



# MID WAY REVIEW OF THE

# CAMDEN

# YOUTH

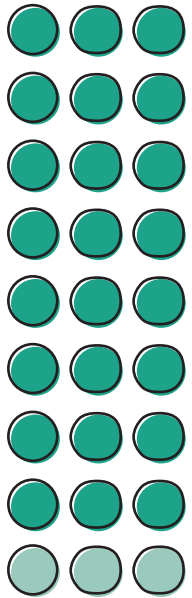
# STRATEGY

2022-2026



# STRATEGY IN REVIEW

The Camden Youth Strategy 2022-26 is currently at its mid-way point. Results indicate a trajectory towards exceeding the goals set forth within the strategy. Of the 27 actions identified, 24 are complete or on-going, 3 are on-track however, need attention and none are off track or incomplete.

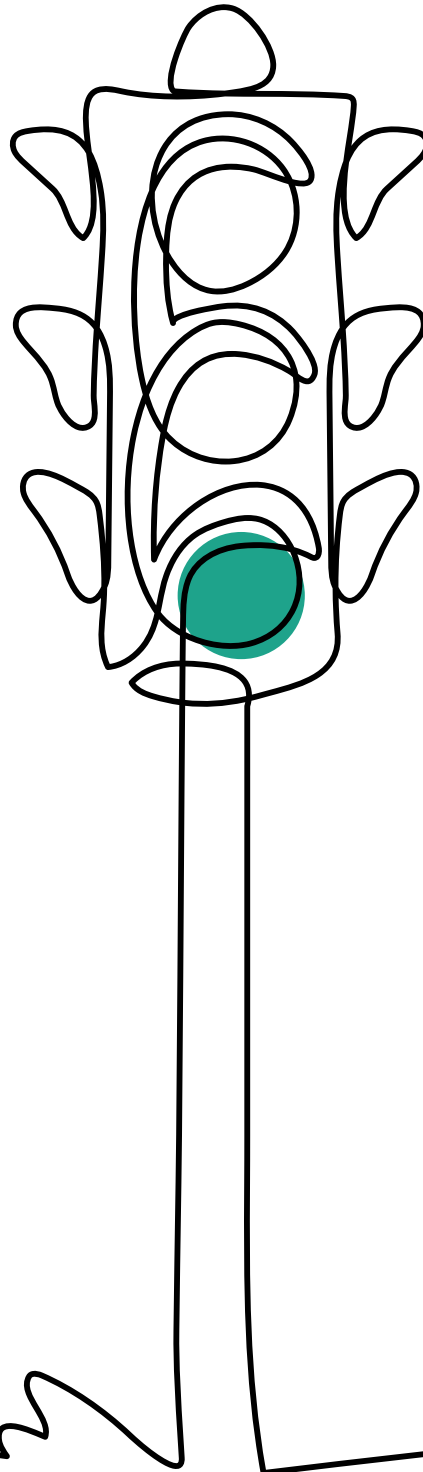


24

are complete  
or on-going

3

on-track



SEVERAL KEY  
HIGHLIGHTS  
HAVE BEEN  
ACHIEVED,  
INCLUDING:

OVER  
\$100,000

in successful grant applications received from the NSW State Government to deliver projects associated with this strategy. This funding enabled us to deliver the Camden Joblink Program, the Camden United Resilience Basketball program (CURB) and both the 2023 and 2024 Youth Week programs.

Camden Council remains committed to the young people of Camden, along with supporting the services, schools and local structures that support them. This document is designed to create transparency around the delivery of this strategy. Whilst also encouraging further collaboration between service providers, the three levels of government and residents when supporting Camden's young people.





5. SAFETY



1. YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



THE 5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

4. YOUTH VOICE AND EMPOWERMENT



2. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



3. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



# AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

## 2022 YOUTH WORK AWARDS:

OUTSTANDING USE OF DATA AND EVALUATION - CAMDEN COUNCIL YOUTH STRATEGY



## 2022 YOUTH WORK AWARDS:

YOUTH SERVICE OF THE YEAR - JULIA RESERVE YOUTH CENTRE



## 2023 ZEST AWARDS:

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP - JULIA RESERVE YOUTH CENTRE



## 2023 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK AWARDS:

BEST LOCAL YOUTH WEEK PROGRAM



## 2023 YOUTH WORK AWARDS:

OUTSTANDING YOUTH PARTICIPATION - CAMDEN JOBLINK PROJECT



## 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD:

HIGHLY COMMENDED, PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION CATEGORY - CAMDEN UNITED RESILIENCE BASKETBALL (CURB) PROGRAM



## 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK AWARDS:

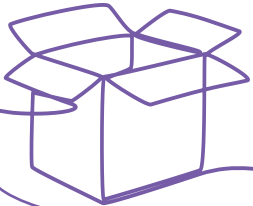
MOST INCLUSIVE YOUTH WEEK PROGRAM



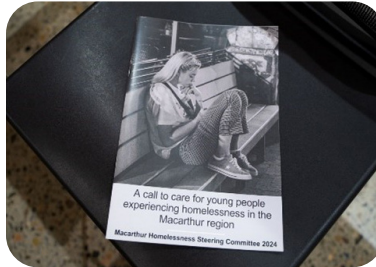
# STRATEGY SNAPSHOT

144 initiatives

have been delivered as part of this strategy (this does not include regular programming at Julia Reserve).



