



SOCIAL
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HBNC

Creating Connected Communities

State of Youth Report 2025

Hinkler



The State of Youth Report 2025: Hinkler is an initiative of the Social Shift Institute, the community development, research & innovation arm of the HBNC.

www.socialshift.com.au
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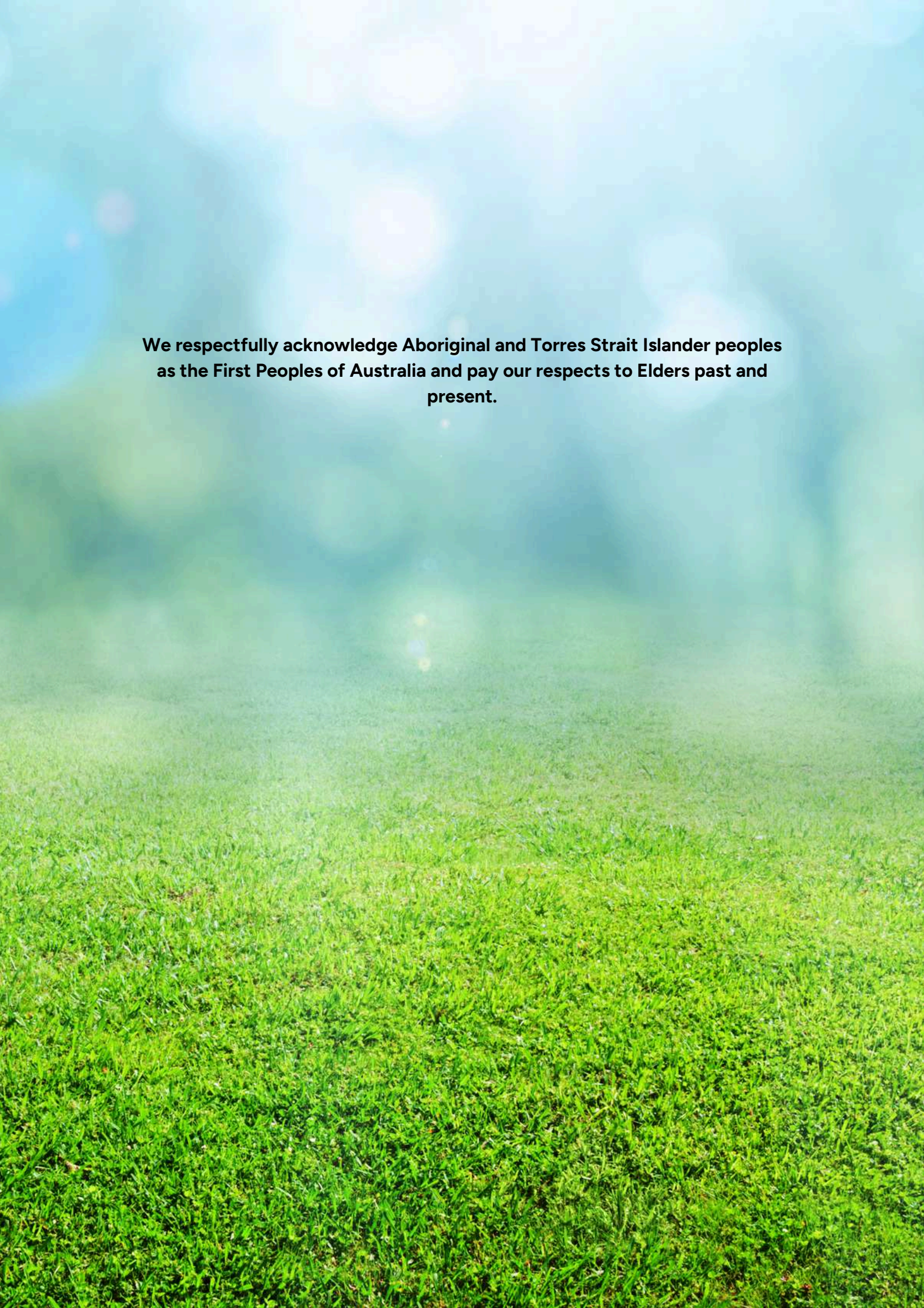
Version 2 published 2025



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**We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
as the First Peoples of Australia and pay our respects to Elders past and
present.**

CONTENTS

00

Executive Summary

Introduction to the 2025 State of Youth Report.

01

What do youth think?

What are youth worried about, their challenges and solutions.

02

Who are local youth?

Youth population, First Nations youth and culturally diverse youth.

03

Where are youth living?

Living arrangements, homelessness and safety.

04

What are youth doing?

Education outcomes, employment, volunteering, changemaking, disengagement & crime.

05

How are youth doing?

Physical health, mental health, disability, social isolation & loneliness, alcohol & other drugs and cost of living.



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CAUTION:

Some people may find parts of this report confronting or distressing. Please carefully consider your needs when reading the following report. This report discusses alcohol and other drugs, and mental health issues including self-harm and suicide. The information included here places an emphasis on data, and as such, can appear to depersonalise the pain and loss behind the statistics. The HBNC acknowledges the individuals, families and communities affected by these issues each year.

NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?

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

National Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline: 1800 250 015

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



WHO ARE LOCAL YOUTH?

- 1 in 8 Fraser Coast & Bundaberg residents are youth 12-24 years old
- 1 in 10 local youth are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- 1 in 20 local youth are culturally diverse with the majority from Philippines, India, Thailand and South Korea.



WHAT ARE YOUTH DOING?

- High School youth have an 85% attendance rate in Fraser Coast & Bundaberg state schools
- Youth graduating Year 12 are mostly going on to work and study
- Youth unemployment has dropped to 8% and is now lower than QLD & Australia
- Youth are volunteering at higher rates (68.5%) than general population (64%).
- Most youth (47%) are using personal actions such as social media to effect social change in community
- 1 in 7 youth are disengaged and not participating in study, work or looking for work
- Youth crime is down overall, but the number of serious repeat offenders has risen significantly

1

WHAT DO YOUTH THINK?

- The majority of local youth are most worried about safety & crime in our community
- School is the biggest personal challenge for 46% of youth
- Youth want to see more supports, safe spaces & activities & more kindness in our communities

2

3

WHERE ARE YOUTH LIVING?

- 92% of youth 12-18 years old report living at home with a parent/guardian
- 2.4% of youth report living with their grandparents
- 15% of youth report they have experienced homelessness at some point in their life
- 10% of youth report they have felt unsafe at home

4

5

HOW ARE YOUTH DOING?

- 1 in 3 youth have a chronic health condition
- 1 in 7 youth have a chronic mental health condition
- 1 in 16 youth live with a disability
- 1 in 5 youth feel lonely
- 1 in 14 youth have used illicit drugs
- 1 in 14 youth have accessed food bank assistance



Youth Snapshot

Fraser Coast & Bundaberg 2025

Above all, young people want to feel safe, supported and understood...they also long for safe spaces and more kindness in our community.

-Fraser Coast Youth
Report 2024





Executive Summary

Welcome to the State of Youth 2025, an updated snapshot of youth in Fraser Coast and Hinkler. This report brings a message of hope and highlights the resilience and strength of young people in our community, even in the face of ongoing challenges like the cost of living crisis and its wide-reaching effects.

HBNC's Social Shift Institute has collated this report through various sources of data to gain a deeper understanding of the needs and aspirations of our youth, including:

- The Fraser Coast Youth Survey annual results
- Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data
- Queensland and National data for comparison

While there are challenges in gathering youth data, particularly in the Bundaberg region, this also underscores the need for more initiatives that actively engage youth voices. Creating opportunities for young people to be heard is essential to their empowerment and future.

What stands out most from the voices of local youth is their desire for a community that truly supports them. Safety and crime was highlighted as the biggest current key community concern for one in four young people, while the biggest personal challenge for youth aged 12-18 remains the stress and pressures of school (46%). Above all, young people expressed the need to feel safe, supported, and understood, with a particular call for more youth services, activities, and a focus on mental health and addiction. They also long for safe spaces and more kindness in community.

The escalating housing crisis over the past two years has left 1 in 7 young people (15%) reporting they have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. Additionally, 1 in 10 (10%) have felt unsafe at home, and 1 in 14 (7%) have accessed food bank services.

Yet, despite these challenges, the strength of our youth shines through. Most young people go on to work or study after Year 12, with youth unemployment dropping to 8%. They're also actively volunteering at a higher rate than the general population (68.5% vs 64%), and 47% are taking social action, using platforms like social media to advocate for change on the issues that matter to them.

While youth crime has decreased overall, there has been a rise in serious repeat offenders, showing us that there is a need for intervention and support for those most at risk. Additionally, the region's youth are experiencing higher rates of chronic physical and mental illness compared to the rest of Queensland and Australia, along with a higher rate of young people living with a disability.

These findings highlight that while there are challenges, the path forward is filled with hope. We know that young people thrive when given the opportunity to lead and engage in solutions. Peer-led and youth-led approaches have proven to be highly effective in addressing their needs as showcased through this report. This is a call for our community to collaborate with young people to create innovative solutions together.

The Social Shift Institute's community-led support fund is now inviting project applications to tackle local social challenges. Hinkler is one of just four regions in Australia selected to receive this funding, acting as Brokerage Organisation for the Department of Social Services, and providing an incredible opportunity for us to come together and make a lasting difference. This fund is accessible to community organisations, service providers, local governments, businesses, and even sole traders with an ABN.

As a community, we have a responsibility to offer hope and a brighter future to our young people, ensuring that we help create a better world. What steps can we take, together, to build stronger, more supportive communities for the young people of Fraser Coast and Hinkler? Let's create the future they deserve.



A vibrant green plant with several leaves is growing out of a clear glass jar. The jar is filled with stacks of copper-colored coins, with some coins visible on the surface and others stacked inside. The background is a solid, bright green color.

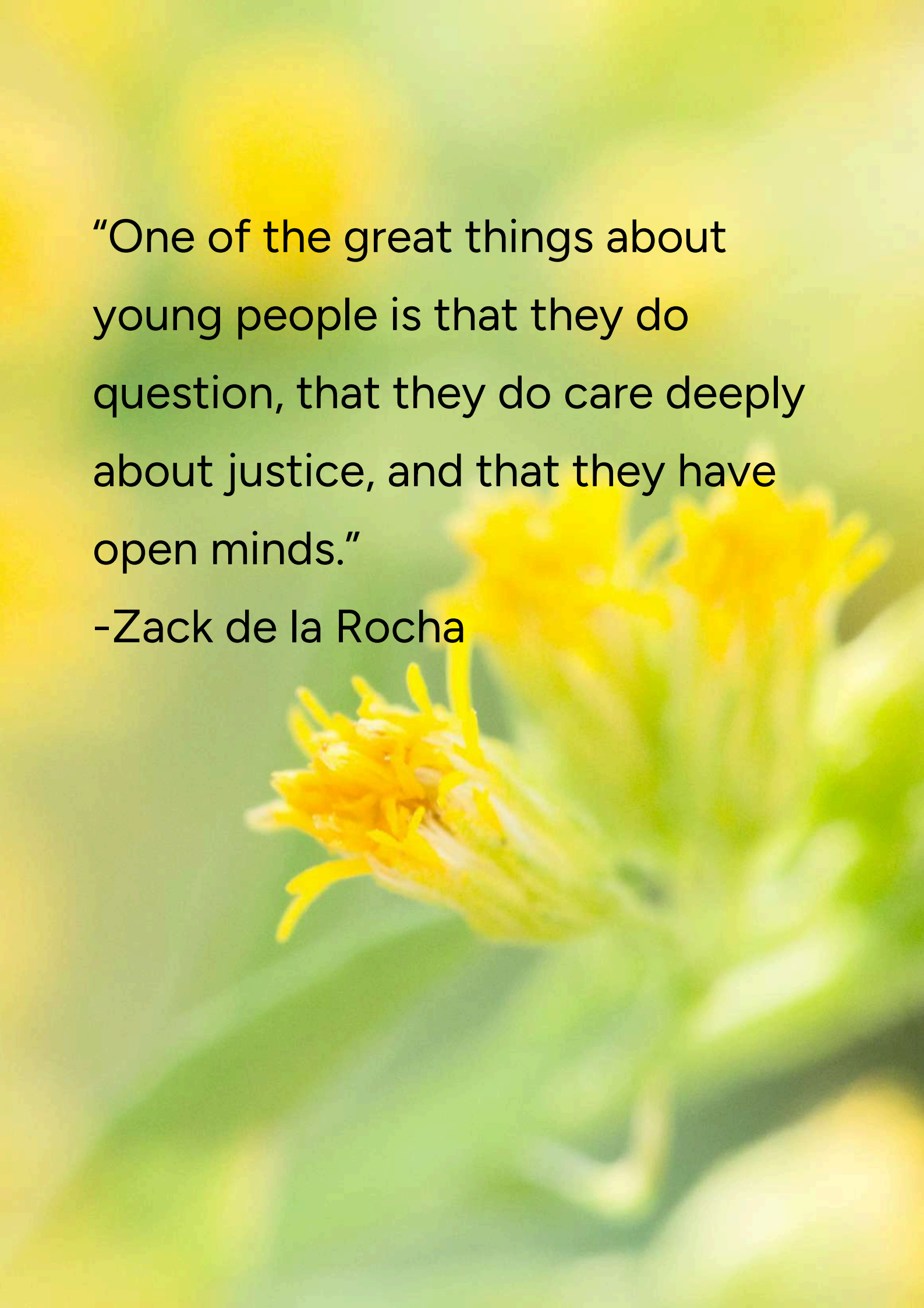
Got a great idea to help community?

Apply to the Social Shift Institute's community-led support fund.

As a Brokerage Organisation for the Department of Social Services we partner with local organisations and community members in the Hinkler region to implement real change.



Find out more:
www.socialshift.com.au



“One of the great things about young people is that they do question, that they do care deeply about justice, and that they have open minds.”

-Zack de la Rocha

1. What do youth think?

What youth are worried about, their challenges, and their solutions.



1.1 Youth Concerns

Local youth are really concerned about safety & crime and mental health.

According to data from the 2024 Fraser Coast Youth Survey, young people 12-18 years old were deeply concerned about a range of social issues, with safety & crime being the number one concern (25% rating it as their top concern). This was followed closely behind by mental health, with 21% highlighting it as a major concern. Housing & homelessness also stood out, with 18% of young people expressing anxiety about these issues, which likely reflects current broader concerns about affordability and stability.

Environmental issues also had a notable presence, with 12% most worried about the state of the planet. Equity and discrimination was also significant, affecting 10% of local youth, pointing to concerns about fairness and inclusion in communities.

Other issues such as physical health and bullying, were less frequently mentioned but still remained on the radar for some, with 9% and 2% of youth respectively listing them as top concerns. These data underscore the complex challenges facing local youth, where a mix of social, economic, and environmental issues impact their well-being and future prospects.

No data was found for Bundaberg youth.

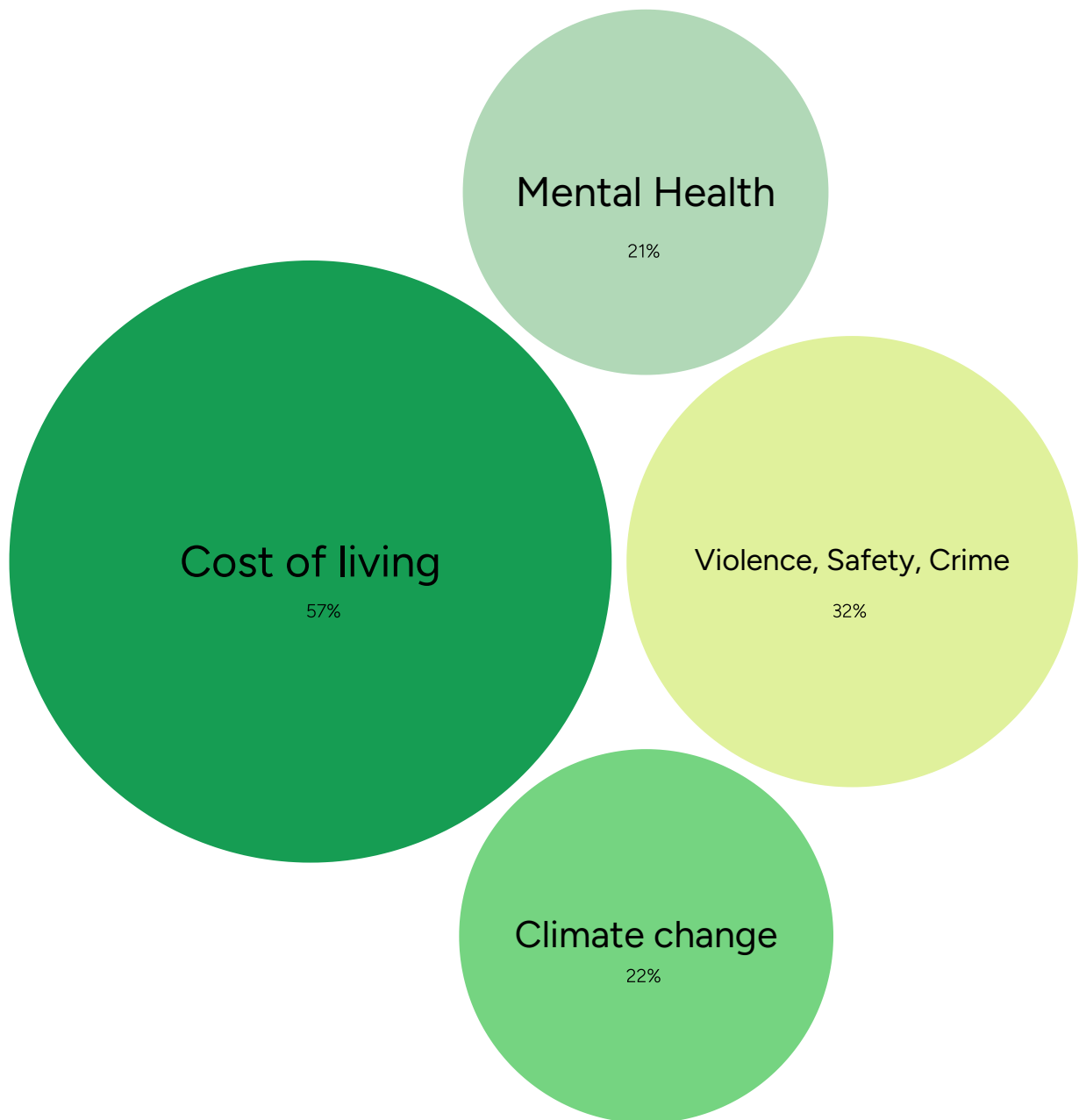
Diagram: Youth Community Concerns according to the 2024 Fraser Coast Youth Survey by HBNC Social Shift Institute.



