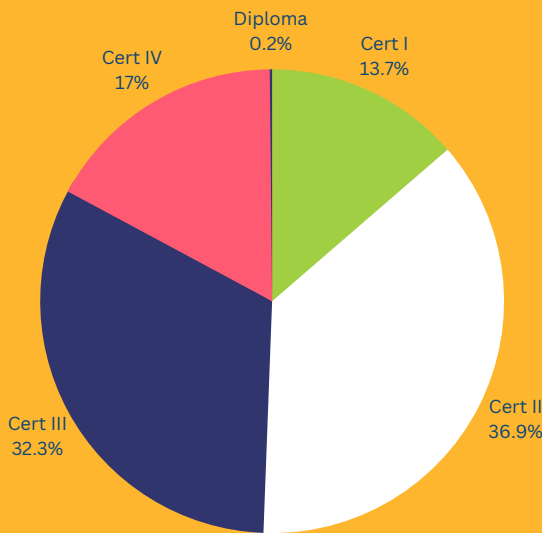
91% of Fraser Coast Year 12 students gained a Secondary School Certificate in 2021

According to My School, there were 767 Year 12 students who were awarded a Secondary School Certificate in 2021 (91%) across all Fraser Coast Schools (public & private). There were 836 who completed Year 12 Secondary Schooling. 2022 data was not available. In Queensland 92% of Year 12 students gained a Secondary School Certificate in 2021. The National Attainment Rate was 78%.

Many Fraser Coast students graduated Year 12 with multiple VET (vocational education and training) Certificates including:

- 332 Certificate I completed
- 898 Certificate II completed
- 784 Certificate II+ completed
- 413 Certificate IV completed
- 4 Diplomas completed

VET Qualifications Completed- Year 12



836

Completed Year 12



767

Awarded Year 12 Certificate of Education

Source:

My School <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority:

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/publications/qcaa_stats_yr12_cert_summary_2022.pdf

Australian Government Productivity Commission:). <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2023/child-care-education-and-training/school-education>

4.4 University & Vocational Education

Approximately 4% of Fraser Coast is engaged in post secondary study

According to the 2021 Census there are currently 1,784 people attending university on the Fraser Coast. This was 1.6% of the Fraser Coast population. There were 1,810 attending TAFE/vocational education which is also about 1.6% of the Fraser Coast population, making a total 4% engaged in some kind of post-secondary study. There was no information on how many young people 18-24 years were among this data.

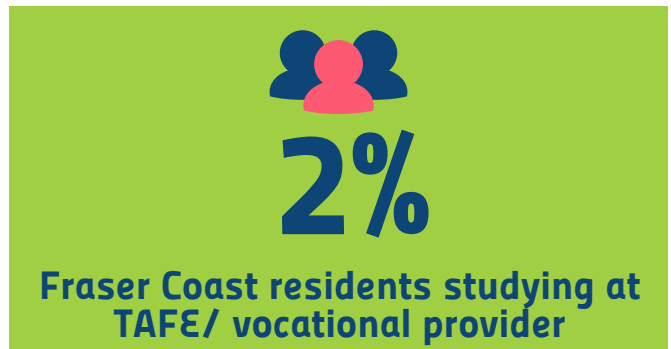
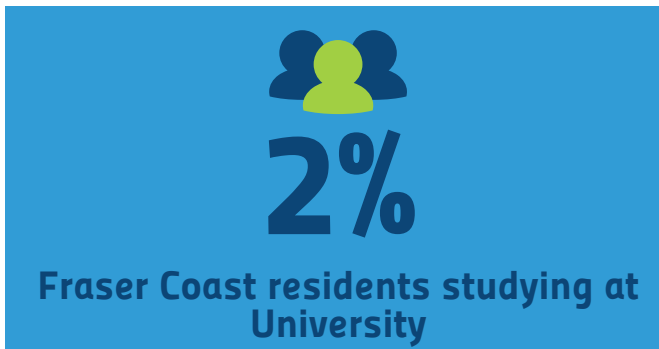
According to My School, of the Fraser Coast students who graduated in 2021, 47% went on to further education including:

- 26% of students studying at university
- 21% of students studying at TAFE/vocational education

It is not stated if these students are studying on the Fraser Coast, however.

Total rate of university study for the Fraser Coast was below Regional Queensland rates (3.2%), Queensland (4.3%) and Australia (4.7%).

Total rate of vocational study for the Fraser Coast was comparable to Regional Queensland (2%), Queensland (2.1%) and Australia (2.4%).



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021. Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

My school: <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

4.5 Employment


14.9% of the total Fraser Coast workforce are young people

According to the 2021 Census, there were 4,999 young people aged 15-24 years old employed on the Fraser Coast. This was 14.9% of the total Fraser Coast workforce. This was below the 15.6% Queensland rate for the same age group. On the Fraser Coast there was a total of 33,491 people employed, which was 30% of the total Fraser Coast population. The largest proportion of the Fraser Coast workforce continues to be 45-54 year olds (23.3%).