LAUNCHED



the Macarthur Youth Homelessness Advocacy Paper in partnership with Campbelltown Council, Wollondilly Council, Macarthur Legal Centre, Youth Solutions and the Macarthur Homelessness Steering Committee.

94%

of people who attended the Camden Multicultural Markets feel more connected to the Camden community.



*"As someone who is passionate and committed to ensuring all young people's presence and contributions to the Camden community is celebrated, being a part of the creation and implementation of the Camden Youth Strategy, has been an incredible opportunity. My involvement in this- as a young person and as Chair of the Camden Youth Reference Group- really highlights the commitment of this Strategy to be by young people, for young people..."* Joanna, Camden Youth Reference Group, Chairperson.



Development of multiple subcommittees to address key youth safety challenges across the Local Government Area (LGA), utilising the principles of asset based community development.

85%

of young people who attended Spotlighte reported learning about local mental health services.



100%

of HSC students who participated in the 'Paws for a Second' program reported feeling less stressed as a result of attending the program.



48

fully funded "Love bites" courses – Funded in partnership with The Y NSW as part of our profit share agreement to ensure the high schools across the Camden area have capacity to deliver this healthy relationship training.



ABOVE ARE SOME HIGH-LEVEL OUTCOMES THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED DUE TO SOME OF THE PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN DELIVERED AS PART OF THIS STRATEGY. THE REPORT WILL NOW EXPLORE SOME PROJECTS DELIVERED AS PART OF THE CAMDEN YOUTH STRATEGY 2022-2026 IN GREATER DEPTH.

# YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID INITIATIVE

## OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVE:

The Youth Mental Health First Aid initiative, is derived from action 1.4 of the Camden Youth Strategy.

*"Delivery of subsidised youth mental health training for young people, teachers or other people who directly support or are in regular contact with young people".*

Whilst the success for this action was set at the delivery of one course per year, this has significantly exceeded expectations. This initiative has seen fantastic outcomes with over 80 participants completing this course fully subsidised, with many additional spaces being made available over the next two years.

Participants, post event surveys, indicated positive outcomes as a result of the delivery of this course, as can be seen below:

## RESULTS:

80+ participants completed the course so far

The following scores are an average out of 5 and are based on a post-training self-reflection survey and indicates the success of this course:

How confident do you feel recognising signs of mental health problems	4.78
How confident do you feel approaching someone going through a mental health crisis	4.9
How confident do you feel asking someone if they are having suicidal thoughts	4.85
How confident are you to offer support and information about mental health	4.9
How confident are you to encourage access to support for mental health	4.8
How confident are you to recognise misconceptions about mental health	4.88

*"Very valuable and applicable to my role as Wellbeing Coordinator. I believe all people should do it." (May, 2024 Participant)*

*"Stella was knowledgeable and presented her extensive knowledge in a way that was easy to understand and extending my thinking and knowledge in a range of ways. She had a great style of presentation" (May, 2024 Participant)*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed learning in this course. I felt like I was pretty up to date on Mental Health in young people but there was a lot that I learnt and needed to know before helping kids in my school." (January 2024, participant)*



# SCHOOL SERVICES EXPO'S

The School Services Expo's were developed to raise awareness amongst young people for the services that are available to them in our local community. These expos came about due to the overwhelming number of young people who identified that they were unaware of the support services available and that awareness raising should take place within schools.

These expo's involved service providers attending schools to set up stalls and activities that aimed to raise awareness about their service and the supports they offer. Every student from within the school then had the opportunity to engage with the service, one-year group at a time.

So far, six school services expo's have taken place with plans to continue these throughout the life of the strategy. The six schools that have participated include:

- Elizabeth Macarthur High School;
- Oran Park High School;
- Camden High School;
- Mount Annan High School;
- Elderslie High School; and
- Oran Park Anglian High School.

## RESULTS :

4000+

Students



28

Service providers



86%



of students agreed or strongly agreed that the service expo was useful to them.

92%



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they are more aware of the services available to them in our local area because of the expo.

71%



of students agreed or strongly agreed that they are likely to reach out to one of the service providers that attended their expo if they needed support.

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THIS?