Queensland data comparison

The Mission Australia Youth Survey 2024, which surveys young people across Australia aged 15 to 19 years old revealed Queensland youth were most concerned about the cost of living (57%), followed by violence, safety and crime (32%). The third most concerning issues was climate change and the environment (22%) and the fourth most pressing concern was mental health (21%).

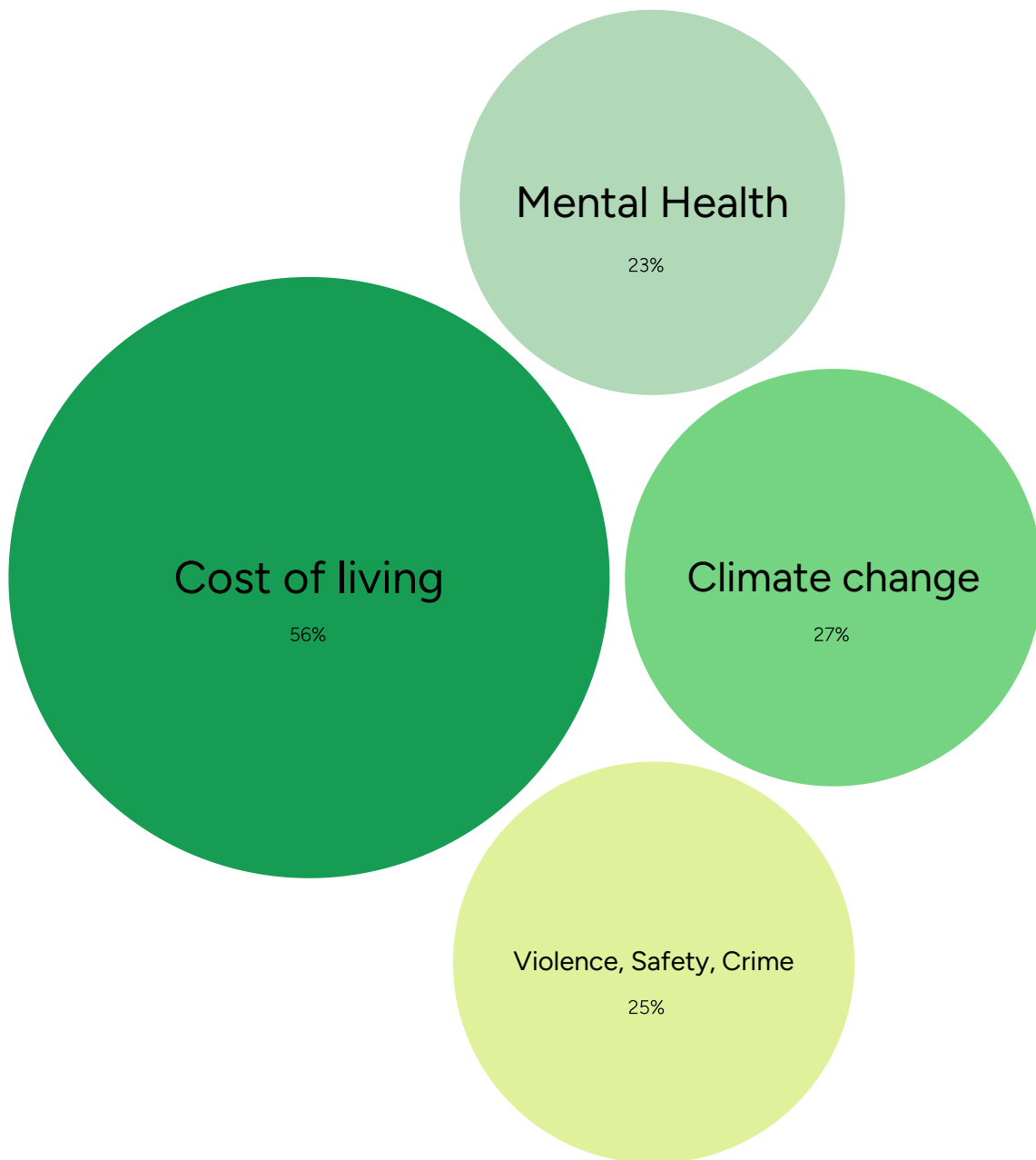
Diagram: Queensland Key Findings. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2024.



National data comparison

The Mission Australia Youth Survey 2024, which surveys young people across Australia aged 15 to 19 years old revealed Australian youth were concerned about the cost of living (56%) including economic conditions, rising expenses, interest rates, inflation and the impact on their personal finances and future prospects. The second biggest concern was climate change and the environment (27%) including the need to renewable energy and reductions in fossil fuels use. The 3rd biggest concern was violence, safety and crime (25%) including domestic & family violence, youth crime and gender-based violence, with crime rates also an issue. The 4th most pressing concern was mental health (23%) particularly suicide rates, mental health of young people and men and school stress.

Diagram: Most important issues facing Australia Today. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2024.





1.2 Youth Challenges

School is the biggest challenge for local youth 12-18 years old.

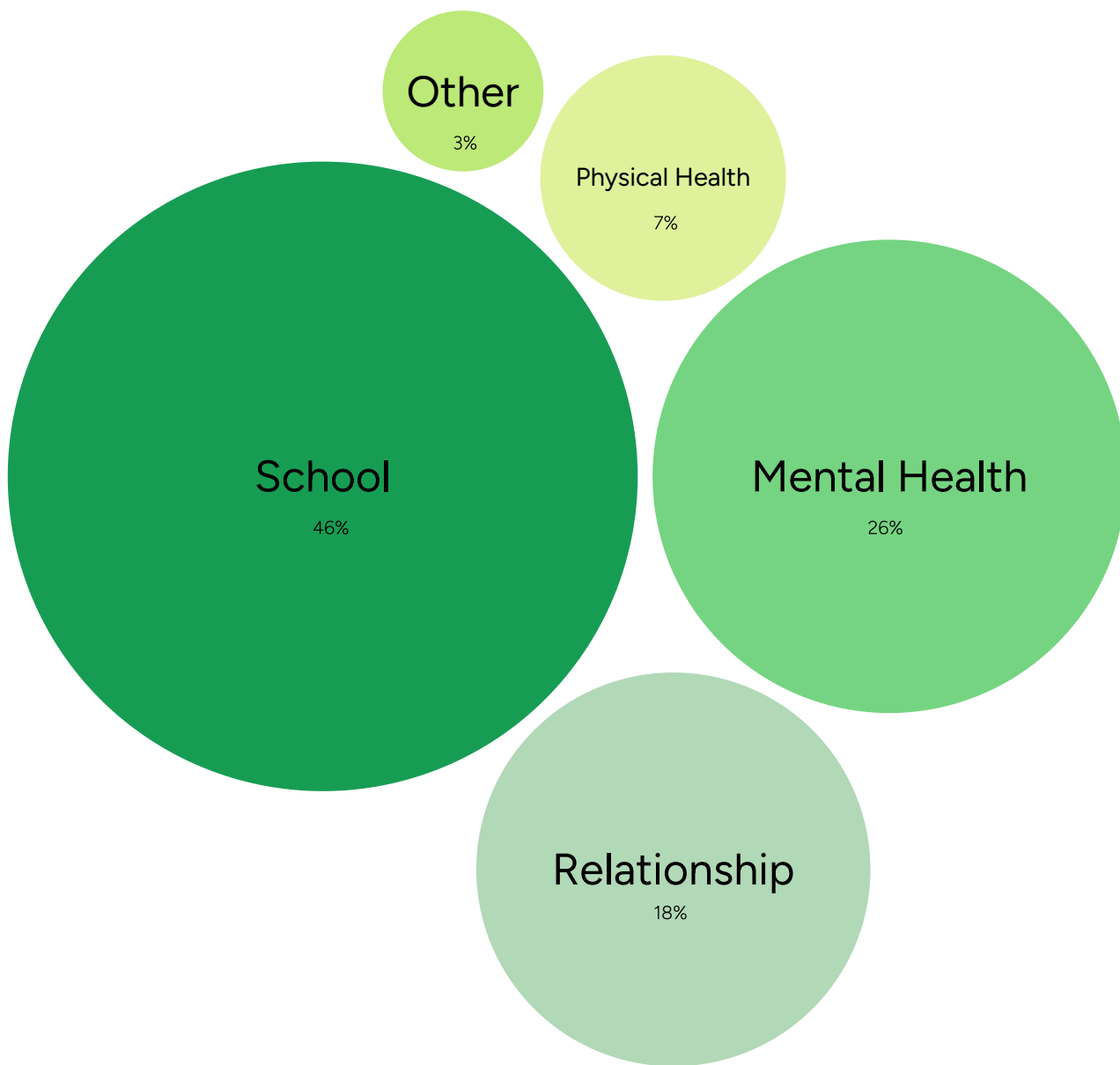
On the Fraser Coast, youth between the ages of 12 and 18 face a variety of personal challenges, with school being the most significant concern for 46% of them, according to data from the 2024 Fraser Coast Youth Survey.

The pressures of academic performance, school-related stress, and social dynamics at school appear to weigh heavily on young people. Mental health follows as the next biggest challenge for 26% of local youth, highlighting the need for greater support and resources in managing stress, anxiety, and other mental health issues.

Relationships also emerge as a key concern for 18% of young people, with the complexities of family, friendships, and romantic relationships affecting their well-being. Physical health is a concern for 7%, while a smaller group (3%) lists other personal challenges such as grief and loss, as well as struggles with managing time. These insights reveal the multifaceted nature of youth concerns locally, emphasizing the importance of addressing both educational pressures and mental health needs within the community.

No Bundaberg youth data was found available.

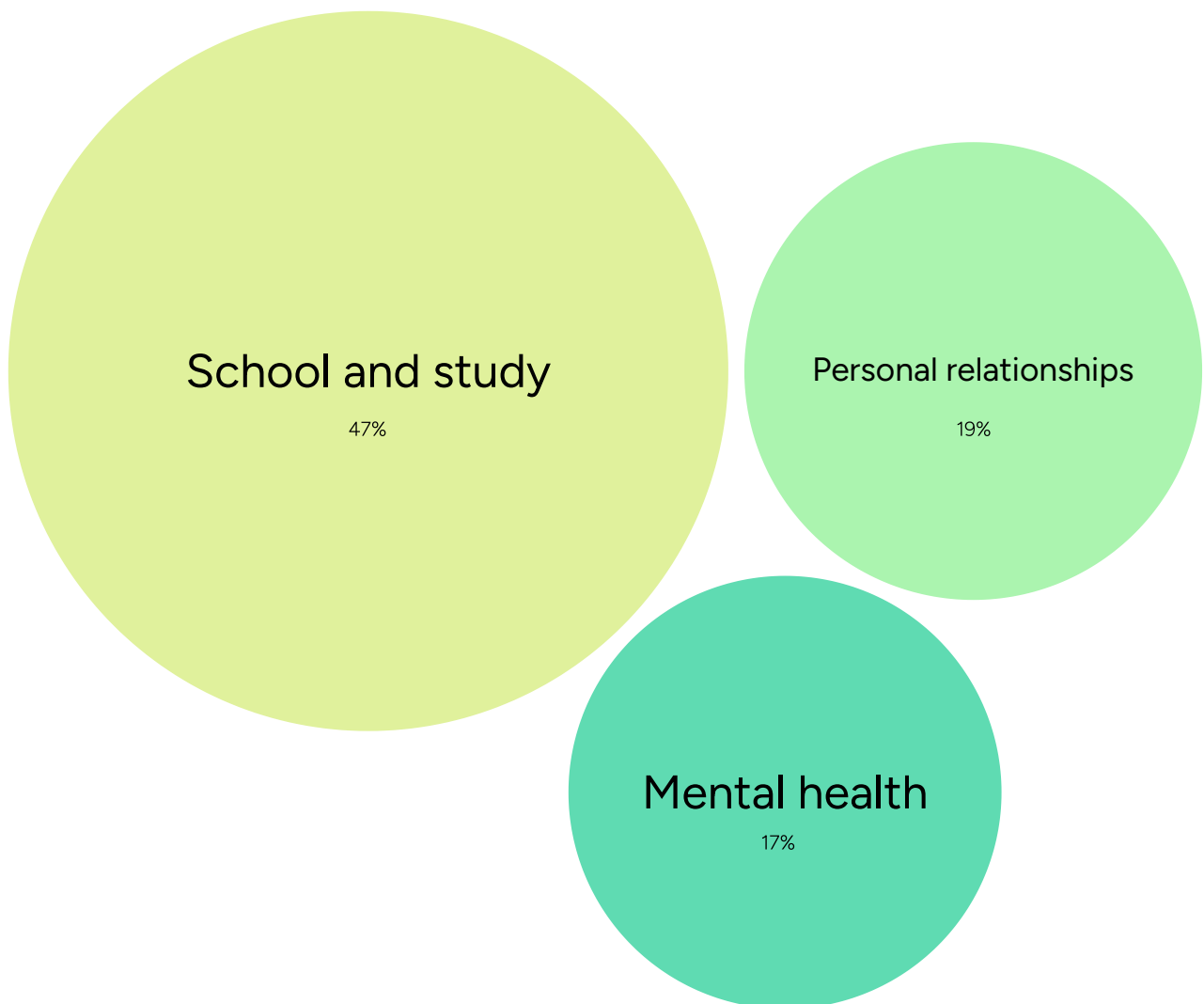
Diagram: Youth Personal Challenges according to the 2024 Fraser Coast Youth Survey by HBNC Social Shift Institute.



Queensland data comparison

According to the Mission Australia Youth Survey 2024, the biggest personal challenges faced by young people in Queensland over the past year were school and study (47%), personal relationships (19%) and mental health (17%).

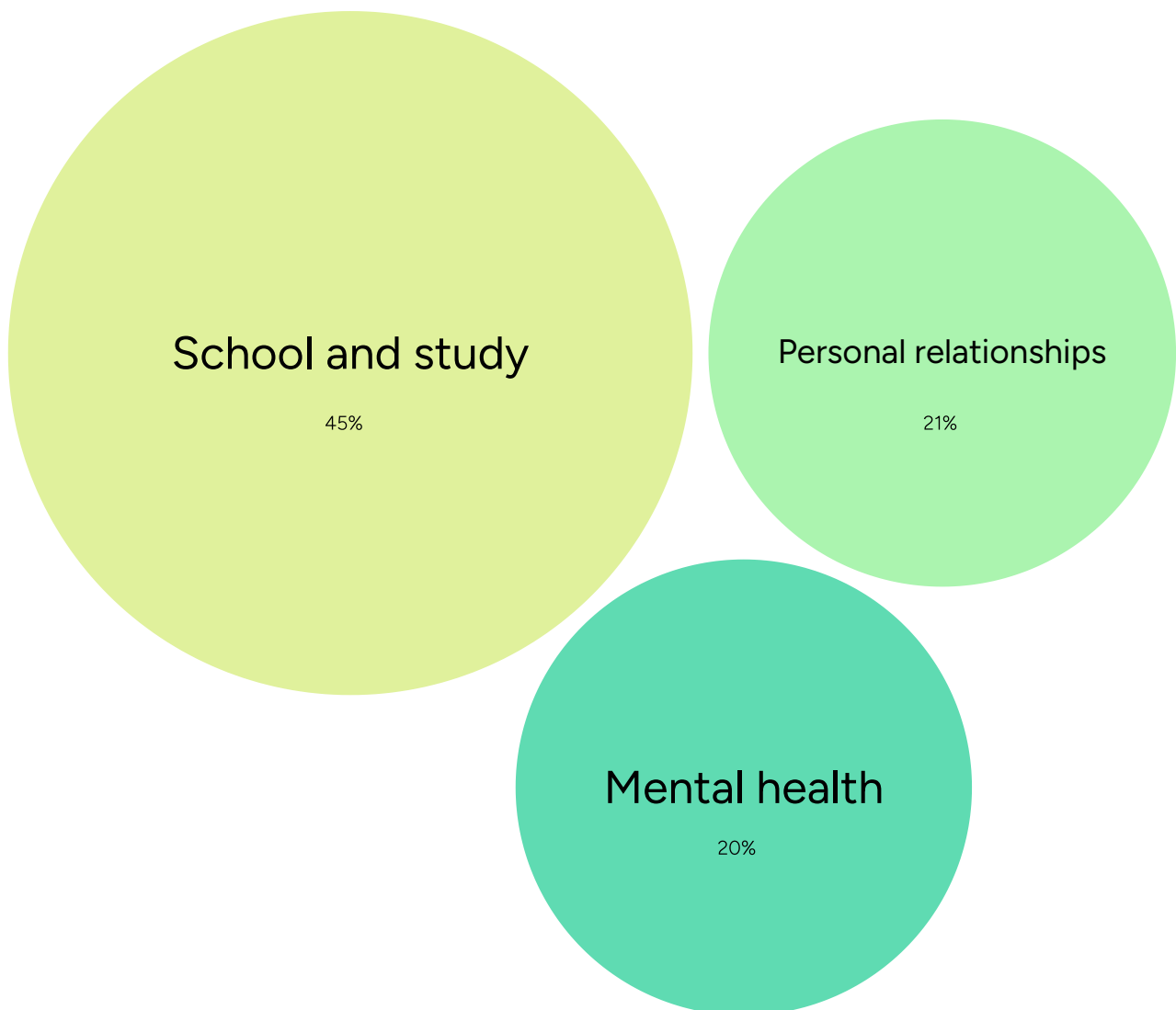
Diagram: Queensland Key Findings. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2024



National data comparison

According to the Mission Australia Youth Survey 2024, the biggest personal challenges faced by young people over the last year was school and study (45%), followed by personal relationships (21%) and mental health (20%).