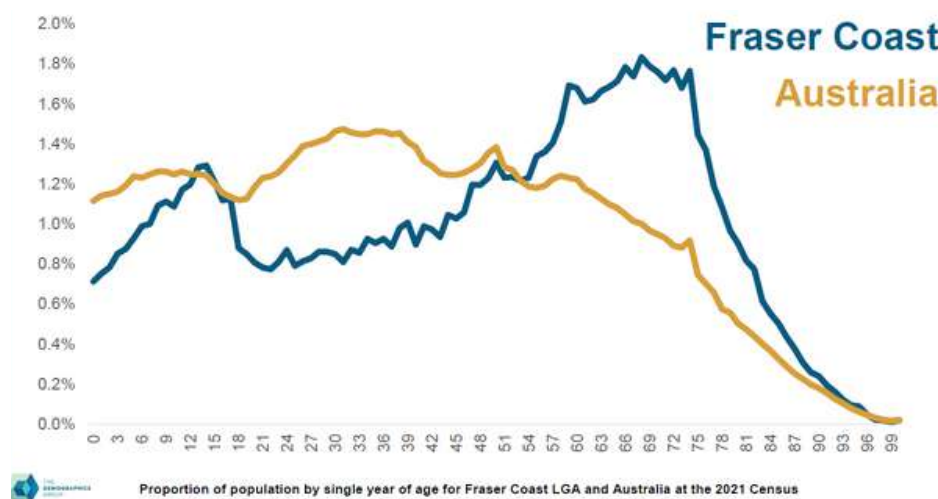
According to My School, of the Fraser Coast students who graduated in 2021, 42% of students have gone on to employment. However, it is not stated if these students stayed on the Fraser Coast or went elsewhere for employment. According to The Demographics Group, many youth leave the Fraser Coast area between the ages of 18 and 50 years of age, leaving a large gap in workforce. There is also limited data on youth employment rates and there is a deficit-based focus on youth unemployment rather than a focus on numbers employed. According to the National Skills Commission, however, there are approximately 300,000 youth across Australia aged 15-24 who join the full time workforce each year.



4,999
Young people engaged in work on the Fraser Coast



30%
Of total Fraser Coast population engaged in employment



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021. Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

My school: <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

National Skills Commission: Trends in the youth labour market | National Skills Commission

<https://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/reports/state-australias-skills-2021-now-and-future/chapter-2-australian-labour-market-2020/trends-youth-labour-market>

Future Outlook: Fraser Coast through the demographic lens, The Demographics Group, 2023.

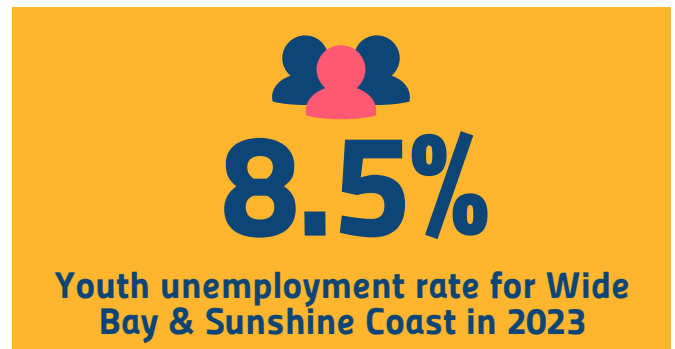
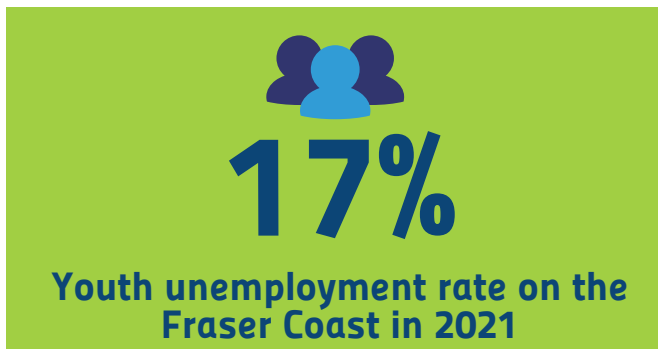


4.6 Unemployment

Youth unemployment rate on Fraser Coast is improving.

According to profile.id, the youth unemployment rate for 15-24 year olds on the Fraser Coast in 2021 was 17%. There were 1,096 young people unemployed. This is a higher unemployment rate than Regional Queensland (10.2%), Queensland (11.1%) and Australia (10.8%). The overall unemployment rate for the Fraser Coast for the same period was 8.5%, which was higher than regional Queensland (5.2%), Queensland (5.4%) and Australia (5.1%).

However, latest data indicates more young people are working than ever in 2023. According to Job and Skills Australia Labour Market Data Dashboard (July 2023), youth unemployment rate for Wide Bay is now 11.9%. This is still higher, however than Queensland's youth unemployment rate for the same period of 8.4% and Australia at 8.2%. Overall Fraser Coast unemployment rate for same period is 6.3%, also down from 2021 but higher than current Queensland rate of 4.1% and current National rate of 3.7%.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021](#). Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#) (informed decisions).

Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast Employment region Labour Market Data Dashboard, Job and Skills Australia. July 2023.





4.7 Job Industries & Future Skills

Health Care & Social Assistance is the biggest employment sector on Fraser Coast

There is no age related work sector information available except for statistics for the Tourism & Hospitality industry.

According to the 2021 Census, the top 5 industry sectors on the Fraser Coast for the whole workforce were:

- Health Care & Social Assistance (7,998 employed)
- Retail Trade (4,166 employed)
- Construction (3,499 employed)
- Education & Training (3,321 employed)
- Accommodation & Food Services (3,084 employed)


The top 3 growth areas were Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade and Construction.

On the 2021 Census, 636 young people aged 15-24 years old were engaged in the Tourism & Hospitality sector. This is 28% of the total Tourism & Hospitality sector workforce for the area and 13% of the total 15-24 year old work force on the Fraser Coast. The top 5 job areas within the sector were:

- Kitchenhand
- Waiter
- Chef
- Bar Attendant
- Cook



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021](#). Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#) (informed decisions).



4.8 Youth Disengagement & Crime

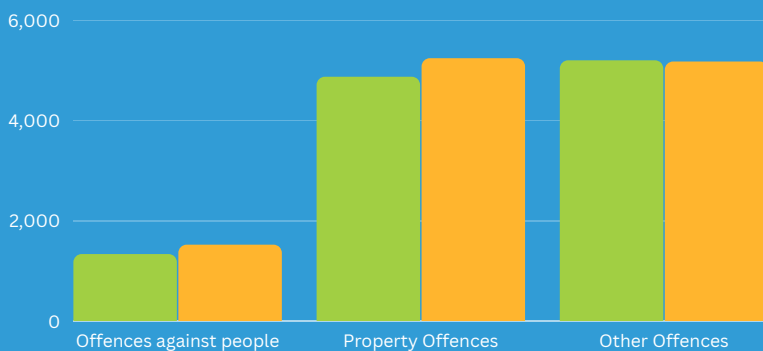
17% of young people are disengaged on the Fraser Coast

In 2021, 17% of 15-24 year olds on the Fraser Coast were disengaged with employment and education, compared to 10.6% in Regional Queensland. There were 1,746 disengaged young people. Glenwood and District had the highest proportion of disengaged youth on the Fraser Coast.

According to the Queensland Police Service, there was a total 11,386 youth offences recorded in 2021. This included 1,331 offences against people, 4,864 offences against property, and 5,191 other offences (includes drug, prostitution, alcohol, gaming, DVO, trespassing, weapons, good order, traffic, stock related and miscellaneous offences). Youth crime rose to a total of 11,917 recorded youth offences in 2022. This included 1,517 offences against people, 5,233 offences against property and 5,167 other offences.

According to ABS statistics, in 2020-2021, 17 year old Australians were the highest represented age group of offenders nationally.

Youth Crime Offences



There were 531 more offences committed by young people in 2022 than in 2021.



17%

Of youth disengaged from employment and education



1,746

Youth disengaged across Fraser Coast

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021](#). Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#) (informed decisions).

Queensland Crime Statistics <https://mypolice.qld.gov.au/queensland-crime-statistics/>

Australian Bureau of Statistics: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-offenders/latest-release#youth-offenders>



5. Health & Wellbeing

How are Youth doing?



5.1 Physical Health

Suicide/ self-inflicted injury & anxiety are the main burden of health issues for youth

There is no youth-specific health information for the Fraser Coast. However, the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare lists the leading causes of burden on the health of young people 15-24 years old across Australia in 2018 as:

For males:

1. Suicide & self-inflicted injuries (14.3%)
2. Alcohol use disorders (7.1%)
3. Depressive disorders (5.3%)
4. Road traffic injuries/ motor vehicle occupant (5.2%)
5. Asthma (5%)

For females:

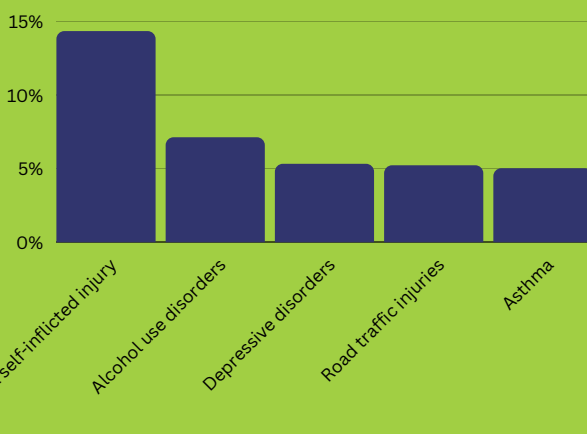
1. Anxiety disorders (11%)
2. Depressive disorders (8.7%)
3. Eating disorders (6.8%)
4. Asthma (5.6%)
5. Suicide/ self-inflicted injuries (5.6%)

The burden of disease is the quantified impact of a disease or injury on a population, which captures health loss, or years of healthy life lost through premature death or living with ill-health.

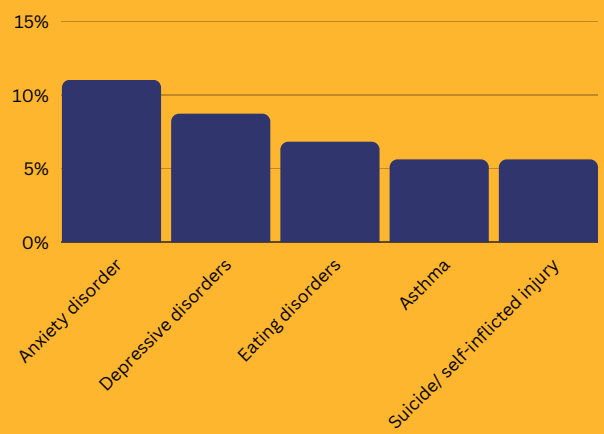
Being overweight and/or obese remain health risk factors for young people. A healthy body weight is an important factor in young people’s current and future health, with young people considered overweight or obese more likely to become or remain obese as adults. Based on measured data from the 2017–18 National Health Survey, it was estimated that:

- More than 1 in 4 (27% or 226,800) 15–17-year-olds were either overweight (18% or 151,300) or obese (9.3% or 78,300).
- Slightly more than 9 in 20 (46% or 1.0 million) 18–24-year-olds were overweight (30% or 676,700) or obese (16% or 347,300)

Male Youth Health Burden



Female Youth Health Burden



5.2 Mental Health

34% of Fraser Coast youth have accessed mental health services

On the HBNC 2022 Fraser Coast Youth Survey, 34% of youth reported accessing mental health services. The main reasons for accessing services were anxiety, depression and stress.