Diagram: Key Findings: Biggest personal challenge face in the past years. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2024





1.3 Youth Solutions

Youth want to see more supports, safe spaces & activities, and more kindness.

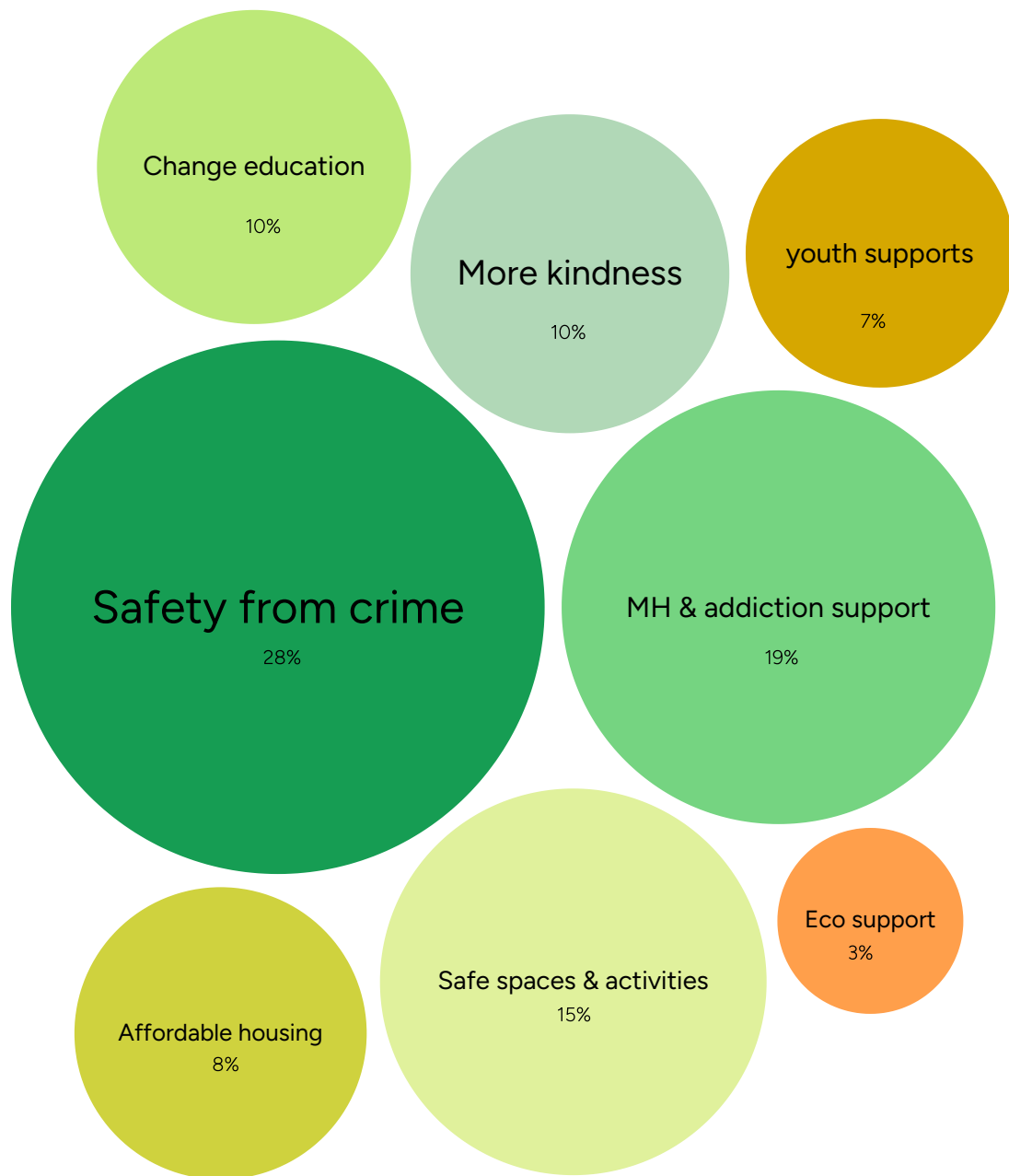
The 2024 Fraser Coast Youth Survey revealed a range of solutions to address key social challenges in our community. A significant 28% believe that improving safety is essential to creating a more secure and supportive environment for everyone. Mental health and addictions support is another priority, with 19% of youth calling for greater access to resources and services to help those struggling with these issues.

Safe spaces and activities specifically designed for young people are seen as vital, with 15% of youth suggesting more recreational and social opportunities to foster positive connections. Additionally, 10% emphasize the need for more kindness and equity within the community, highlighting the importance of inclusivity and fair treatment for all.

Changing the education system is another concern, with 10% of youth advocating for reforms to make learning more accessible and relevant. More affordable housing is also a pressing issue for 8%, as it affects youth and families alike, while 7% call for expanded youth support services.

Finally, 3% of young people urge increased eco-support to protect and preserve the local environment, reflecting their concern for sustainable future practices. These suggestions reflect the youth's desire for a more inclusive, supportive, and environmentally conscious community.

Diagram: Youth Community Solutions according to the 2024 Fraser Coast Youth Survey by HBNC Social Shift Institute.



Showcase- Social Spark Lab



The Social Spark Lab is a dynamic Social Innovation Training program tailored for young individuals aged 13-17 years old.

The initiative aims to empower youth with the skills and mindset needed to drive positive change within their communities.

The Social Spark Lab delivers 2 four-hour workshops providing youth with a comprehensive understanding of social innovation and equipping them with tools including critical skills, problem solving, systems mapping and program implementation, to identify community challenges and develop sustainable solutions.

A key feature of the training is a focus on real-world application. Participants work on live projects that address actual community issues, providing them with hands-on experience and the opportunity to see the tangible impact of their efforts. This practical approach also ensures that the knowledge gained is not only theoretical but also actionable.

Social Spark Lab is delivered free by HBNC Social Shift Institute in partnership with Bendigo Bank. This collaboration aims to nurture a new generation of community changemakers who are giving back to the community and making the world a better place.



Find out more info here



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World Showcase- Helsinki Youth Budget – Participatory Budgeting with Youth

The Helsinki Youth Budget initiative tackles the issue of youth participation in community co-planning and decision making. The Youth Budget initiative has been operating for over 10 years and creates meaningful interaction between youth and the community in Helsinki. More than 10,000 young people have participated in the Youth Budget every year, with all 12-17 year old Helsinki residents eligible to participating in planning, voting and negotiating. The initiative is implemented by the City of Helsinki.

The Youth Budget is an annual process in which young people in Helsinki develop ideas and vote and negotiate on what kinds of activities and services young people need and how the Helsinki City Youth Services budget is to be spent. In order to ensure every youth voice is heard, ideas are collected and refined through several stages- data collection, workshops, voting, advisory boards and implementation. The Youth Budget is knowledge-based – the proposals are developed based on needs and trends rising from the data gathered from young people every year at the beginning of the budgeting cycle. The survey is done mainly during the school day, with action days built around it in some areas. The initiative is digitalised with both the gathering and analysing of the data and the use of AI text analysis to make sense of rich, open-ended data.

Since its beginning in 2013, the main goal of the Youth Budget has been to offer possibilities to participate for as many young people, as possible. The initiative has gone from youth voting at one of the local youth centres with made-up 100 Euro notes, to reaching more than 10,000 young citizens annually via all of the youth centres and close to all junior high schools in the city. Each year, 50-80 projects formulated in the Youth Budget process are implemented. Unlike many other participatory budgets, the participants also take part in implementing the chosen projects over the next year, with the support of local youth workers.

Source: The Innovation in Politics Institute, 2025.



Find out more info here





“Youth is not a phase; it’s a
revolution waiting to happen.”

-Anonymous

2. Who are Hinkler youth?

Demographics



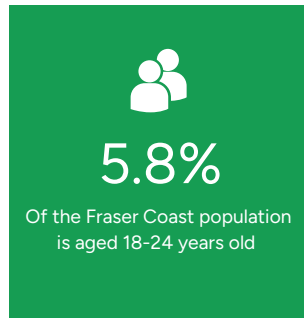
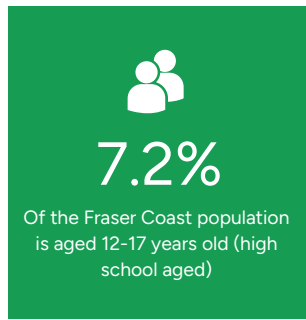
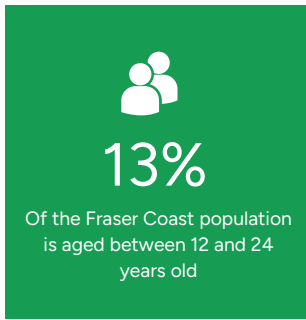
2.1 Youth population

Youth make up 1 in 8 Hinkler residents.

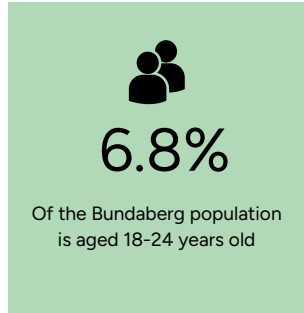
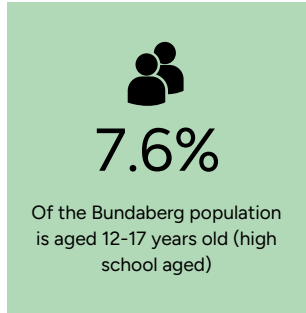
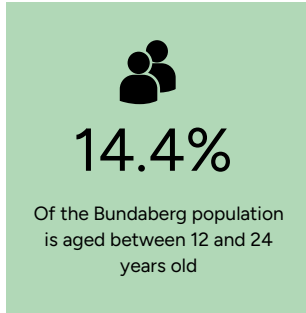
Youth is defined by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare as the period from 12-24 years of age. This period includes adolescence-early, middle and late- during which, physical, intellectual, emotional and social changes take place. In the Fraser Coast, 2021 census data shows that approximately 1 in 8 people (13%) is aged between 12 and 24 years old. In Bundaberg, youth populations are slightly higher with 1 in 7 (14.4%) of people aged 12-24 years old.

Due to the region's aging population trends, Fraser Coast & Bundaberg have a lower proportion of young people than the rest of Queensland (16.3%) and Australia (15.7%). In comparison, 16% of the world's population are young people (UN, 2024).

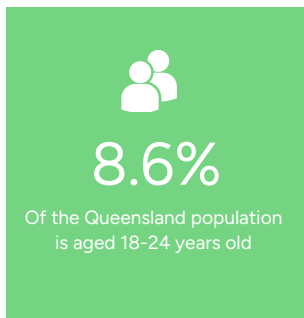
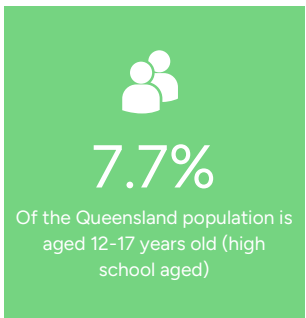
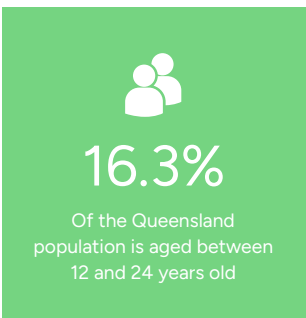
Fraser Coast



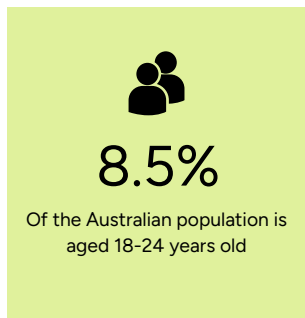
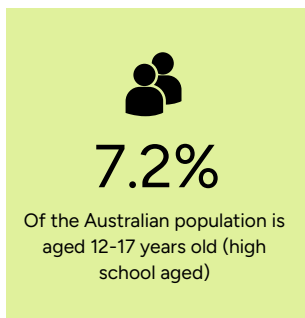
Bundaberg



Queensland



Australia



World



Sources:

Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing_2016 and 2021*. Compiled and presented by *id* (informed decisions); United Nations: *Global Issues Youth*.



2.2 First Nations Youth

Almost 1 in 10 local youth are First Nations.

Data from the 2021 Census reveals that almost 1 in 10 local youth are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (9% in Fraser Coast & 8.8% in Bundaberg). This is a slightly higher proportion than the rest of Queensland, where 7.2% of youth aged 12-24 years old are First Nations, highlighting the importance of Indigenous youth in our region.

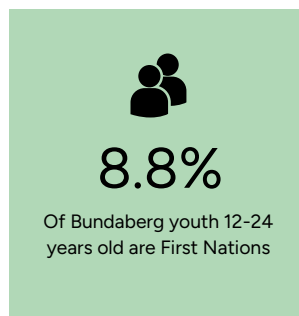
Queensland, has the 3rd highest proportion of First Nations youth compared to other states, only behind Northern Territory and Tasmania (38.3% and 9.25% respectively).

Nation-wide, 5.1% of Australian youth 12-24 years old are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Fraser Coast



Bundaberg



Queensland



Australia



Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile.



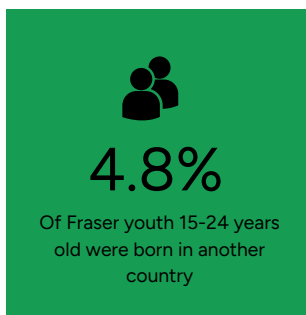
2.3 Culturally Diverse Youth

Approx. 1 in 20 Hinkler youth were born overseas.

According to data from the 2021 Census, the Hinkler region has a very small culturally diverse youth population compared to the rest of Queensland and Australia. In the Fraser Coast, just 4.8% of youth 15-24 years old were born in another country. In Bundaberg, it is 5.6% for the same cohort. In comparison, 16.6% (almost 1 in 6) of Queenslanders aged 15-24 years old were born overseas and 19.2% (almost 1 in 5) in Australia.

Country of birth were similar. In the Fraser Coast, the top 3 non-English speaking countries of birth among 15-24 year olds were Philippines, India and Thailand. In Bundaberg, the top 3 were India, Philippines and South Korea.

In comparison, in Queensland, the top 3 non-English speaking country of birth were India, China and Philippines. Nation-wide, the top 3 were India, China and Nepal.



Showcase- YETI Youth Events Team Initiative

YETI is a Youth Events Team initiative at the HBNC designed to bring young people together aged 18-25 years old to plan, create and deliver vibrant community events on the Fraser Coast. Through YETI, young people can gain valuable skills, connect with their peers and help shape an inclusive, thriving youth community.

Young people can join the YETI program as volunteers to:

Create and Deliver Exciting Events:

- Collaborate with a dynamic team to plan and host events that are fun, inclusive, and tailored for young people.
- Build a sense of belonging by fostering safe and vibrant spaces for connection.

Gain Valuable Experience:

- Learn the ins and outs of event planning, marketing, and budgeting.
- Develop skills like public speaking, problem-solving, and networking.
- Become adaptable, creative, and confident in managing real-world challenges.

Drive Community Change:

- Help create opportunities for young people to feel safe, connected, and valued in their community.
- Contribute fresh ideas that make the Fraser Coast stronger and more inclusive for everyone.



Find out more info here



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Showcase- Butchulla Rites of Passage Camps

The Butchulla Rites of Passage Camps are aimed at young Aboriginal males and their fathers/male relatives on culturally appropriate land within the Butchulla tribal boundaries (Hervey Bay, K'Gari). Rites of Passage provides the modern-day equivalent of the old Aboriginal Initiation Ceremony, which was the first step in taking Aboriginal boys on their journey to manhood. The camps support young Indigenous males to improve their wellbeing, their connection to culture and heritage and improve their school attendance and positive behaviours.

Rites of Passage was developed in response to the high rates of harm teenagers, and particularly young males subject themselves to as initiation style activities. This risk taking behaviour has physical and mental health consequences that often leave young people feeling lost, depressed and unsupported. Rites of Passage acknowledges, supports and celebrates positively young people becoming adults through Butchulla rituals.

Butchulla Rites of Passage is delivered by the Butchulla Men's Business Aboriginal Association Inc. in partnership with WYLD Aboriginal Projects Bundaberg and the Rites of Passage Institute. It is funded by the Social Shift Community-led Support Fund.



Find out more info here



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Showcase- YMCA Youth 360°

Youth 360° is a support service for young people in Bundaberg who are:

- Experiencing or at risk of disconnection from their family and/or community
- Young people may be experiencing problems staying in school, training or facing unemployment
- At risk of harm including self-harm
- Homeless or at risk of being homeless
- Our service offers one on one support in many areas where young people are needing support to gain skills and support to get through a difficult time

Depending on each person's need, the assistance offered can span two tiers of support:

1. Providing access to information or advice on where to access the best services
2. One-on-one ongoing support by a dedicated youth worker

Youth 360° are focused on building practical life skills that are vital for young people to be able to keep their lives on track. Depending on a young person's goals, support may focus on areas including:

- Making it easier for young people to stay engaged in school or support transition into employment etc.
- Fostering social and interpersonal skills to build healthy relationships with family, peers or others in the community.
- Supporting healthy choices, safer options and levels of independence.
- Ensuring a young person can access all the services that are available to them.



Find out more info here



SCAN ME



World Showcase- Future Leaders Academy

Future Leaders Academy is a social enterprise, delivering experiential leadership training across New Zealand, Australia, and the Pacific Islands. The academy focuses on strengthening values, diversity, culture, and connecting like-minded young leaders, while developing essential leadership skills.