In terms of the general Fraser Coast population, the 2021 Census shows 14,239 (12.8%) of the total population having some kind of reported mental health condition. This is higher than Regional Queensland (9.1%), Queensland (9.6%) and Australia (8.8%) rates.

According to Monash University, just over a quarter of youth in Australia aged between 16 and 24 have a mood, anxiety or substance use disorder. AIHW also reports that severe psychological distress in Australian youth aged 18-24 years old increased from 14% in February 2017 to 22% in April 2020.

Findings from the Australian National University Centre for Social Research and Methods COVID-19 Impact Monitoring Survey Program also showed that rates of psychological distress remained higher on average for young people in the second half of 2020 and during 2021, and this has continued into January 2022.

Prevalence of mental disorders among people aged 12–17, by sex, 2013–14

Disorder	Males (%)	Females (%)	Persons (%)
Anxiety	6.3	7.7	7.0
ADHD	9.8	2.7	6.3
Major Depressive Disorder	4.3	5.8	5.0
Conduct Disorder	2.6	1.6	2.1
Any Mental Disorder	15.9	12.8	14.4

Source: AIHW 2021 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/health-of-young-people>

HBNC 2022 Fraser Coast Youth Survey

Monash University: <https://bridges.monash.edu/ndownloader/files/31555796>

AIHW: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/alcohol-tobacco-and-other-drugs><https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/alcohol-tobacco-and-other-drugs>

Australian National University The experience of COVID-19 in Australia, including long-COVID.

https://csmr.cass.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/docs/2022/10/The_experience_of_COVID-19_in_Australia_-_For_web.pdf



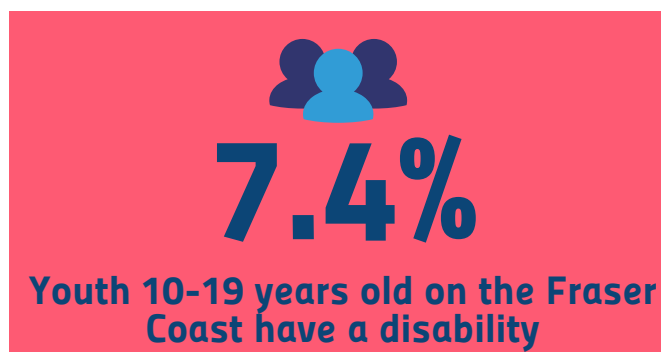
5.3 Disability

7.4% of Fraser Coast Youth have a disability

In 2021, there were 11,996 people (10.8%) on the Fraser Coast that reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. Among this number, 917 (7.4%) were 10-19 years old. This was higher than Regional Queensland (4.6%). No data for 12-24 year olds was readily available. Profile id states that disability statistics relate directly to need for assistance due to severe or profound disability and are subjectively assessed, so some caution should be used.


In 2018, based on self-reported data from the ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), 9.3% of people aged 15-24 across Australia had a disability (around 291,000 people). Of young people with disability:

- 3.4% had severe or profound core activity limitations.
- 6.9% had schooling or employment restrictions



Source: AIHW 2021 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/health-of-young-people>.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing, 2021](#). Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#) (informed decisions).



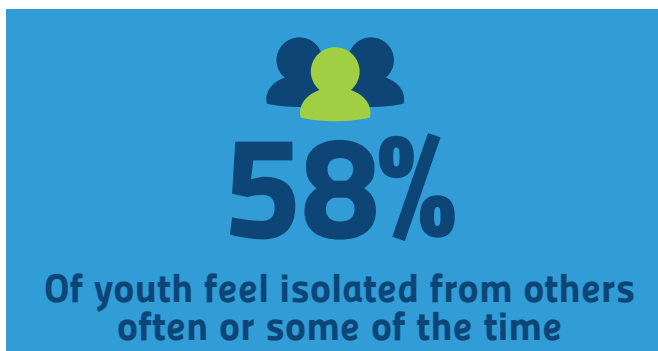
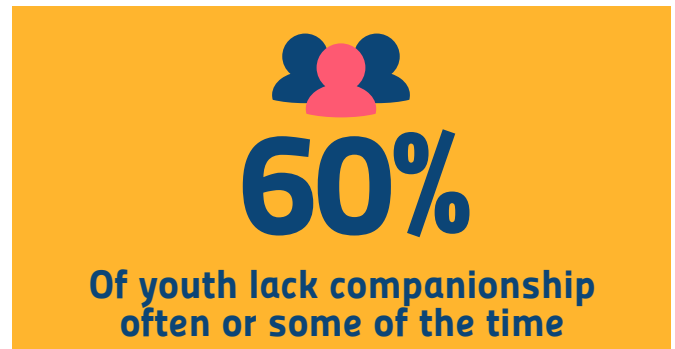


5.4 Social Isolation & Loneliness

62% of Youth in regional areas feel isolated

There is no specific Fraser Coast information on isolation & loneliness. The Headspace National Youth Mental Health Survey showed almost two thirds of young people felt left out often or some of the time (62%), with many feeling they are cut off from the rest of the world. According to the same survey:

- Three in five young people lack companionship often or some of the time (60%).
- A large proportion of young people feel isolated from others, with three in five feeling this way often or some of the time (58%).
- Young women are more likely to feel greater feelings of isolation from others (62%) than young men (53%).
- Feelings of isolation were also higher among LGBTQIA+ young people (77%), and young people living in regional parts of Australia (62%).