Future Leaders Academy offers 2 programs including:

Student Leaders Academy for 16-18 year olds:

Hosted in the Pacific Islands, youth participate in a 7 day advanced leadership course hosted at different destinations across the Pacific. Young people receive mentoring and support to develop confidence, experience new cultures, set new goals, learn team leadership skills all while enjoying the adventure of a lifetime.

Emerging Leaders Program for 23-28 year olds:

A 7 day program also hosted across Pacific Island destinations where emerging young leaders learn advanced leadership skills, decision making, planning and goal setting, practicing leading diverse teams, and taking action on real issues. Post program, participants also receive 6 months of ongoing leadership mentoring.



Find out more info here



SCAN ME





“Empowered youth are the
catalysts for positive change”

-Anonymous

3. Where are youth living?

Living arrangements, homelessness and safety



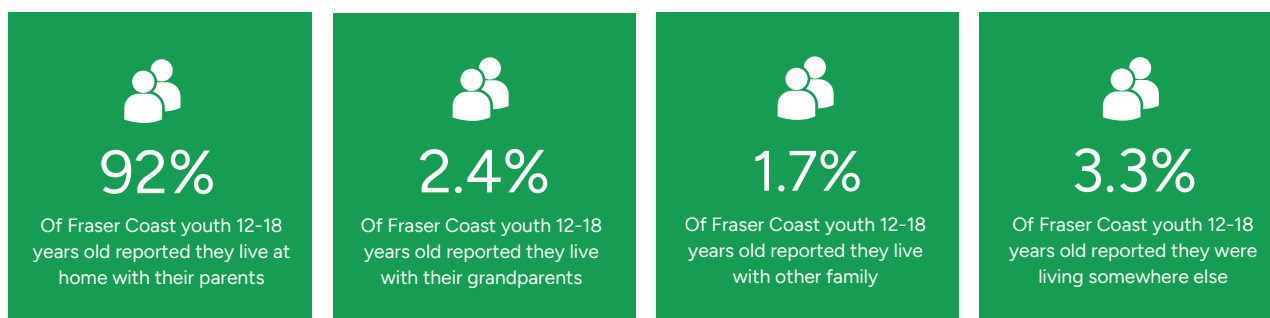
3.1 Living Arrangements

The majority of local youth live at home with a parent or guardian.

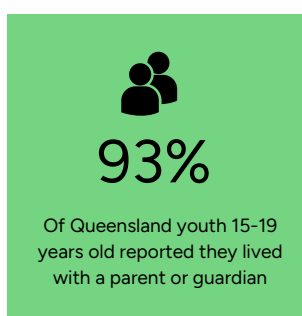
Data from the Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024 showed that most young people (92%) live with their parents, while 2.4% live with grandparents, 1.7% with other family members, and 3.3% reside elsewhere.

Comparatively, 93% of Queensland youth aged 15-19 lived with a parent or guardian in 2024, and 94.6% of Australian youth in the same age group also live with a parent or guardian. This shows that the Fraser Coast youth data is approximately the same as the Queensland and Australian averages for youth living with parents or guardians. No Bundaberg data was available.

Fraser Coast



Queensland



Australia



Sources:

Social Shift Institute Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024

Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2024



3.2 Homelessness

A high proportion of youth have experienced homelessness at some point in their life.

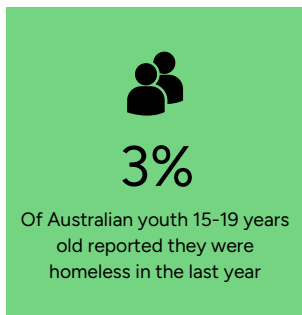
According to the Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024 Report, 1% of youth 12-18 years old reported they were currently homeless. While the majority of local young people are living somewhere safe, a concerning 15% of youth reported they had experienced homelessness at some point in their life. This was a 3% increase from 2023 results on the same survey and highlights the impact of local housing issues and systemic cost of living challenges.

In 2023-24, data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare specialist homelessness services collection shows that there were a total 1,992 Wide Bay residents receiving support. No percentage on the proportion of this cohort that were young people was found.

Across the state, 13.4% of Queenslanders engaged with specialist homelessness services on any given day are young people on their own. Similarly, 14.9% of Australians engaged with specialist homelessness services on any given day are youth.

Fraser Coast

Australia



Sources:

Social Shift Institute Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Specialist homelessness services: On any given day, across Queensland, 2024.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Specialist homelessness services: On any given day, across Australian, 2024.

Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2024.



3.3 Safety

1 in 10 Fraser Coast youth have felt unsafe at home.

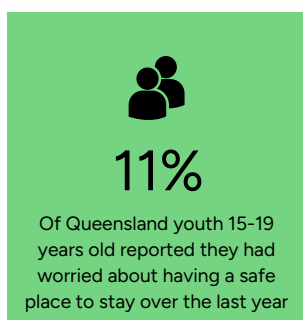
Safety remains an issue with 10% (1 in 10) of youth respondents to the Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024 noting they had felt unsafe at home (a 2% decrease from 2023). A further 15% (roughly 1 in 7) young people had run away from home at some point. The main triggers youth reported for feeling unsafe at home were their siblings (38%), domestic and family violence at home (17%), and accommodation not being safe (4%). Of those who had run away from home, the majority (69%) only stayed away from 1-6 days, 16% stayed away for over 1 month, 11% stayed away for 1-2 weeks and 4% for 3-4 weeks.

Comparatively, the Mission Australia 2024 National Youth Survey report shows 11% of Queensland youth 15-19 years old and the same percentage of Australian youth had worried about having a safe place to stay. A further 7.4% of Australian youth had reported spending time away from home because they felt they could not go back.

Fraser Coast

Queensland

Australia



Sources:

Social Shift Institute Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024

Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2024.

Showcase- Bundaberg Youth Refuge

The Salvation Army Youth Services provides a range of services that support young people in Bundaberg to secure safe and stable housing, engage in alcohol and other drug recovery, reconnect with school, explore further training and employment opportunities, become safe drivers and navigate justice systems all whilst promoting positive community connections.

The Bundaberg Youth Refuge is a residential program that provides crisis accommodation and case management to young people between the ages of 16 and 21 years. Staff are on this site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week offering intensive, individualised case management to the young person, once they have identified the needs they wish to be assisted with. A key focus in supporting the young person is to build life skills and to help transition them into independent living and accommodation. There is no set timeframe for the accommodation and case management support being delivered to the young people, as it is period of need.

Bundaberg Youth Refuge additionally provides an external 24/7 supported accommodation service to young families between the ages of 18-24 in their self-contained units. Young people are supported with case management and referrals.



Find out more info here



Showcase- PCYC Youth Programs Hervey Bay



PCYC- Police Citizens Youth Club offer a range of youth programs in Hervey Bay including:

Braking the Cycle: A volunteer driver mentor program designed to support learner drivers without access to a supervisor or registered vehicle to complete their logbook hours. This aims to provide young people with increased employment opportunities, community connection and driver education.

Youth Support Services: Through funding from the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, PCYC Queensland is able to provide Youth Support Services focusing on supporting young people to learn new skills to find employment and maintain positive relationships, build resilience to cope with everyday life, maintain a healthy and productive lifestyle and re-engage back to school, with family and the community.

Girls United: A program for female Youth Development Officers and Branch Managers as a way of engaging with young women. The program aims to enhance participants' positive sense of self, boost self-esteem and resilience, provide a variety of positive life experiences, encourage goal setting behaviours, equip them with coping strategies for many life situations and expose participants to healthy female role models.

Youth Management Team: PCYC Queensland Youth Management Teams (YMT) are a social and leadership development group for high school aged young people who wish to improve their leadership skills and to give back to and connect with their communities. YMTs meet regularly within the clubs, volunteer their time and establish and drive their own projects within the community. The Hervey Bay YMT meets fortnightly on a Tuesday evening from 5pm – 6:30pm at the Hervey Bay PCYC.

Get Set for Work: For young people who are disengaged from school or are needing help with job seeking. The initiative is to teach life skills – job skills and a work ethic. This prepares young potential school leavers for a job and a career. Young people gain work experience, a Certificate 1 in Vocational Pathways, and some amazing friends along the way. The program runs for 10 weeks and is for 15-19 year olds.

Find out more info here



SCAN ME



Showcase- PCYC Youth Programs Bundaberg



PCYC- Police Citizens Youth Club offer a range of youth programs in Bundaberg including:

Braking the Cycle: A volunteer driver mentor program designed to support learner drivers without access to a supervisor or registered vehicle to complete their logbook hours. This aims to provide young people with increased employment opportunities, community connection and driver education.

Dragon Dancing: An Australian youth group with a focus on families, outdoor fun and education. We offer a diverse range of activities and experiences, including camping, leadership instruction, Chinese Dragon and Lion Dancing, communication, canoeing, geocaching, navigation, fishing, bushcraft, first aid skills and teamwork. Aimed at 12-18 year olds.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award: A multi-stage self-development program available to young people ages 14 to 25 that encourages them to set their own goals and challenges, work towards achieving them, and then be recognised at the end for sustaining the commitment they have made.



Find out more info here



SCAN ME



Showcase- Youth Assist

Youth Assist is an initiative of Trauma Assist and provides 2 programs supporting at-risk and marginalised youth aged 12-24 years old to build better lives using a trauma-informed approach and understanding to overcoming barriers and welcoming challenges.

I'm Possible Program: For 16- 24 year olds, I'm Possible is designed to transform the thinking of youth from impossible to I'm Possible. The program consists of 3 workshops and 5 trauma-informed coaching sessions to support youth people to see life differently, scale unseen barriers and discover new supports. The program is aimed at youth who are disengaged from education and employment to discover new pathways.

The Me Degree: For 12- 15 year olds. The Me Degree is a wrap around program supporting youth to explore who they are and where they are right now. The Me Degree offers an adventure into understanding one's self and build a map for their future.



Find out more info here



SCAN ME



World Showcase- UNICEF Youth Advocates

UNICEF's youth advocacy programs give young people 12-24 years old the platform to speak on behalf of their communities, focusing on issues such as education, health, and protection of children's rights. These youth advocates are trained over a 1 year period in public speaking, lobbying, and policy work, ensuring their voices are heard in global discussions.

UNICEF's Youth Advocates come from every corner of the world, united in their pursuit of universal goals. From creating a more climate-resilient planet to fighting against gender-based violence to championing the rights of children with disabilities, these young people are speaking out and taking action for children's rights everywhere, and becoming agents of change.

UNICEF Youth Advocates are recruited in partnership with UNV- United Nations Volunteers. The program gives youth a 1 year professional experience through a National UNV assignment with UNICEF. In addition to hands-on experiences, Youth Advocates also have access to learning and professional development opportunities, including a suite of online learning programs.



Find out more info here



SCAN ME



"My message, especially to young people is to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexplored path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed."

-A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

4. What are youth doing?

Education, employment, participation & engagement.



4.1 Education - Attendance

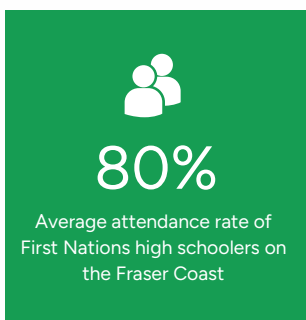
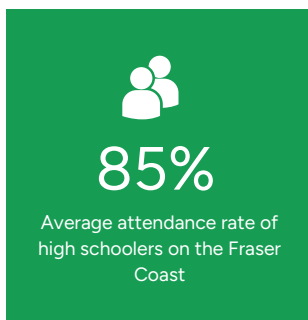
Average attendance rates in Hinkler are lower than Queensland & Australia.

According to My School averaged data, the attendance rate of youth at high school across Hinkler is 85% for general student population, and 80% among First Nations high school youth. In comparison, the average attendance rate across Queensland and Australia is 88% respectively.

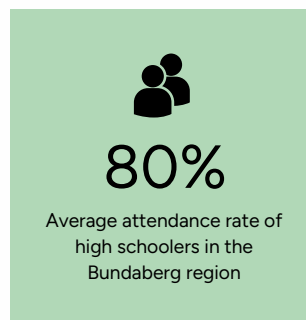
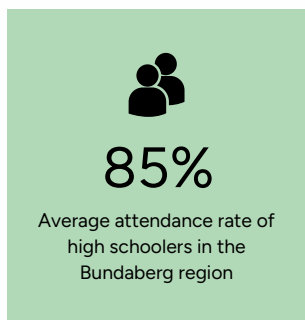
The Australian Research Education Organisation rapid literature review into barriers to school attendance and reasons for absences. Main barriers to attendance can include:

- Demographics: including being from a low-socioeconomic background and cultural factors such as being First Nations
- Poor physical health
- Emotional difficulties & poor mental health
- Disability and students with learning difficulties such as attention problems and autism
- Adverse childhood experiences e.g. harassment, bullying and school violence leading to feeling unsafe at school
- Parents' education, employment, and physical and mental health

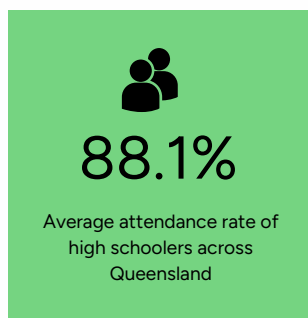
Fraser Coast



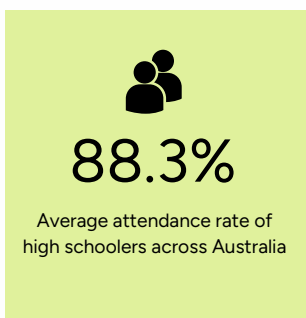
Bundaberg



Queensland



Australia




Sources:

My School, 2024.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, 2024.





4.2 Education- Suspensions

In 2023, there were 3,848 disciplinary absences from local state high schools.

According to data from the Department of Education Queensland, there were approximately 3,848 total disciplinary absences across Fraser Coast & Bundaberg state high schools in 2023. Of the Department of Education North Coast region, in which Fraser Coast & Bundaberg sit, there were a total 8,176 suspensions, exclusions and cancellations at high schools.

Suspension is defined by the Department of Education as a “serious disciplinary consequence that prohibits an enrolled student from attending school and any school-related activities for a set period of time” (Department of Education, 2024). A short suspension is classified as 1-10 school days and a long suspension 11-20 school days. Of suspensions issued locally, 1913 short suspensions were issued in Fraser Coast and 1744 in Bundaberg region. A further 52 long suspensions in Fraser Coast and 51 in Bundaberg region were also issued.

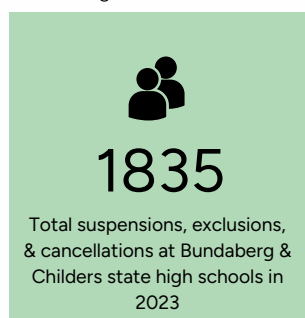
In the North Coast region, in 2023 (the most recent data available), the top 5 reasons for suspension in Semester 2 were defiance, fighting, physical aggression, abusive language and harassment.

Exclusion is defined as “the most serious disciplinary action that can be imposed on a student and must only be used if other disciplinary consequences are inadequate to deal with the student’s behaviour” (Department of Education, 2024). In 2023, there were approximately 22 exclusions at Fraser Coast high schools and 16 at Bundaberg region high schools.

Fraser Coast



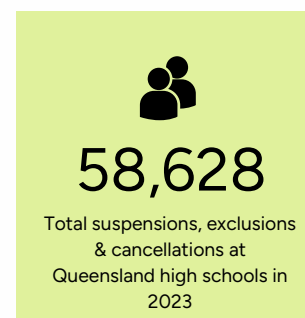
Bundaberg



North Coast Region



Queensland



Sources:

Department of Education: School disciplinary absences by student demographics 2019-2023.



4.3 Year 12 Outcomes

Youth are mostly going on to work part time or engaging in study.

The Department of Education's Next Steps Summaries for Year 12 graduates in 2023, showed that the majority of youth have gone on to part time work or study.

In Fraser Coast, the top 3 post school outcomes for state high school graduates were:

1. Working part time (34%)
2. Studying towards a degree (15.6%)
3. Working full time (14.6%)

Comparatively, in the Bundaberg region, the top 3 post school outcomes for the same cohort were:

1. Studying towards a VET qualification (61%)
2. Working part time (28.7%)
3. Studying towards a degree (20.9%)

The summaries do not state whether young people stay in the Hinkler area or leave, however, trends show that many young people leave for metropolitan areas post year 12 to be near employment, education and entertainment. According to 2021 census data, the top 3 places for young people 18-24 to leave to from both Fraser Coast & Bundaberg region were Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay.

Diagram: Fraser Coast State High Schools- Post Year 12 Pathways 2024

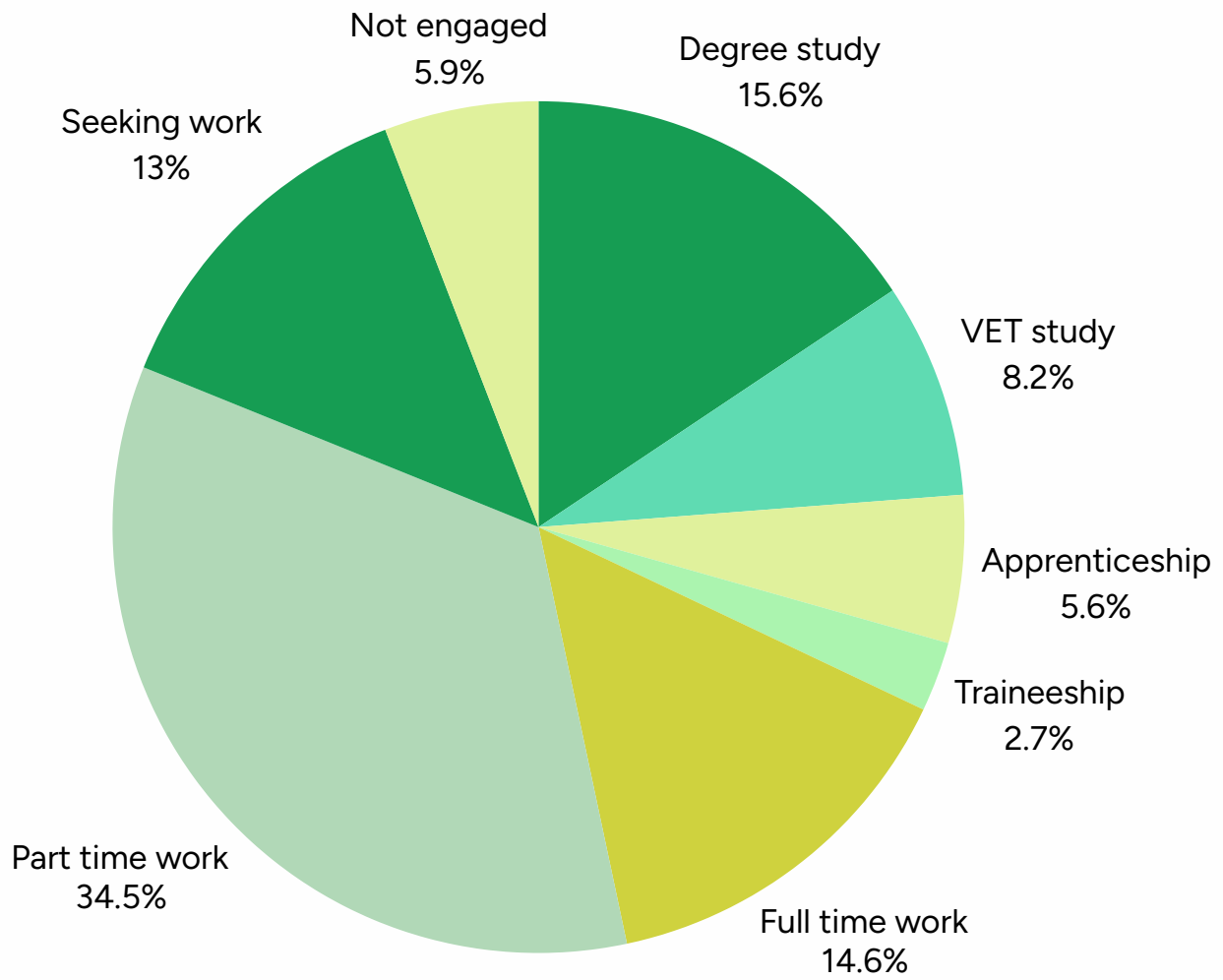
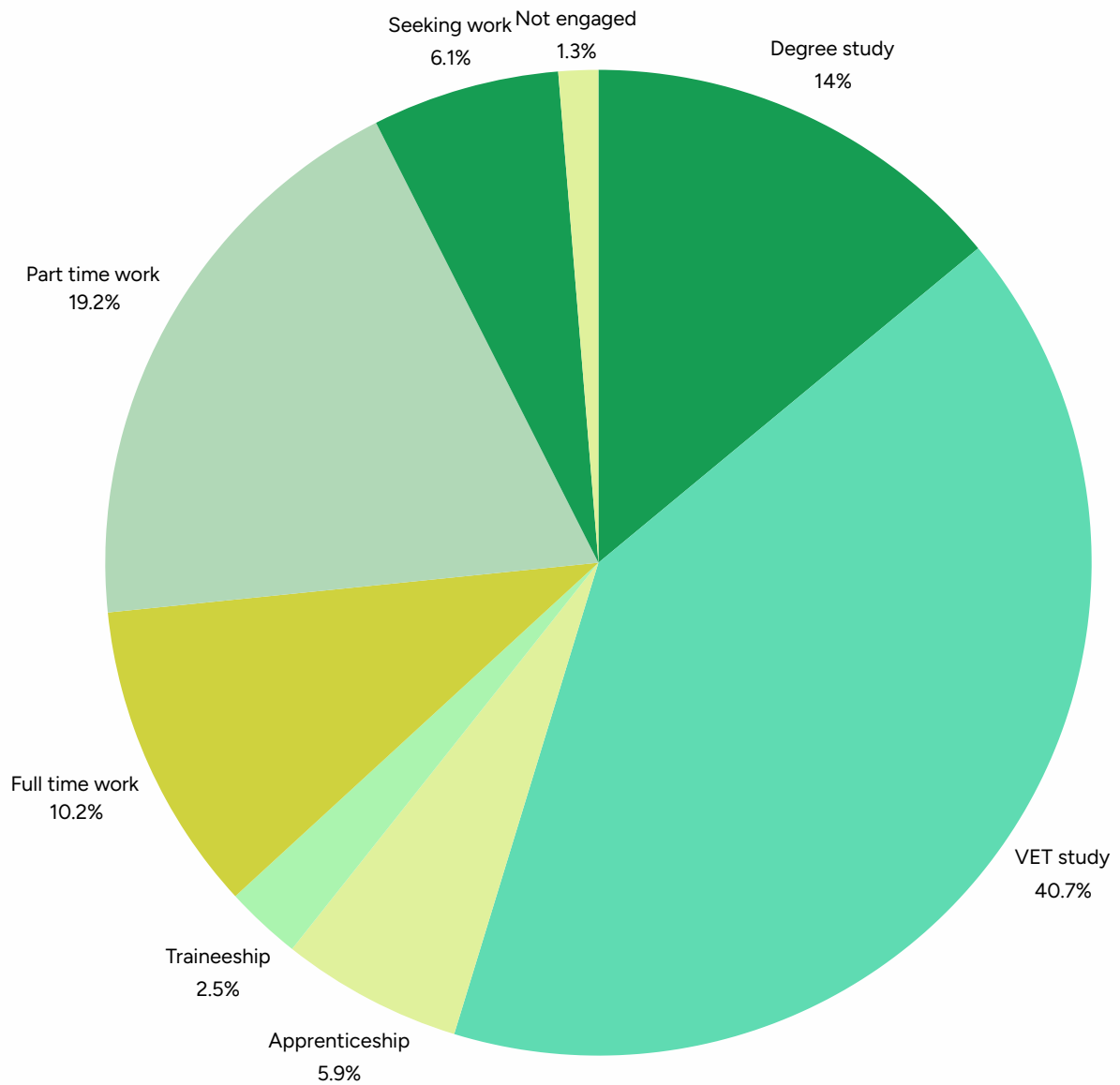


Diagram: Bundaberg Region State High Schools- Post Year 12 Pathways 2024



Sources:

Department of Education: Next Step Summaries, 2024.

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





4.4 Employment

Youth unemployment has dropped to 8% from 8.4%.

According to the Jobs and Skills Australia Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast Labour Market Dashboard for January 2025, the largest employing industries in the region at the end of 2024 were health care and social assistance (18.4%), retail trade (10.9%), construction (10.2%), education and training (8.4%), and accommodation and food services (8.1%).

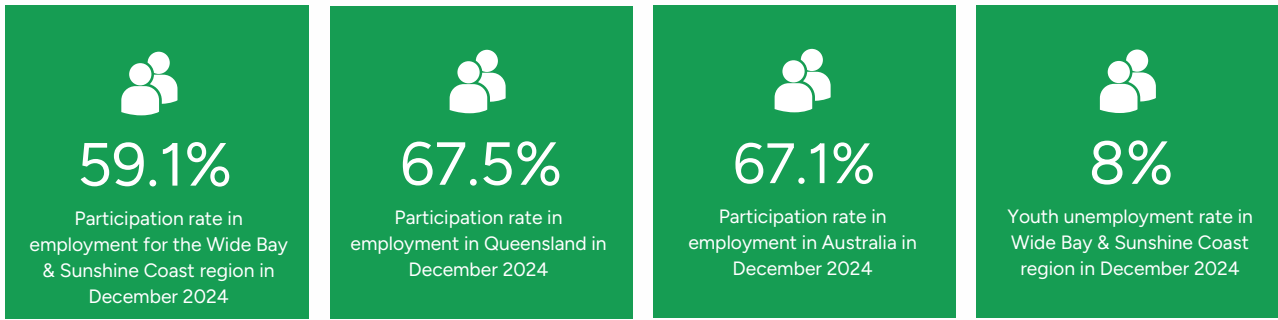
The same dashboard also revealed a labour force participation rate of 59.1% for the region, with unemployment at 3.6% for general population and 8% for youth.

In terms of available jobs, the top local online advertisements were for sales assistants, general clerks, registered nurses, child carers, aged & disabled carers, general practitioners and resident medical officers, chefs and other miscellaneous labourers. Most of these jobs required a Bachelor degree or higher (27%) or a Certificate II or III (27%).

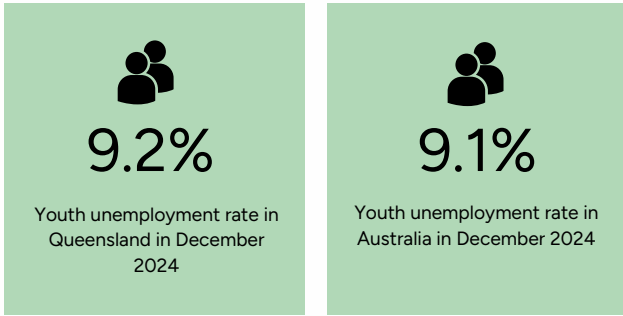
Qualifications can often be barriers for young people with the Australian Youth Barometer Report 2024 key findings stating that while most young people have a clear vision for their future employment, they also see high levels of competition in their desired field and lack of qualifications or sufficient experience as potential barriers to achieving their vision for future employment (Monash University, 2024). Further, workplace culture and supportive peers are key to young people's job satisfaction and remaining in employment, while common frustrations about work include maintaining a work/life balance and being given insufficient hours (Monash University, 2024).

Within the region, the highest overall unemployment rates were in South Burnett (5.9%), Fraser Coast (5.3%) and Bundaberg (4.5%), highlighting the need for focused employment support for young people.

Participation rates



Youth unemployment rates



General unemployment rates



Top 5 industries



Sources:

Jobs and Skills Australia, Labour Market Dashboard, January 2025.
Jobs and Skills Australia, Industries, 2025.





4.5 Volunteering

Youth are volunteering at higher rates than general population.

According to the State of Volunteering 2024 Youth Report, young people are volunteering at higher rates in Queensland (68.5%) than general population (64%). Youth are motivated to volunteer by wanting to help others (61.5%), be active (44.8%), for enjoyment (40%), for social and community connection (39.7%), and to gain confidence (32.7%). In comparison, across Australia, 73% of young Australians volunteered in organised activities at least once in the past 12 months in 2024 (Australian Youth Barometer, 2024).

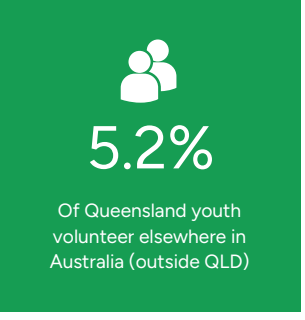
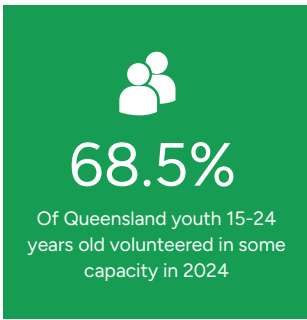
Across Queensland, young people donated 1284 million hours of volunteering in 2023 with youth volunteering delivering 16.4 billion dollars in economic and social value.

Most youth volunteer locally within their own communities and are supporting events (32.3%), teaching or coaching (29.7%), skilled support (27.5%), and social or wellbeing support (26.8%).

The main barriers to volunteering for youth who do volunteer, were not having enough time (43%), burnout from volunteering (16.6%), the cost of volunteering (16.4%), not having transport (14.9%), not having someone to volunteer more with (11.7%).

Similarly, the reasons for non-volunteering youth to not volunteer included not having time (41.9%), not being sure how/ never being asked (40.8%), a lack of confidence (28.2%), not having someone to volunteer with (22.9%), and simply not being interested in volunteering (18.3%).

No local data on youth volunteering was found, however, according to the 2021 Census, 13% of the total Fraser Coast population reported volunteering and 14% of the Bundaberg population.



Sources:
Volunteering Queensland- State of Volunteering 2024 Youth Report.
Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing_2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by id (informed decisions).





4.6 Changemaking

Most young people use personal actions to effect social change.

Young people are increasingly becoming changemakers driven by a genuine goal of making the world a better place. The Australian Youth Barometer 2024 shows young people prefer individualised, personal action to effect change with actions including volunteering (mentioned in previous pages), using digital and social media to highlight issues, or making conscious choices such as boycotting certain brands and directing their money towards companies that make socially conscious choices.

While mainstream forms of political action such as voting & petitioning were still viewed as important, the same report shows that young people who were interviewed reported feeling disenfranchised by politics. A further 32% of young people aged 18-24 reported they had low trust in the Australian government to do the right thing. The majority of young people also felt under-represented in civic life and felt they were not listened to, instead being stereotyped by older Australians being quick to judge and overlooking generational differences. This is supported by data from the Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2024, which showed only 36% of young people felt they have a say in community issues.

This information highlights that while young people are often stigmatised by older Australians, many are wanting to engage in issues they are interested in and effect positive social change given the chance.

Regionally, local government in the Hinkler region provide some opportunities for young people to have a say in their community with Fraser Coast Regional Council providing initiatives around annual Youth Week, a School Captains Network Breakfast, and student disaster workshops. Bundaberg Regional Council provides a monthly Community Youth Collective, consisting of an open forum for young people, workers, government, regional representatives and other interested parties to interact and improve pathways for young people within Bundaberg and District.



47%

Of Australian youth reported using their social media profiles to help create social change



31%

Of Australian youth believe it is likely or extremely likely that climate change will be combated in the future



Australian youth generally feel they are not heard or represented in social and political discussions with representation often being tokenistic



Australian youth feel they can effect change through actions such as protesting & awareness raising. Others express uncertainty about being able to achieve change



Many Australian youth feel that greater connection between generations is needed for change to be enacted in society

Sources:

Australian Youth Barometer Report, 2024.





4.7 Disengagement

1 in 7 Hinkler youth 15-24 years old are disengaged.

According to 2021 Census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, an average 15.6% (roughly 1 in 7) of young people 15-24 years old in the Hinkler region are disengaged. The Fraser Coast had the highest level of disengagement with 17% of young people not engaged in any kind of work or study. In Bundaberg, it was 14.3%.

Data from the Department of Education Next Step Summaries also shows that of Year 12 state school graduates from 2023, 5.9% were not engaged in work, seeking work or study in the Fraser Coast in 2024. Bundaberg was much lower with just 1.9% of graduates not engaged.

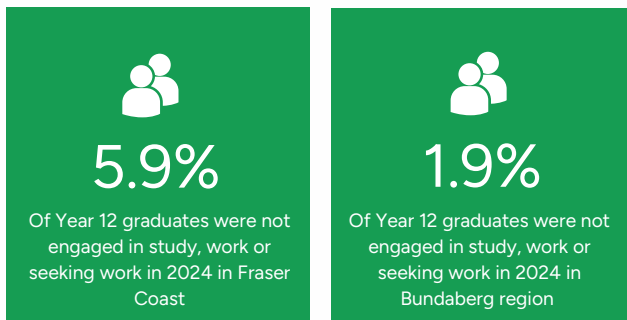
There are many reasons why a young person may not be engaged in work or study. The Reimagining Work for Young People report identifies three key barriers preventing young people from accessing meaningful and engaging work including:

- Access to the right skills and education
- Siloed and fractured support systems that create access to and prepare young people for meaningful work
- Distress caused by future economic, environmental, and social factors that could limit the potential of young people

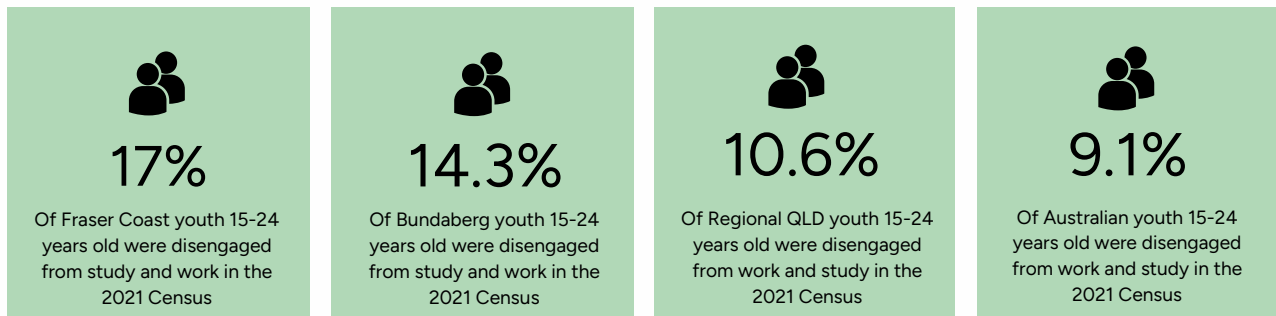
Additionally, young people are facing three critical issues at work: unemployment, anxiety, and mental health issues (Deloitte, 2024). The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) also mentions the strong correlation between disadvantage and being engaged in work or study with 1 in 3 young people from a low socio-economic background not being engaged compared to 1 in 15 for young people from high socio-economic backgrounds. Compounding the impact of disadvantage and disengagement is that experiences of disadvantage and unemployment are mutually reinforcing with repeated and long-term periods of unemployment creating worsening disadvantage (AIFS, 2022).

Multiple early intervention supports that are personalised for young people while they are still in school are shown to be effective in better outcomes. These can cover a range of supports including training and skills development, further education, job search assistance, financial support and career counselling (AIFS, 2022).

Disengagement among Year 12 graduates in 2024



Disengagement among youth 12-15 years old according to 2021 Census



Sources:

Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing_2016 and 2021*. Compiled and presented in atlas.id by *.id* (informed decisions).

Department of Education, *Next Step Summaries, 2024*.





4.8 Crime

Youth crime is down overall, but the number of serious repeat offenders has risen.