Source: Loneliness Infographic Headspace National Youth Mental Health Survey www.headspace.org.au





5.5 Alcohol & Other Drugs

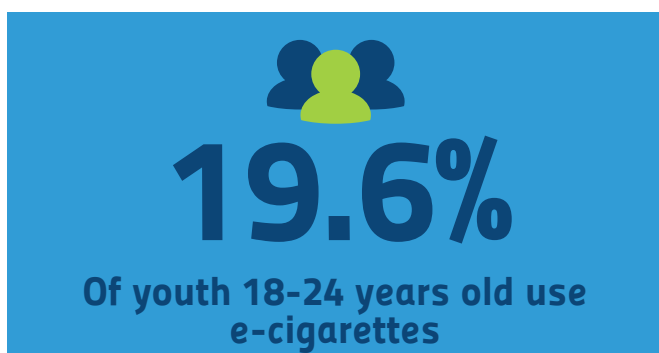
The use of alcohol & drugs is decreasing among youth, but the use of e-cigarettes is increasing

According to the 2022 Fraser Coast Youth Survey, 20% of young people (aged 12-17), have drunk alcohol. According to the same survey, 7% of young people had tried drugs. Of the youth that reported drinking alcohol, 8.4% considered it a problem. Of the youth that reported taking drugs, 18.4% considered it a problem. Reported drinking alcohol has declined since 2020 Fraser Coast Youth Survey results (25%). Reported drug use has also declined since the 2021 Fraser Coast Youth Survey results (10%).

This is supported by information from the Alcohol & Drug Foundation which shows younger age groups nationally have been reporting less drug use since 2001, with just 1 in 10 14-17 year olds reporting recently using an illicit drug in 2020. Younger people are also increasingly choosing not to drink alcohol. From 2007-2019:

- 14-17 year olds choosing not to drink alcohol rose from 39% to 73%.
- 18-24 year olds choosing not to drink alcohol rose from 13.1% to 21%

Fewer young people are also taking up smoking. Self-reported data from the 2019 National Drug Strategy Household Survey found that 97% of people aged 14-17 and 80% of people aged 18-24 had never smoked tobacco. Nationally, however, there has been an increase in e-cigarette use, and this was most notable in younger age groups. In 2019, nearly 2 in 3 (64%) current smokers aged 14-17 or 18-24 reported they had used e-cigarettes. While this increased for both age groups since 2016 (51% and 49%, respectively), the increase was only significant for young people aged 18-24. Among non-smokers, the proportion of 14-17-year-olds that had used e-cigarettes remained consistent between 2016 and 2019 at around 8.0%; while for 18-24-year-olds, it increased from 13.6% in 2016 to 19.6% in 2019. Evidence for the long term impacts of e-cigarette use remains limited.



Source: AIHW 2021 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/health-of-young-people>.

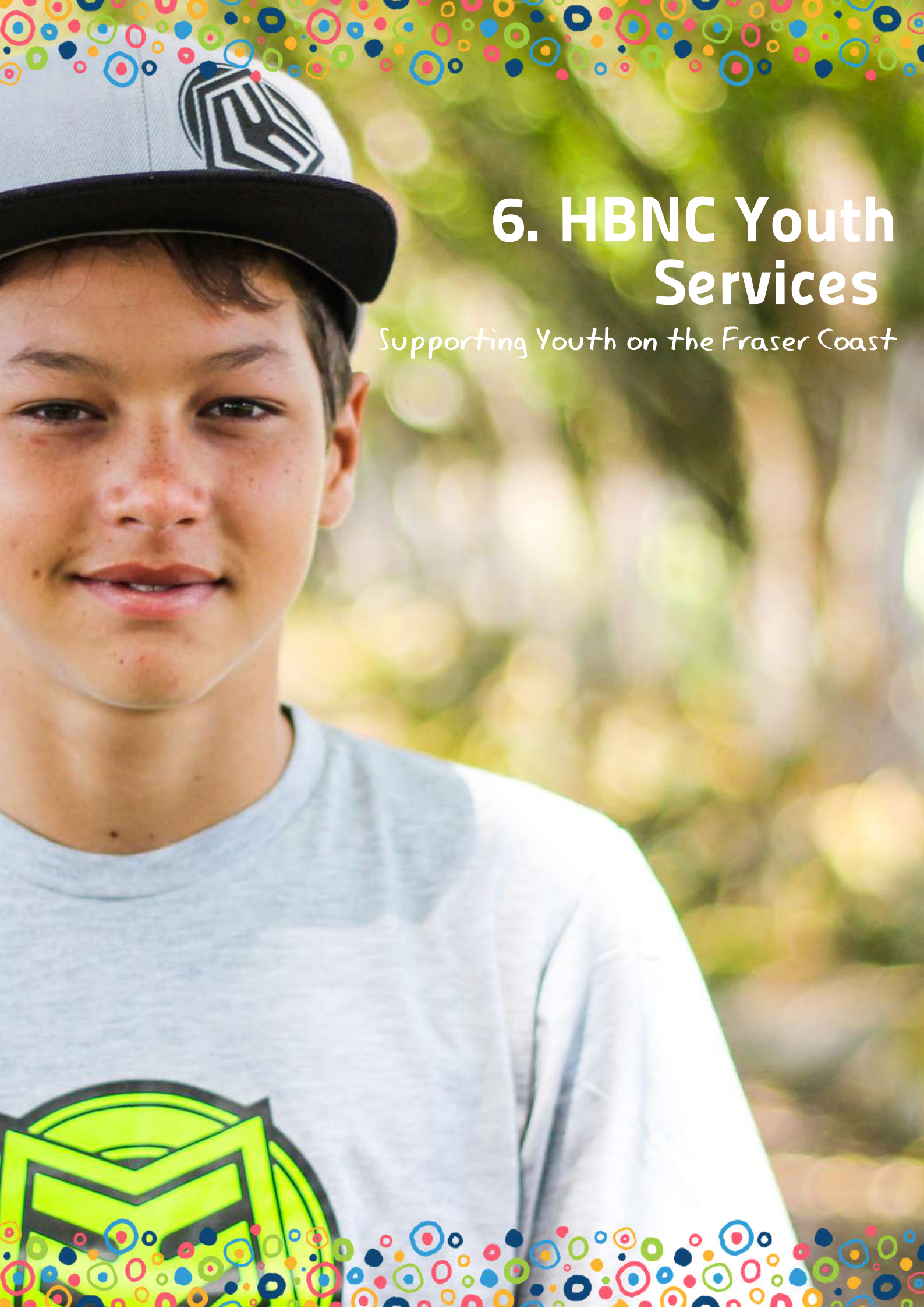
HBNC 2022 Fraser Coast Youth Survey.