Data from Youth Justice shows that overall, the number of youth offenders has dropped over the last year. The Youth Justice Annual Report 2023-2024 notes that there has been a 30% reduction in youth offending over the last 5 years across the state, however, there is a challenge with the number of serious repeat offenders, which has risen significantly (Youth Justice, 2024). In 2024, there were 76 serious repeat offender declarations in Queensland, compared to 48 in 2023. Local Hinkler data for Hervey Bay & Bundaberg is not available in terms of youth offending.

Youth offending is a particularly complex issue, and is often the result of compounded issues including exposure to domestic and family violence, diagnosed or suspected mental health and/or behavioural disorders, substance misuse, assessed or suspected disability, disadvantage including unstable accommodation and having a parent who has been engaged in adult custody. A high proportion of offenders are also male (71%) and over half are Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (55%) highlighting them as at risk groups.

Evidence-based, intensive, and holistic interventions remain the most effective in re-engaging youth, with early intervention being the most effective in preventing at risk young people from engaging with the youth justice system at all (Youth Justice, 2024).

In terms of addressing youth offending at a policy level, there have been a number of changes that have occurred with the Queensland Government introducing Youth Crime, Adult Time legislation in December 2024. This legislation has changed consequences for young people committing serious offences, and who will now face the same penalties as adults for crimes including murder, manslaughter, unlawful striking causing death, grievous bodily harm, wounding, serious assault, home & business break-ins and robbery, and dangerous operation of vehicles. Significantly, the legislation also abolished the principle that sentencing a young person for detention may only be used as a last resort. It also removed the principle that a non-custodial sentence is preferable to detention for a young person's re-integration into community. These new laws are aimed at victim-focused sentencing with victims automatically added to the Victim Eligible Persons Register and Children's Courts proceedings being open to victims, family and accredited media. These changes have been the basis of much opinion since their implementation, with some regarding whether these violate the human rights and international laws for children.

Alongside the law changes, funding towards prevention and rehabilitation initiatives will increase with targeted supports including youth justice programs, Transition 2 Success, youth justice crime prevention grants, a youth development partnership fund, school-based policing program and PCYC all being, or continuing to be implemented.



Youth offending



Social complexities of youth offenders



Sources: Youth Justice Pocket Stats 2023, 2024
 Youth Justice Annual Report 2023-24
 Queensland Government: The laws, 2025.

Showcase- Fraser Coast Youth Co-Responders Program

A Youth Co-Responders Program was introduced to Fraser Coast in 2023, with the aim of helping break the cycle of youth crime.

Co-responder teams consist of police and youth justice staff who patrol the streets and other areas where young people congregate, engaging with young people, their families and the wider community.

They also provide practical support, including de-escalating conflicts, transporting young people to safety, interacting with support agencies, and exploring ways to divert young people from the youth justice system.

Vulnerable young people are also connected with the services they need to turn their lives around, including those that assist with housing, health, domestic and family violence, and education.



Sources:

myPolice Maryborough, 2023.

Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support, Youth co-responder teams, 2025.

Photo source: myPolice Maryborough: QPS Media, 2023.

Showcase- Bundaberg Community Youth Collective

The Community Youth Collective aim to provide an open forum for young people, workers, government, regional representatives and other interested parties to interact and improve pathways for young people within Bundaberg and District.

The operating principles of the Collective are to:

- Promote effective collaboration within the sector
- Provide a mechanism of support for workers, organisations and young people within a respectful environment
- Develop creative solutions in an interactive manner
- Operates for the benefit of all young people irrespective of their gender, country of birth, language, culture, sexual orientation or religion.

Community Youth Collective Meetings are held the **first Monday** of every month, except for public holidays, from **1:00pm-2:30pm**.

Meeting locations can change month-to-month as certain services or organisations will host, so please contact Community Development to find out further information.

What does the Collective discuss?

The group chats to discover emerging trends, gaps and important projects to highlight within the youth sector. Each meeting is held at an agreed location by the Collective. The Youth Collective members come from a wide range of youth service providers, government agencies (Police, Youth Justice, Local Council), schools and local community members passionate about working towards supporting and assisting young people.

Source:

Bundaberg Regional Council: Community Youth Collective, 2025.



Find out more info here



Showcase- Youth Mentoring Program

Youth Mentoring program supports school students in Hervey Bay (7-17 years old) who are having a difficult time at school by pairing them with a trained Volunteer Mentor.

Youth Mentors support young people to fully participate in the community in positive, constructive and respectful ways by providing youth with support and guidance by being a confidential person who can listen to issues and concerns, help with self-development activities that build self-confidence and self-esteem, support the young person to recognise strengths and talents and develop these, assist with goal setting, and are a positive role model and influence in the young person's life. Mentoring relationships are formed to be mutually beneficial, having positive outcomes for young people as well as mentors.

Youth Mentoring provides:

- One-on-one school-based mentoring
- School-based group mentoring
- In-class mentoring support



Find out more info here



SCAN ME



Showcase- Fraser Coast Young Business Leaders Program

The Young Business Leaders program, an initiative of Bop, provides an opportunity for young people across the Fraser Coast to develop their skills in entrepreneurship as they build their own business over the course of 10 weeks. The initiative provides program streams for 12-17 year olds and 18-28 year olds.

The term long program brings together young people as they develop their knowledge and understanding, connect with mentors, access seed funding, and work to bring their ideas to life as they turn their interests into viable businesses that they can launch for under \$100.

The Young Business Leaders program commences with a full day hackathon at the beginning of term to bring young people together to develop their understanding of entrepreneurial pathways, form teams, and develop the foundation of their ideas. This fast faced day features a series of hands on challenges, networking activities, and the opportunity for students to hear from business leaders in their local community as they consider what type of business they might like to create in the program.

After the hackathon, participants then join in a series of virtual masterclasses that take place online one afternoon each week. Each 60-minute masterclass has been designed to help participants develop their skills and understanding as they bring their business to life. Weekly topics that participants will learn about include branding, marketing, product design, value propositions, business models, pricing, customer personas, launch strategies, and budgeting.

At the conclusion of the program, participants then come together for a Showcase Event to highlight all the work they have done over the course of the term, and to showcase their new businesses to members of the local community.

Source:

Bop: Fraser Coast Young Business Leaders, 2025.

Find out more info here



Showcase- SpeakOUT



Find out more info here



SpeakOUT is a space for young Queenslanders to have their say about issues, projects, programs and policies which are important to them run by the Queensland State Government.

Young Queenslanders 12-25 years old can participate in government by:

- Completing the [Speak OUT Survey](#) to inform the development of government programs and policies
- Joining Speak OUT by attending local events
- Providing feedback on Youth eHub projects
- Visiting the [Get Involved website](#) for Queensland Government community consultation and online surveys
- Nominating to participate in the [YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament \(15–25 years\)](#)
- Nominating to participate in the [Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program](#) (open to First Nations young people aged 18–25)
- Adding their name to the [Queensland Register of Nominees to Government Boards](#)
- [Enrolling to vote](#) (16 years and over)
- Joining a local youth group or advisory council
- Emailing or calling their [local Member of Parliament](#).

The Youth eHub has conducted consultations on:

- Gender equality
- Reduction of organic waste
- Banning more single-use plastic items
- Youth Strategy Engagement Group
- Queensland's future climate action
- Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

Source:

Queensland Government: *SpeakOUT*, 2025.

World Showcase- Global Changemakers

Global Changemakers is an international youth organisation originating in Switzerland, and global pioneer in supporting youth-led sustainable development. Their mission is to empower and support youth to build inclusive, equitable, and sustainable communities through providing skills development, capacity building, mentoring, and grants.

Global Changemakers have a library of webinars on key skills, free downloadable online resources, a virtual Mentorship Program for budding young changemakers, and an online school. They also regularly publish inspirational content on their podcast and blog. Through 'Changemakers School' they train young people in the skills they need to create and run projects to address problems experienced in their communities. They then provide grant funding for them to execute their projects. Global Changemakers also conduct training events online and in person through a GCMx program and youth summits.

To date Global Changemakers has funded over 500 youth-led projects, trained young people in 190 countries, benefitting over 16 million people.

Some examples of youth led projects delivered in Australia through Global Changemakers include:

- **Kua Coffee Social Enterprise**- inspiring fair and circular consumption of coffee. 100% of profits go towards funding development programs in Uganda where the coffee is ethically sourced and all waste coffee grounds are repurposed.
- **Good Data Institute**- volunteer organisation that aims to give not-for-profits access to data analytics support and tools. The platform connects data professionals to mission-driven organisations to create impact through data. GDI works with organisations at all stages of their data journey, from developing strategies on how to capture data, to visualisation and informing strategies.
- **Global Voices**- a non profit organisation seeking to promote an understanding of and participation in international diplomacy by young Australians through regular events and research; development opportunities in Australia, and the coordination of youth delegations to important diplomatic forums abroad. Their mission is to provide opportunities to young Australians to research, discuss and contribute to foreign policy both at home and abroad. Global Voices has selected, funded and prepared Australian youth delegations to key diplomatic forums abroad such as the G20 and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Find out more info here



SCAN ME



Source:
Global Changemakers, 2025.





"The potential of youth knows no
bounds; it's limitless and
boundless"

-Anonymous

5. How are youth doing?

Health & wellbeing



5.1 Physical Health

1 in 3 Hinkler youth have a chronic health condition

According to 2021 Census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, approximately 1 in 3 youth aged 15-24 years old in Fraser Coast (34.3%) and Bundaberg (33.2%) have a chronic health condition. Hinkler youth also have higher prevalence of chronic health conditions than the rest of Queensland and Australia as well as higher rates of having more than 1 chronic illness.

By far the most prevalent physical chronic illness is asthma with 9.8% of Bundaberg youth & 9.6% Fraser Coast youth (almost 1 in 10) having the condition compared to 8.4% of Queensland and Australian youth, respectively.

Approximately 19% of Bundaberg & Fraser Coast youth (almost 1 in 5) 15-24 years old have one chronic health condition compared to 16% for Queensland and 15% for Australia. Additionally, 3.3% of Bundaberg youth & 3.4% of Fraser Coast youth (almost 1 in 25) have 2 chronic health conditions compared to 2.5% for Queensland and 2.3% for Australia. A further 0.3% (1 in 300) Bundaberg & 0.4% (1 in 250) Fraser Coast youth have 3 or more chronic health conditions compared to 0.2% for Queensland and 0.1% for Australia. (ABS Census, 2021)

Table: Chronic conditions among youth 15-24 years old all persons- ABS 2021 Census

Health Condition	Bundaberg	Fraser Coast	Queensland	Australia
Arthritis	89 (0.8%)	78 (0.7%)	3,466 (0.5%)	14,516 (0.4%)
Asthma	1,020 (9.8%)	990 (9.6%)	53,565 (8.4%)	255,783 (8.4%)
Cancer (including remission)	24 (0.2%)	28 (0.2%)	1,353 (0.2%)	5,808 (0.19%)
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	0 (0%)	3 (0.02%)	83 (0.01%)	397 (0.01%)
Diabetes (excl. gestational diabetes)	74 (0.7%)	78 (0.7%)	3,549 (0.5%)	16,264 (0.5%)
Heart disease (excluding gestational diabetes)	49 (0.4%)	35 (0.3%)	2,029 (0.31%)	8,070 (0.2%)
Kidney disease	16 (0.15%)	26 (0.2%)	925 (0.14%)	4,388 (0.14%)
Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)	27 (0.2%)	28 (0.2%)	1,009 (0.15%)	3,920 (0.12%)
Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	1,467 (14%)	1,550 (15%)	75,037 (11.7%)	331,047 (10.8%)
Stroke	14 (0.13%)	9 (0.08%)	354 (0.05%)	1,479 (0.04%)
Any other long-term health condition	657 (6.35%)	699 (6.8%)	35,203 (5.52%)	157,584 (5.18%)
No long-term condition	6,611 (63.9%)	6,356 (62%)	433,904 (68%)	2,124,787 (69.9%)
Not stated	1,017 (9.8%)	1,157 (11.2%)	60,694 (9.52%)	260,178 (8.5%)
Total persons	10,331	10,249	637,250	3,037,348

Sources:

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Bundaberg General Community Profile, Table G19.
 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Fraser Coast General Community Profile, Table G19.
 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Queensland General Community Profile, Table G19.
 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Australia General Community Profile, Table G19.

Table: Number of chronic conditions among youth 15-24 years old all persons- ABS 2021 Census

Co-morbidity	Bundaberg	Fraser Coast	Queensland	Australia
Has 1 condition	1,968 (19%)	1,970 (19.2%)	104,762 (16.4%)	458,590 (15%)
Has 2 conditions	342 (3.3%)	356 (3.4%)	16,128 (2.5%)	70,879 (2.3%)
Has 3 or more conditions	36 (0.3%)	43 (0.4%)	1,330 (0.2%)	5,265 (0.17%)
No condition	6,972 (67.4%)	6,725 (65.6%)	454,330 (71.2%)	2,218,432 (73%)
Not stated	1,017 (9.8%)	1,157 (11.2%)	60,694 (9.5%)	260,178 (8.5%)
Total	10,331	10,249	637,250	3,037,348

Sources:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Bundaberg General Community Profile, Table G20.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Fraser Coast General Community Profile, Table G20.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Queensland General Community Profile, Table G20.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Australia General Community Profile, Table G20.





5.2 Mental Health

1 in 7 local youth have a chronic mental health condition.

Data from the 2021 Census shows that approximately 1 in 7 youth 15-24 years old have a chronic mental health condition with 14% in Bundaberg and 15% in Fraser Coast. Local youth also have much higher rates of chronic mental illness compared to the rest of Queensland (11.7%) and Australia (10.8%).

Supporting this, 40% of Fraser Coast youth 12-18 years old reported they had accessed mental health support on the Fraser Coast 2024 Youth Survey. Amongst these, approximately 1 in 3 (32%) sought support for anxiety issues, while nearly 1 in 4 (24%) accessed help for depression issues. A further 1 in 4 (25%) sought support for stress related mental health issues.

According to data from the Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2024, almost 1 in 5 (19%) Queensland youth 15-19 years old had high psychological distress compared to 22% of Australian youth. A further 17% of Queensland youth listed mental health as their biggest challenge, down from 20% in 2023, and 24% in 2022. Similarly, 20% of Australian youth listed mental health as their biggest challenge also a decrease from 22% in 2023, and 24% in 2022.

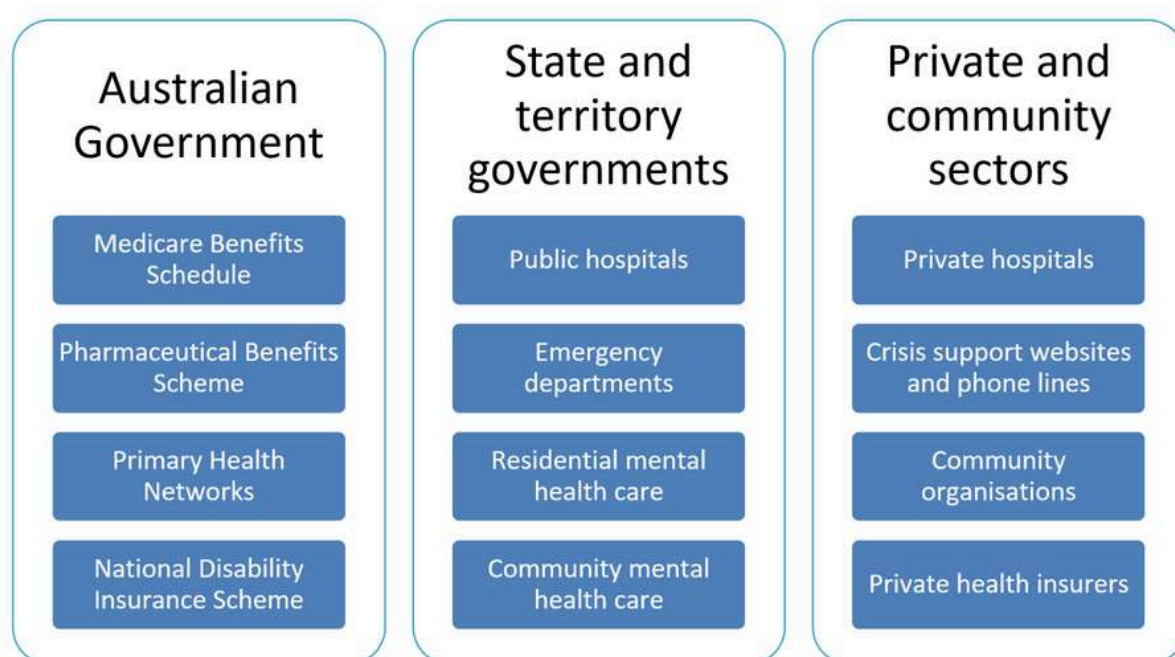
Table: Number of chronic mental health conditions among youth 15-24 years old all persons- ABS 2021 Census

	Bundaberg	Fraser Coast	Queensland	Australia
Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	1,467 (14%)	1,550 (15%)	75,037 (11.7%)	331,047 (10.8%)
Total persons	10,331	10,249	637,250	3,037,348

Young people are active in using wellbeing strategies. The above report further showed that among things youth reported doing that helped their wellbeing, 53% engaged in entertainment & recreation, 48% in distracting themselves, 45% in sleeping, and 43% in self-care. Young people also reported that it would have helped more if they felt more comfortable asking for advice, receiving more support, and having a more diverse support network.

In terms of professional support, a total \$13.2 billion was spent in 2022-23 nationally (or \$500 per person) on mental health-related services representing 7% of total government health expenditure (AIHW, 2025). In 2022-23, 49% of MBS mental health specific services were provided by psychologists (including clinical psychologists), 27% were provided by general practitioners (GPs) and 20% were provided by psychiatrists (AIHW 2024).