Alcohol & Drug Foundation:

https://cdn.adf.org.au/media/documents/MB_Alcohol_Other_Drugs__Mental_Health_Needs_in_Young_People.pdf

AIHW 2019 National drug strategy household survey





6. HBNC Youth Services

Supporting Youth on the Fraser Coast

Reconnect Fraser Coast

Supporting Youth at risk of homelessness

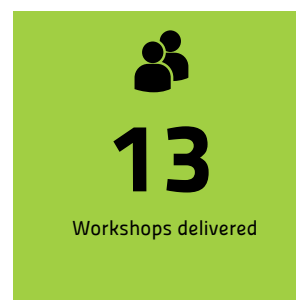
The Reconnect Service provides support for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The service is based at the HBNC Youth Services Hub: The Reconnect Youth Centre with an aim to work with young people aged 12 to 18.

This program assists young people who remain in their family home to overcome conflict, strengthen communication and work through the challenges of their changing family role.

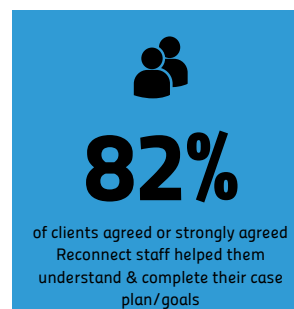
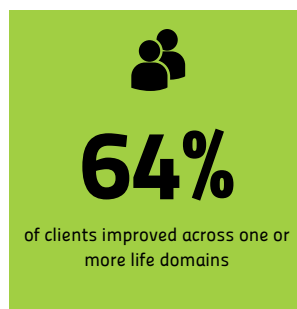
If this is not possible, the team helps young people to live independently or with extended family, while maintaining strong community and family links, in the hope this will strengthen their ability to engage in education, employment and the community. Reconnect is funded by the Department of Social Services.

In 2022-2023, the Reconnect Service delivered:

Services delivered: What did we do?



Impact Made: How much did we help?



For more information on Reconnect



SCAN ME

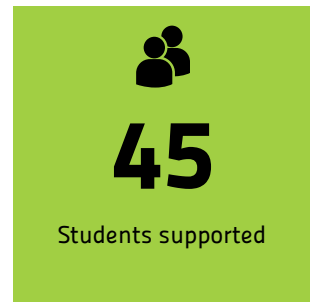


Youth Mentoring

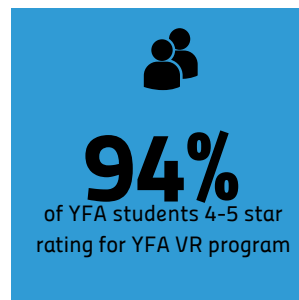
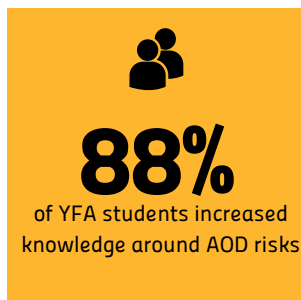
Supporting Youth experiencing difficulties at school

The Youth Mentoring Program supports school students (7-17 years old) who are having trouble at school by pairing them with a trained Volunteer Mentor. Mentors visit students one to two times per week for one hour at school and provide positive support by listening to issues and concerns, helping students recognise their strengths and talents and assisting with goal setting. Mentors assist students to improve their well-being and participate in school life in positive, constructive and respectful ways. The Youth Mentoring Program works in partnership with local Hervey Bay, Torbanlea and Howard schools to deliver the program at local Primary Schools. Youth Mentoring is self-funded by HBNC and through a partnership with the Alcohol & Drug Foundation. In 2022-2023, the Youth Mentoring Program delivered:

Services delivered: What did we do?



Impact Made: How much did we help?