The mental health care system in Australia is structured at different levels including federal, state & territory and private and community sector supports:

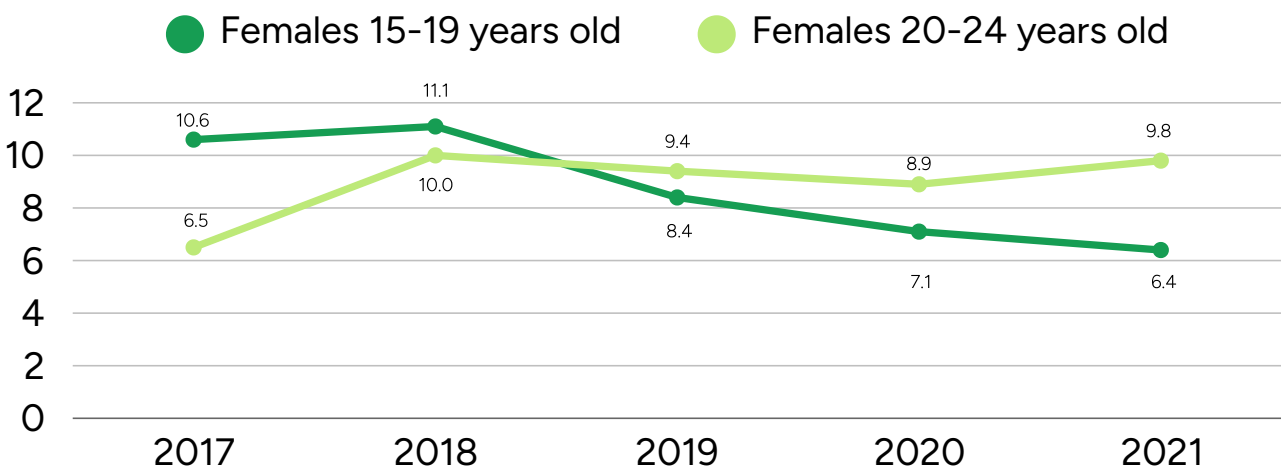


Youth Suicide: (WARNING: Carefully consider your needs before reading and reach out to services listed at the front of this report if needed).

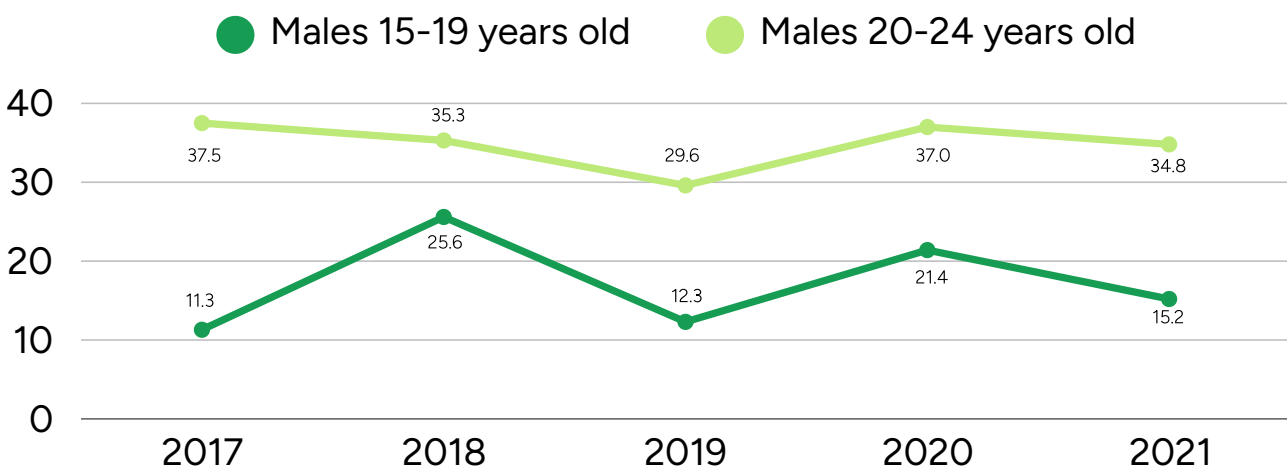
Another major concern alongside mental illness is youth suicide. While youth suicides are decreasing, suicide remains the leading cause of death of young people 15-24 years old. In 2023, 298 Australians aged 18-24 took their own lives. A further 94 deaths by suicide occurred among youth aged 17 and under, with the majority (71%) occurring in those aged 15-17 years old (AIHW, 2025). The Queensland Family and Child Commission notes contributing risk factors to youth suicide include childhood abuse and neglect, substance abuse, exposure to domestic and family violence and household dysfunction (QFCC, 2023). The Commission also notes gaps in support with the majority of suicide supports and crisis spaces being for people aged 18 years and over only, leaving young people often referred to mental health services that do not provide support for suicidal thoughts. This highlights a need for affordable and accessible services for young people who need support for suicidal thoughts but do not need to be hospitalised (QFCC, 2023).

Local youth suicide rates are not available, with Queensland Health providing state wide youth rates, with rates only available until 2021.

Graph: Youth suicide rates per 100,000- Queensland Government Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland- Queensland Suicide Death Rates for Females, 2024.



Graph: Youth suicide rates per 100,000- Queensland Government Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland- Queensland Suicide Death Rates for Males, 2024.





5.3 Disability

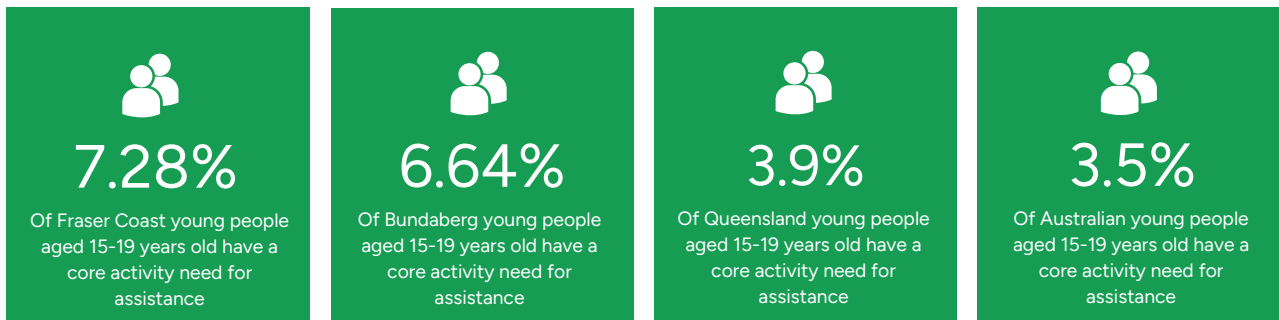
1 in 16 young people across Wide Bay live with a disability.

According to 2021 Census data, young people in Fraser Coast & Bundaberg have a higher proportion of disability with a core activity need for assistance than the rest of Queensland and Australia. People with a profound or severe core activity limitation are those needing assistance in their day to day lives in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of: a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) a disability (lasting six months or more). In Fraser Coast 7.2% of 15-19 years olds and 6.6% in Bundaberg have a core activity need for assistance compared to 3.9% for Queensland and 3.5% for Australia. Among 20-24 year olds, 6% of Fraser Coast youth and 5.5% of Bundaberg youth also have core activity need for assistance compared to 2.7% for Queensland and 2.4% in Australia.

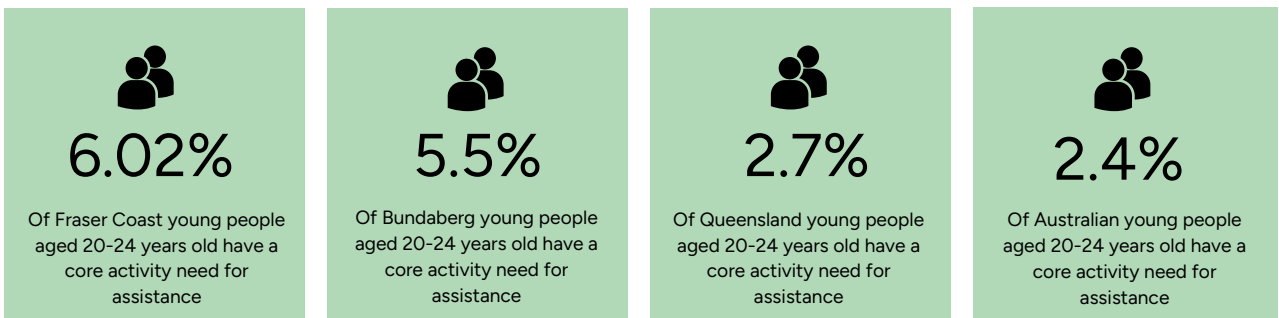
The Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Disability Plan 2024-2027 also shows that 1 in 3 children across the Wide Bay are developmentally vulnerable compared to 1 in 4 for Queensland, with 29.9% of children in Bundaberg and 30.8% of children in Fraser Coast living with one or more disabilities. Across the Wide Bay there are 9,317 total NDIS participants (WBHHS, 2024).

Young people with disability face numerous barriers including being more likely to be socially excluded, experience abuse, violence and neglect and lack access to education, employment, healthcare, goods and services (WBHHS, 2024). That there are higher proportions of young people living with disability across our region, highlights a need for psychological safety and accessibility across youth supports.

Core activity need for assistance among 15-19 years old



Core activity need for assistance among 20-24 years old



Sources:

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Bundaberg General Community Profile, Table G18.
Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Fraser Coast General Community Profile, Table G18.
Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Queensland General Community Profile, Table G18.
Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, Australia General Community Profile, Table G18.





5.4 Social Isolation & Loneliness

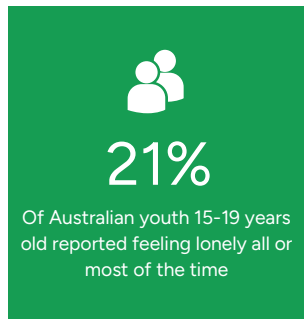
1 in 5 Queensland youth feel lonely.

According to the Mission Australia National Youth Survey Report 2024, 1 in 5 (20%) of Queensland youth 15-19 years old report having felt lonely all or most of the time over a 4 week period. This is similar to Australia-wide where 21% of young people have felt lonely. No local data round youth and loneliness was available.

The same Mission Australia report also revealed that 29.6% of young people found it hard to fit in and socialise with people at school, work or socially. The same percentage also found it difficult to turn to friends and family for help. A further 20.8% found it difficult to turn to services and organisations for help and support. In terms of everyday activities, 20% found it difficult to do everyday activities and 16.3% found it difficult to do things in public places with their friends such as going to shopping centres, sporting or music events.

These data demonstrate the impact of loneliness and social isolation, as well as its link to mental health issues. Young people who experience loneliness are more likely to experience social anxiety and depressive symptoms (VicHealth, 2019). Strategies and interventions that focus on good social health are shown to be good preventives to social isolation and feelings of loneliness.

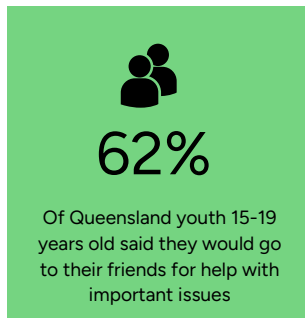
Loneliness



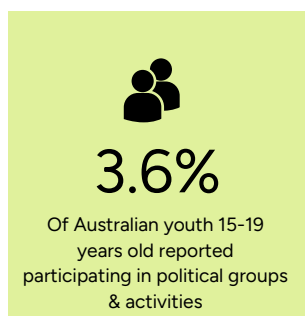
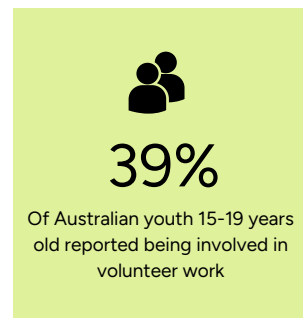
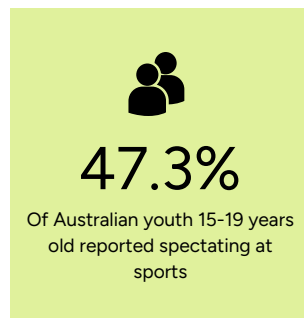
Socialising



Help seeking



Activities youth participate in





5.5 AOD

1 in 14 Fraser Coast youth have used illicit drugs.

According to the Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024, 1 in 14 youth 12-18 years old reported using illicit drugs. No data for Bundaberg region was available. On the same survey, 1 in 5 young people (20%) reported drinking alcohol with 89% saying it wasn't a problem for them, and 11% saying it was a problem for them. A further 83% said taking drugs was not a problem for them, and 17% said it was a problem. Additionally, 1 in 11 youth reported vaping or smoking with 65% saying it wasn't an issue for them and 35% reporting it was an issue for them.

In terms of treatment seeking in our local Primary Health Network (PHN) area for Central Queensland, Wide Bay & Sunshine Coast, 11.23% of total treatment episodes delivered by AOD support services, were delivered to 10-19 year old youth. This is similar to the 11.9% for Queensland youth. Of primary issues of concern for treatment, the top drugs of concern for Queensland youth 10-19 years old were cannabis (72.9%), alcohol (9.81%), amphetamines (5.4%) and nicotine (4.3%).

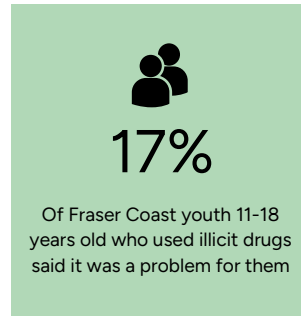
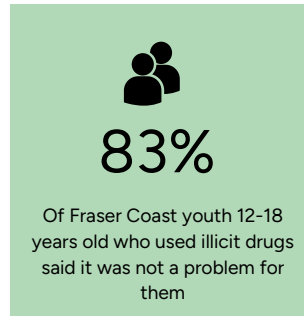
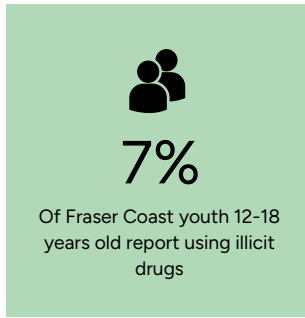
Further data from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2022-2023 shows that recent illicit drug use among young females has risen significantly with young females 18-24 years old now having the same rate of recent illicit drug use as young males (35%). Recent illicit drug use has also risen significantly for young females 14-17 years old who now have higher rates of recent illicit drug use than young males (17% compared to 10%). Particular drugs of concern are cannabis, rising from 20% in 2019 to 26% in 2022-23 for young females 18-24 years old. Recent use of cocaine has also escalated from 8% in 2019 to 11.9% in 2022-23 among young females 18-24 years old.

This highlights the need for targeted strategies particularly for female youth.

Alcohol



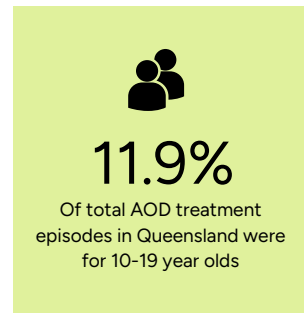
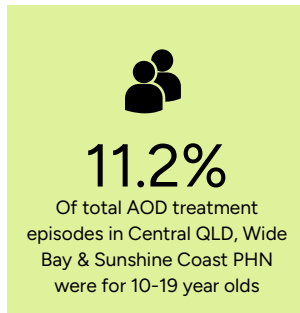
Illicit drugs



Smoking & vaping



AOD treatment & support



Sources:

Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024.

PHN AODTS NMDS Episode 6, 2022-23.

AODTS NMDS Table SC QLD 6.

AIHW Young people's use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes and other drugs, 2024.





5.6 Cost of Living

1 in 14 local youth have accessed food bank assistance.

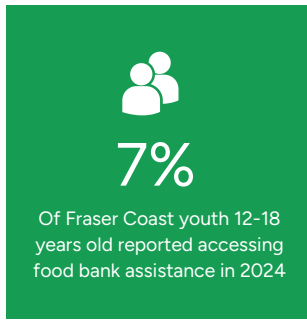
The Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024 revealed that 1 in 14 (7%) young people 12-18 years old reported they or their families had accessed food bank assistance (an increase of 2% from 2023). Cost of living is impacting many young people right across Australia with the nation-wide decline in living standards and the corresponding growth of poverty and inequality. In general, the cost of living crisis has had differential impacts, with lower-income Australians most severely affected in comparison to more well off Australians, which has resulted in increased inequality (The Australia Institute, 2024).

Young people are feeling the cost of living crisis most through their families. According to the Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2024, 35% (1 in 3) youth 15-19 years old reported their families had to be careful with money, and 18% (1 in 6) reported their families had trouble paying for things. Almost 1 in 3 (29%) listed financial difficulties as a barrier to them personally achieving their work and study goals. An approximate 1 in 25 (4.4%) reported their families had gone without a meal due to financial difficulties.

The Australian Youth Barometer 2024 supports these findings with 90% of young Australians experiencing financial difficulties over the last year and 32% experiencing financial difficulties often or very often.

As a nation-wide inflation and system issue, the cost of living crisis has no apparent solutions, with the cost of housing, utilities, groceries and everyday essentials continuing to rise disproportionately to wage growth, putting thousands of youth and their families in hardship. According to the Youth Barometer 2024 report, 61% of youth are pessimistic about their financial futures and believe they will be financially worse off than their parents. Young people's plans for securing their financial future include completing tertiary-level qualifications, finding stable employment, being frugal with spending and investing in stocks (Australian Youth Barometer, 2024). Until wages rise and costs decrease, young people need to be supported in financial literacy and understanding how to plan for their financial futures.