For more information on Youth Mentoring



SCAN ME



LIFT- Youth Assist Program (YAP)

Supporting Youth transitioning out of school

The Youth Assistance Program (YAP) is part of the Local Industry Futures Training (LIFT) Program. It is an early intervention case management support program for young people 16-18 who are at risk of disengaging with school or are transitioning out of school. The YAP program addresses the key issue of poor high school completion rates and high youth unemployment rates in the Hervey Bay region. LIFT is funded by the Department of Social Services. YAP & LIFT are newer programs of HBNC, with the following delivered in the first 9 months of the program:

For more information on
the Youth Assistance Program



SCAN ME



35

Total number of YAP participants to date



820

Hours of support delivered to YAP participants



22

Total number of life goals fully or mostly achieved on case plans (69%).



15

Participants have gone on to further study (42% of clients)



14

Participants have gained employment to date (39% of clients)



12

Participants were referred on to specialist support services (33% of clients)

Our Voice- Industry Ready Training

Supporting Youth to find purpose

Our Voice is a unique 10-Week Industry Ready Program supporting at-risk youth to find their purpose in life. In addition to assisting young people to get employment ready, Our Voice also helps youth build confidence in themselves. Participants attend Our Voice sessions three days a week (four hours per day) for 10 weeks at one of the HBNC community centres. Participants are offered work placement opportunities, taken on industry visits and given the chance to interact with experienced guest speakers. Each week has a different focus to build overall resilience including topics: Your Choice, Your Connections; All About You; Your Vision, Communication & Direction; Problem Solving & Conflict; Ethics & Decision-Making; Wellbeing; Money Management; Skills; Community Engagement & Participation followed by a Graduation Day where participants receive a Certificate of Completion. Our Voice is funded by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. Over the last year, Our Voice has delivered:

For information
on Our Voice



SCAN ME



4

10 Week Our Voice
Programs



40

Total Participants



24

Total Graduated
60% of participants



10

Re-engaged back into
school (25%)



11

Went on to further
training (28%)



15

Went on to employment
(38%)



9

Referred on to Specialist
Service (23%)

Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL)

Supporting Youth to build Emotional Resilience

The HBNC Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) is a therapeutic, clinically proven program for young people working with horses. It aims to increase self-awareness to promote positive outcomes of greater self-regulation and emotional intelligence. This can enhance resilience and well-being in youth who are or are at risk of disengaging with family & the wider community. EFL sessions are designed to bring together horses and young people in a safe, supervised space that elicits positive and empowering interactions. EFL does not provide professional therapy or counselling services. A qualified EFL Trainer supports youth participants through a 10-week program (with sessions held once per week).

According to Australian EFL, contemporary clinical research shows that interaction with horses changes human brain wave patterns suggesting that humans can be transformed in a positive way when in the presence of horses. Appropriate interaction with horses can therefore prove therapeutic to adults and children alike. Equine Facilitated Learning is an interaction between horses and people designed to promote experiential learning for all participants.

Sharing with a client an insight into herd dynamics can allow them to learn that their behaviour will have a profound effect not just on the horses but on the people in their lives. The presence of a therapy horse releases previous perceptions that the client (and often their families or carers) may have of themselves and allow them the opportunity to experience a new way of "being".

EFL can be accessed as a fee-for-service program through HBNC. EFL is funded by the Department of Social Services.



For information
on EFL



SCAN ME



Youth First Aid- VR Program

Supporting Youth to be confident in emergency situations

The Virtual Reality Youth First Aid Program (YFA) is a non-certified, awareness building program designed to give young people a basic knowledge of the emergency situations they are most likely to come across. The program is conducted through Virtual Reality technology and walks youth through two immersive scenarios including a drug and alcohol overdose and injuries resulting from violence.

The Youth First Aid VR Program was developed in partnership with the University of Queensland Rural Medical School Hervey Bay, with consultation of local young people and with funding from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation. The program is run through the Youth Mentoring Program in collaboration with youth service providers and schools. YFA was funded through the Alcohol & Drug Foundation.

Overall, participants of Youth First Aid have rated the program 4.3 out of 5 stars.



29%

Increase in confidence to help a friend in an overdose post YFA



18%

Increase in confidence to help a friend who had been punched post YFA



20%

Increase in awareness of risks of AOD post YFA

4.3★

average rating



*For information on
Youth First Aid Phone*

4194 3000





Bay & 'Borough Beats: Youth Skate Events

Supporting Safe Spaces & Social Connection for Youth

At the end of each term, HBNC partners with other youth services in the community sector and local Fraser Coast Regional Council to run Youth Skate Park events. The free events are held on a Friday evening and feature skateboard and scooter demonstrations, DJ music, BBQ, and community services stalls & activities. The aim of the events are to provide a safe space for youth to engage in positive social connections and gain awareness of the supports available to them. Events are held at both Hervey Bay and Maryborough and are aimed at 12-17 year olds.

So far, Beats Skate Events have delivered:



4

Beats Events in Hervey Bay & Maryborough



511

Approx. number of youth attendees



98%

Felt more socially connected after attending



82%

Felt more aware of supports services available

For information on
Beats Events



SCAN ME

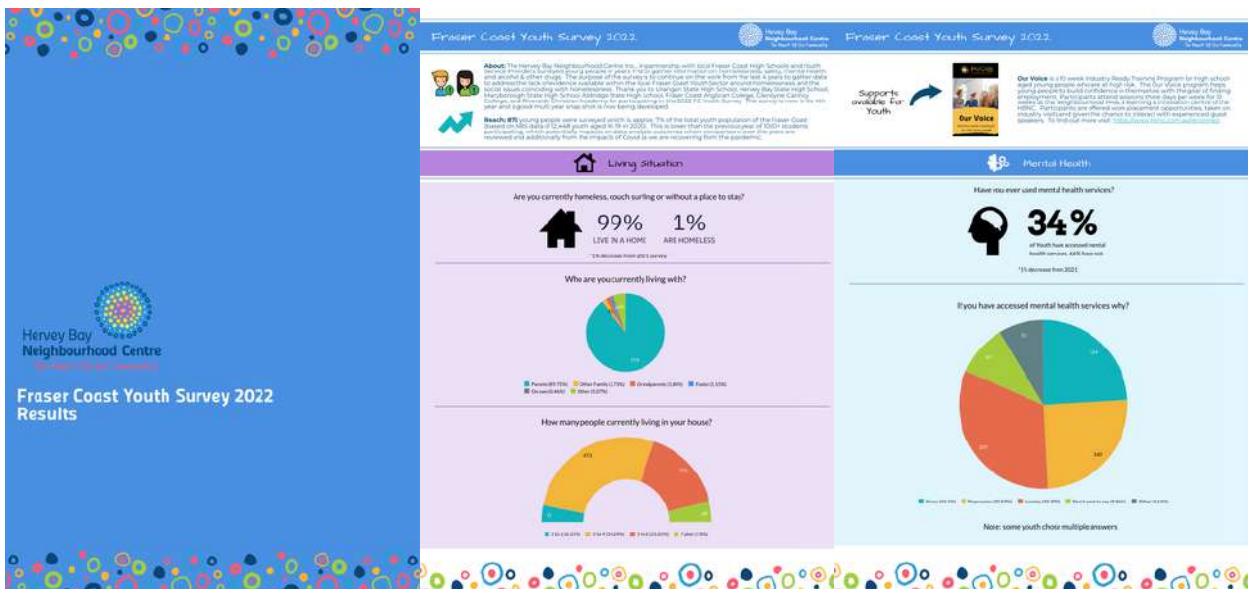


Fraser Coast Annual Youth Survey

Getting to Know Fraser Coast Youth

Every year, the HBNC in partnership with local Fraser Coast High Schools and local youth service providers implement the Fraser Coast Youth Survey with young people 12-17 years of age. The survey was started due to the gap in data for youth in the region. The survey was started in 2019 and has been delivered every year since. The survey is now in its fifth year and is helping to create a multi-year snapshot of young people in the area. Youth are surveyed across a number of areas around housing & homelessness, safety, mental health and alcohol and other drugs.

The survey is conducted in Term 3 & 4 each year and the Fraser Coast Youth Survey Annual Report is released in December.



To view past surveys



SCAN ME

To partner in the survey phone

4194 3000



7. Recommendations

Supporting Youth on the Fraser Coast

Recommendations

Initiatives HBNC will drive and/or partner in as part of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan


No.	Initiative	Comments
1	\$20 Boss Young Entrepreneurs Program, HBNC Hustle Hub & Youth Markets	The HBNC has partnered with Young Change Agents to train 5 staff and 5 teachers in the Fraser Coast to deliver the \$20 Boss program. This 10 week program is delivered from the new Hustle Hub with HBNC running sessions for 12-17 year olds weekly on Monday after school. The HBNC will launch the Youth and Entrepreneurs Markets at Food n Groove.
2	Youth Street Photography Challenge	Pilot being delivered to support youth to access alternative and creative opportunities.
3	Fraser Coast Youth Survey	To continue to be delivered in partnership with High Schools for annual survey.
4	Bay Beats and Borough Beats Skate Park Event	To continue to be delivered during school holidays (skate park events).
5	Suspension Program/Alternative Program	Currently having discussions with high schools
6	More after hours activities	Pop up community trailer: Meet the Neighbours initiative
7	Youth Mentoring	HBNC is committed to the mentoring program and Virtual Reality Youth First aid Program
8	LIFT & Our Voice (employment skills and industry ready programs)	Committed to continue to deliver. Will launch facilitator guide for LIFT for other communities to use.



Recommendations


Initiatives HBNC will drive as part of the 2023–2026 Strategic Plan

No.	Initiative	Comments
9	Neighbourhood Hive- Upgrade to facilities and creation of digital hub	Currently working on design and price upgrade to the NH- \$1 million.
10	Transport for Youth	Open for discussion.
11	Housing for Youth	Help and Host booklets update and launch. Foyer model discussion is open
12	Community Innovators Pitch Night	Support community initiatives. Youth are encouraged to pitch.
13	Parenting Courses	Develop an ongoing calendar for parents to easily access parenting programs – skills audit of org being done by LLA (Local Level Alliance).
14	Youth Sports Fund & ATSI program	Many young people cannot engage in sports due to cost (eg: 700 per year). Government offers \$150 support.
15	Maryborough Youth Centre	Maryborough is hosting weekly meetings with community to discuss what youth need.
16	Mental health Monkey Fidgets	Similar to Read Bears initiative HBNC are considering making fidget bags to support emotional literacy for year 5.
17	Positive Community Stories about Youth	The Advertiser is developing of a 2-4 pager a community diary (Social Shift funded).
18	Retreats for Teenage Parents	Held at the Urangan Community Wellness Centre (mother/daughter or father/son) weekend retreat to bond. Open to discussion.





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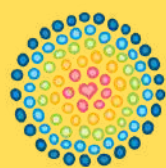
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Creating Connected Communities