Food bank assistance



Cost of living worries



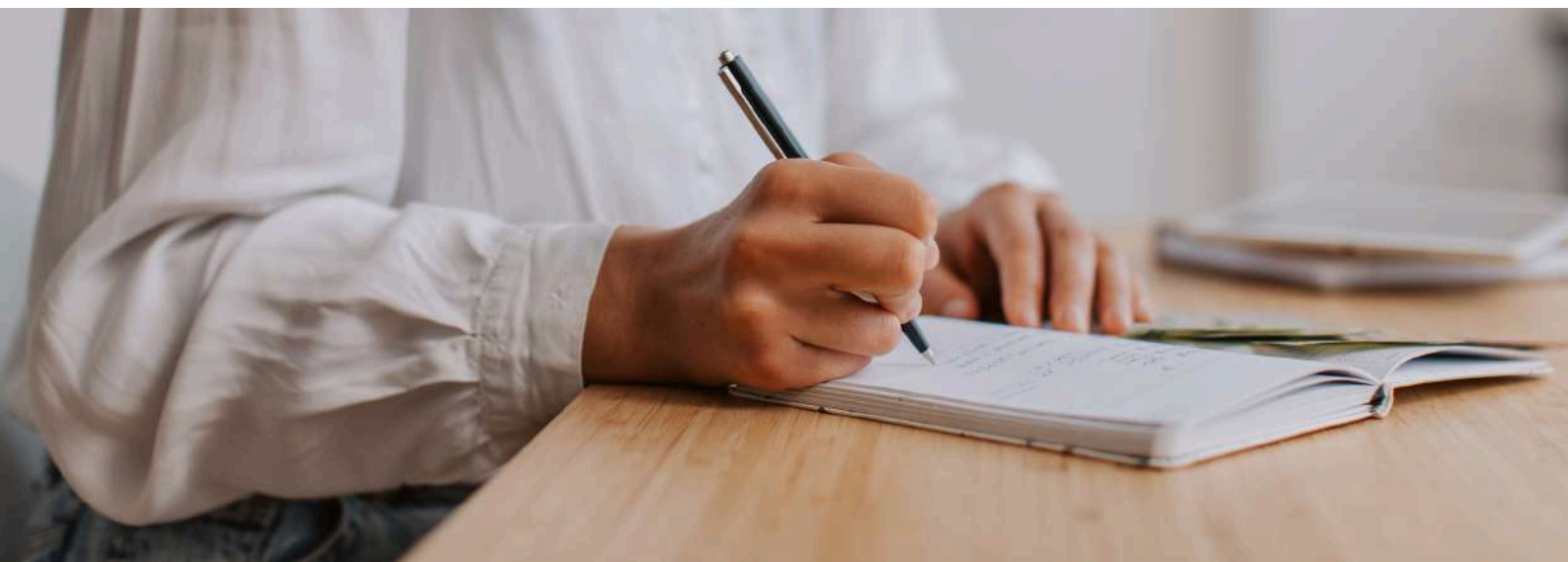
Financial difficulties



Sources:

Fraser Coast Youth Survey 2024.

Mission Australia National Youth Survey Report 2024.



Showcase- HERE Youth Program

Empowering Young People Across Bundaberg and Beyond

The HERE Youth Program, delivered by IMPACT Community Services, is dedicated to empowering young people up to 18 years old who are facing mental health challenges.

HERE provides early intervention and non-clinical psychosocial support to foster Hope, Empowerment, Resilience, and Enablement (HERE) for youth in Bundaberg.

What Makes HERE Unique?

- **Personalised Support:** Flexible assistance tailored to individual needs, available for three to twelve months.
- **Early Intervention:** Addressing mental health concerns before they escalate, helping young people stay connected to their families, schools, and communities.
- **Empowerment Focus:** Building resilience, hope, and life skills to equip young people with the tools to thrive.
- **Wide Reach:** Supporting youth in Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, Wide Bay, and Discovery Coast regions.

HERE also provides:

- Accessible and approachable youth workers dedicated to making a difference.
- Flexible timeframes to suit each young person's unique journey.
- Non-clinical, youth-focused support to address disconnection and isolation.



Find out more info here



SCAN ME



IMPACT
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Showcase- Peirson Services Teen Zone

Peirson Services Team offers Young People 8-21 years old support in many different areas of their life through Teen Zone. This support can be in the form of counselling and/or Youth Support Services to assist in areas such as Relationships, Well-Being, Life Skills, Education, and Employment.

- **Relationships:** Exploration of relationships may include looking at different types of relationships- unpacking trust and who you can or can't trust; what are boundaries?; identifying supports in your life and who you socialise with; identifying what is important in your life and whether or not what you are doing is helping you achieve this – or are there barriers in the way?
- **Wellbeing:** exploring self-care – what it means and how you make adjustments to include self-care in everyday life. It may look like building awareness of identity; who am I? Am I living my life for me, or somebody else?
- **Life Skills:** For some young people, life skills are not important, and choices around behaviour can be spontaneous and vary from day to day. Support may include looking at short, medium, and long term goals.
- **Education:** An exploration of education may involve looking at options around staying at school, such as alternative school pathways like Tom Quinn Community Centre, Burnett Youth Learning or TAFE. Peirson Services staff can support the young person to determine, "Is this school the right choice for me?"
- **Employment:** Employment is a pathway to independence. Staff can support young people in writing a resume, accessing programs, obtaining a birth certificate and setting up their own bank accounts.



Find out more info here



SCAN ME



Showcase- Youth First Aid Virtual Reality Program

The Youth First Aid Virtual Reality Program (YFA VR) aims to support youth to be confident in emergency situations.

YFA VR is an awareness building program designed to give young people basic knowledge of the most likely emergency situations youth find themselves in: overdose from the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, and injuries resulting from violence.

The program utilises virtual reality technology to lead youth through immersive emergency scenarios with best practice techniques demonstrated throughout the journey.

While the program primarily uses virtual reality technology, the program can also be completed on mobile phone and desktop like a game, making it highly accessible.

The innovative YFA VR program was developed by HBNC in partnership with the University of Queensland Rural Medical School Hervey Bay and funded by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation. It is run through the HBNC Youth Mentoring Program in collaboration with service providers and high schools in Hervey Bay.

Find out more info here



Showcase- YAP- Youth Assistance Program

The Youth Assistance Program (YAP) is designed to support Fraser Coast young people aged 15-18 who are seeking employment or further education and training opportunities. We work with youth who may be facing challenges that make it difficult to engage in these pathways, offering them the guidance and resources they need to overcome barriers and achieve their goals.

YAP provides support tailored to each young person's unique needs. The process begins with an in-depth conversation and "getting to know you" process, to understand the individual situation and aspirations. We then develop a personalised case plan that includes ongoing partnering and referrals to relevant services. Our goal is to empower young people to successfully gain and maintain employment, education, or training, setting them on a path to a brighter future.

Find out more info here



Showcase- Office for Youth: Digital Youth Hub

The Australian Government's Office for Youth Digital Youth Hub is an interactive website young people can access to find information on any kinds of supports they need including health and wellbeing, education and training, employment, life (income support, ,housing, tax & superannuation, myGov, voting and financial & money), and the environment.

The Digital Youth Hub and Office for Youth are run by government in collaboration with a Youth Steering Committee who advise on strategy and decision.

Find out more info here



Australian Government



Showcase- Reconnect Fraser Coast

Reconnect is an early intervention program designed to assist young people aged 12–18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. By stabilising their housing situation, strengthening family relationships, and enhancing engagement with education, employment, and the community, Reconnect fosters long-term wellbeing and resilience.

Support Reconnect provides includes:

Housing Stabilisation

- Assist young people in securing safe, stable, and sustainable housing.
- Provide early intervention to prevent homelessness.

Family Reconciliation

- Work with families to reduce conflict and improve communication.
- Help establish positive family relationships or viable support systems for independent young people.

Engagement with Education and Employment

- Support young people to re-engage with school, training, or work.
- Increase participation in community activities to enhance social connectedness and skills.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

- Foster resilience and self-sufficiency.
- Provide emotional and practical support to improve self-esteem and coping strategies.

Culturally and Contextually Supportive Approaches

- Deliver mediation, referrals, and group work tailored to individual needs.
- Build on the existing capacity of young people and families to address their unique challenges.



Find out more info here



SCAN ME



World Showcase- Global Summit

Amplifying youth leadership and accelerating global action.

The Global Summit is an initiative of Fora that delivers top-tier training, networking, and leadership opportunities that address the social and economic challenges young women and gender-marginalised youth face in local and international communities.

The Global Summit program brings young changemakers together to build their capacity to advocate for gender equity and make their voices heard in all spaces where decisions are made. Each year, 30 international Delegates are selected and connected with the skills, resources, and networks to amplify the reach of their gender equity, advocacy, and social impact initiatives. Delegates also have the opportunity to develop a Social Impact initiative to create and influence positive social change in their communities, which Fora support through the guidance of a customised social entrepreneurship curriculum and mentorship. From founding local non-profit organisations and community projects to advocating at the United Nations and other international forums for policy change, past Global Summit Delegates have gone on to advance gender equity and drive change in their communities around the world.

To be eligible to apply as a Global Summit Delegate youth need to be:

- Between the ages of 18 – 25 (you must be at least 18 years old at the time of application, and no older than 25 years old as of December 31, 2025)
- A woman or gender-marginalised youth
- Interested in developing a social impact initiative (or amplifying an existing one) to contribute to achieving gender equity in your region
- Excited about upskilling your advocacy and leadership, and connecting with a like-minded community of young trailblazers
- The Global Summit program is open to applicants from all countries. Applicants will apply under their respective Regional Group (Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America & Caribbean States, Western European & Other, and the Indigenous Peoples Group).



FORA NETWORK FOR CHANGE

Find out more info here



SCAN ME



World Showcase- Ship for World Youth Leaders

The Ship for World Youth (SWY) is a unique international youth exchange and leadership program that allows participants to challenge their comfort zones while learning leadership and cross-cultural communication skills.

Supported by the Government of Japan, this program provides youth from around the world the opportunity to come together to discuss common global issues, experience cultural exchange, and join seminars and workshops conducted by experts and the participants themselves. Participants also develop their skills through active involvement in running seminars, participating in on-board committees and engaging with different cultures.

By broadening global views and strengthening the spirit of international cooperation, the SWY program aims to cultivate the next generation of leaders who are ready to lead and contribute to globalised and diverse communities.

The SWY program changes every year. In recent years the program has included:

- Cultural exchange in a Japanese prefecture
- On-shore training in Tokyo - mixture of lectures, tutorials and excursions
- A multi-week voyage onboard the Nippon Maru cruise ship - continuing study and visiting various Japanese or global ports

SWY Australia recruits youth who:

- are leaders in their community
- are dedicated to building social cohesion
- are passionate about developing stronger global connections
- work well in groups and under pressure
- have a desire to learn about and engage with other cultures
- will represent Australia to the highest degree
- are emotionally intelligent and self-reflective
- will participate fully in all aspects of the SWY program
- commit to ongoing engagement with the alumni after completion of the program

Find out more info here

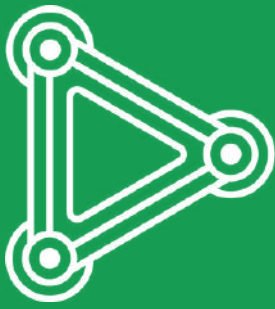


SCAN ME



“Young people need models, not critics”

-John Wooden



About the Social Shift Institute

The Social Shift Institute is committed to driving meaningful, community-led change through innovation. As the research and community development arm of HBNC, our focus is on empowering local communities by providing the tools, strategies, and support they need to address some of the most pressing social challenges.

In partnership with the Department of Social Services, we serve as a designated Brokerage Organisation for the Community-led Support Fund (CLSF). Through this fund, we help communities secure funding for impactful projects focused on mental health, family support, job readiness, and employment.

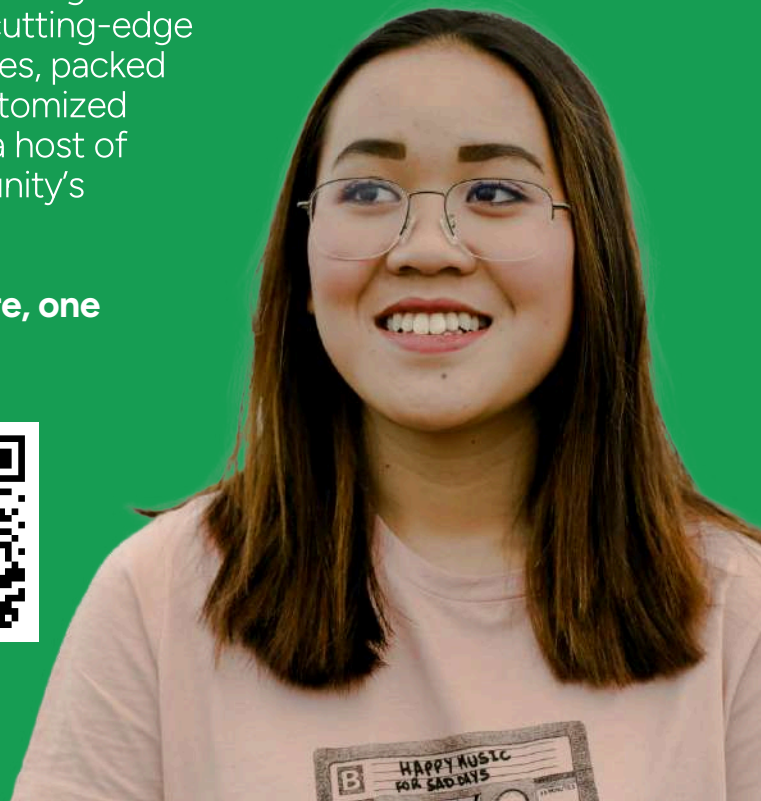
But we don't stop there. Together with local communities, we're building momentum with our Social Shifters workshops and activities—designed to build local capacity to solve real-world problems using the latest, evidence-backed strategies.

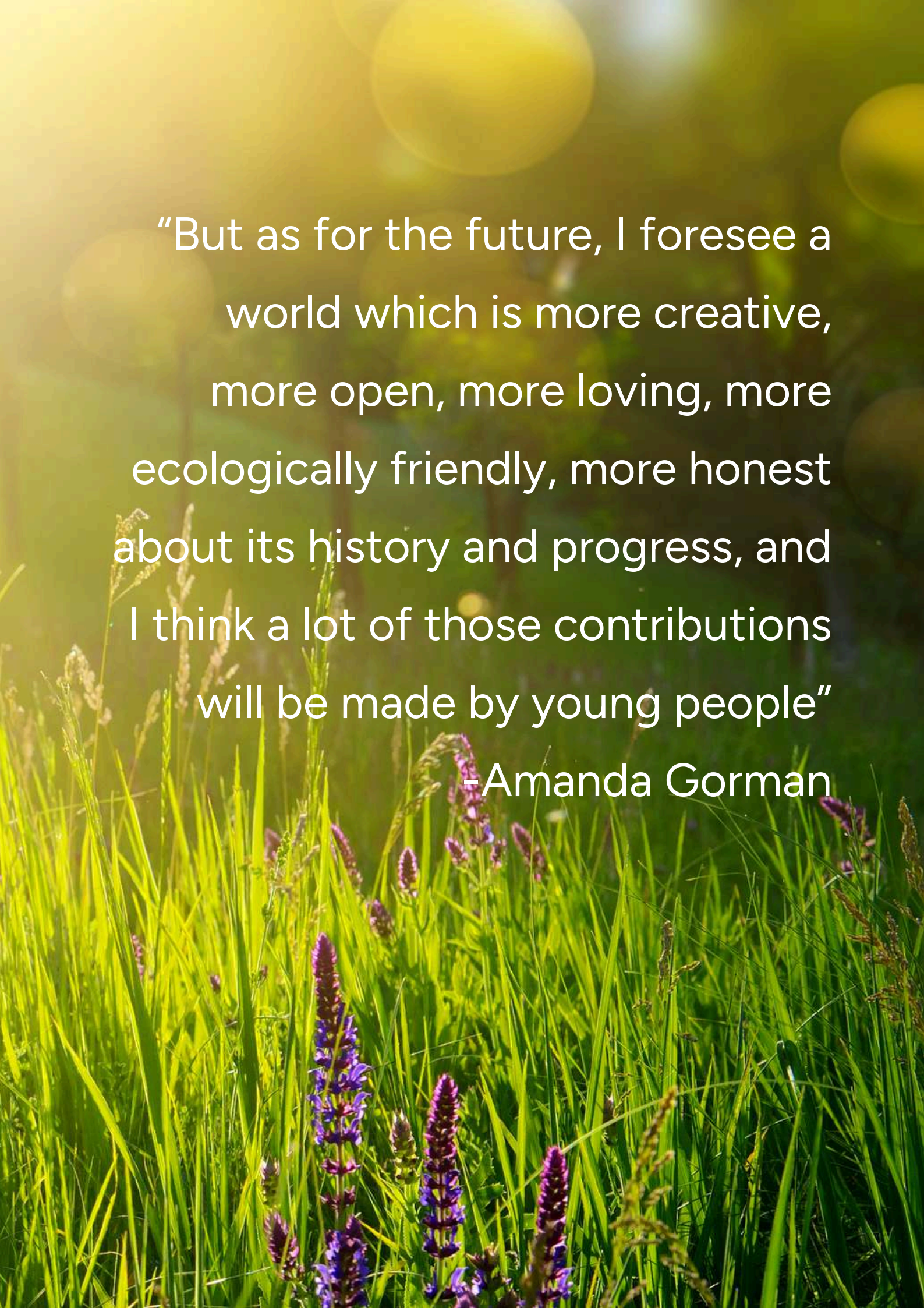
We're also always in motion, gathering data and conducting ongoing research. Our State of Reports and other publications help us track the evolving needs of our communities and spotlight key opportunities for action and collective impact.

And here's where things get even more exciting: We're currently developing the Social Vault—a cutting-edge library of innovative programs and resources, packed with ready-to-use toolkits that can be customized for any community. Get ready to tap into a host of resources that will accelerate your community's growth and success!

Join us in shaping our community's future, one social shift at a time!

Find out more:
www.socialshift.com.au



A vibrant, sunlit field of tall green grass with several purple flowers in bloom. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green with a bright sun in the upper left corner, creating a lens flare effect. The text is overlaid in white, centered in the upper half of the image.

“But as for the future, I foresee a
world which is more creative,
more open, more loving, more
ecologically friendly, more honest
about its history and progress, and
I think a lot of those contributions
will be made by young people”

-Amanda Gorman

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