These results indicate a significant improvement in awareness and access to services for local young people. As young people identified a lack of awarenesses for services that can support them in the original youth strategy consultation, this demonstrates a significant improvement due to the delivery of these expos.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

We will continue to deliver these services expos throughout the life of the strategy, ensuring young people across the LGA have an improved awareness for the support available to them. Council, with the support of the Camden Youth Network, will also deliver a wellbeing expo outside of a school context to help educate the broader community about the services available for young people.



# CAMDEN JOBLINK PROGRAM

The Camden JobLink program was designed to provide direct links between young people and local employers. The program includes the delivery of the Career Expo events and fully subsidised training for local young people seeking employment.

The program was successfully funded in 2022/23 through the NSW Governments Youth Opportunities program. Council will continue to deliver subsidised training opportunities and career expo events throughout the remainder of the strategy to ensure youth employment remains a priority within Camden.



150+

young people trained in fully subsidised employment courses



81%

of young people who completed the barista course feel more confident in their ability to gain local employment



*"The day was very beneficial to our students, and we would love to bring more back next year!"* (Teacher, 2024 Camden Career Expo)



## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THIS?

The Camden JobLink program has created a direct link for young people to gain meaningful, local employment. The delivery of subsidised training opportunities and career expo style projects ensures young people are given more equitable access to the local workforce and economy.





# YOUTH WEEK

Youth Week is an annual celebration of young people. It is an opportunity to celebrate their contributions to our community, highlight their individual and collective strengths and connect young people to the Camden community. The Camden Youth Strategy action 3.4 demonstrates Council's commitment to this program.

3.4 Development of an annual comprehensive Youth Week program

## AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS :

- 2023 Local Government Week Awards: Best Local Youth Week Program
- 2023 Local Government Week Awards: Finalist Most Inclusive Youth Week Program
- 2024 Local Government Week Awards: Most Inclusive Youth Week Program
- 2024 Local Government Week Awards: Finalist Best Local Youth Week Program

## OUTCOMES :



2062

young people participated in the 2024 Camden Youth Week Program



100%

of young people would recommend the events to a friend in the 2024 Youth Week program.



86%

of young people felt more connected to the Camden community as a result of attending the 2024 Youth Week program.

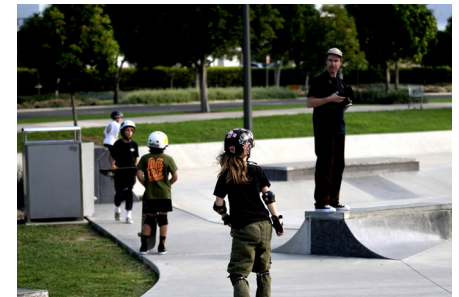


86%

felt celebrated as a local young person as a result of attending the 2024 Youth Week program.

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THIS?

The Camden Youth Week Program helps to connect, celebrate, and empower local young people. This annual program enables Council to uphold the third pillar of the Camden Youth Strategy of creating Community Connections.



# JULIA RESERVE YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Since the endorsement of this strategy, Council has identified the operational need to employ a full time Community Project Officer to support the delivery and expansion of the Julia Reserve Youth & Community Centre model. This investment has seen a significant flow on effect to improving the outcomes for young people within the LGA. Julia Reserve currently boasts the co-location of 16 youth services that provide holistic wrap around support for local young people. The centre has been featured in the NSW Governments Key Tenants of Good Youth Work report as a best practice model and has been featured as an exceptional example of youth participation by the office of the Advocate for Children and Young People.



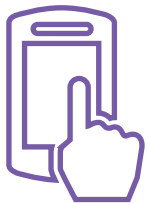
1000+

Occasions of service each month on average



98%

feel supported by the staff at the centre



87%

Feel they know about the services and programs that are available to them at Julia Reserve



94%

feel like the centre is an inclusive space for all young people



96%

Enjoy attending the centre



*Amazing place with amazing staff! Everyone that works here are so friendly and kind and never fail to make me happy and feel cared for...It is such an open community space that makes everyone safe.*

Female, aged 14



## KEY AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

- NSW Youth Service of the Year 2022
- 2023 Zest Awards: Outstanding Community Partnership



## WHAT ARE WE FOCUSING ON NEXT?

The Camden Youth Strategy (2022-2026) is on-track to exceed the actions set forth in the original strategy. Hence, there is an opportunity to focus on areas that require improvement and set new ambitious targets to support young people within the LGA.

The actions that have been identified as requiring additional attention in the second half of the delivery of this strategy, are:

- 1.5 Appropriate advertisement of youth mental health services through Council websites and social media platforms.*
- 2.1 Advertisement of local employment opportunities and services through a centralised hub.*
- 3.5 Ensuring young people can voice their opinions around local sustainability practices.*

Council also recently held a Principals' Forum which will guide new actions to support children and young people specifically in a schooling context, these actions include but are not limited to:

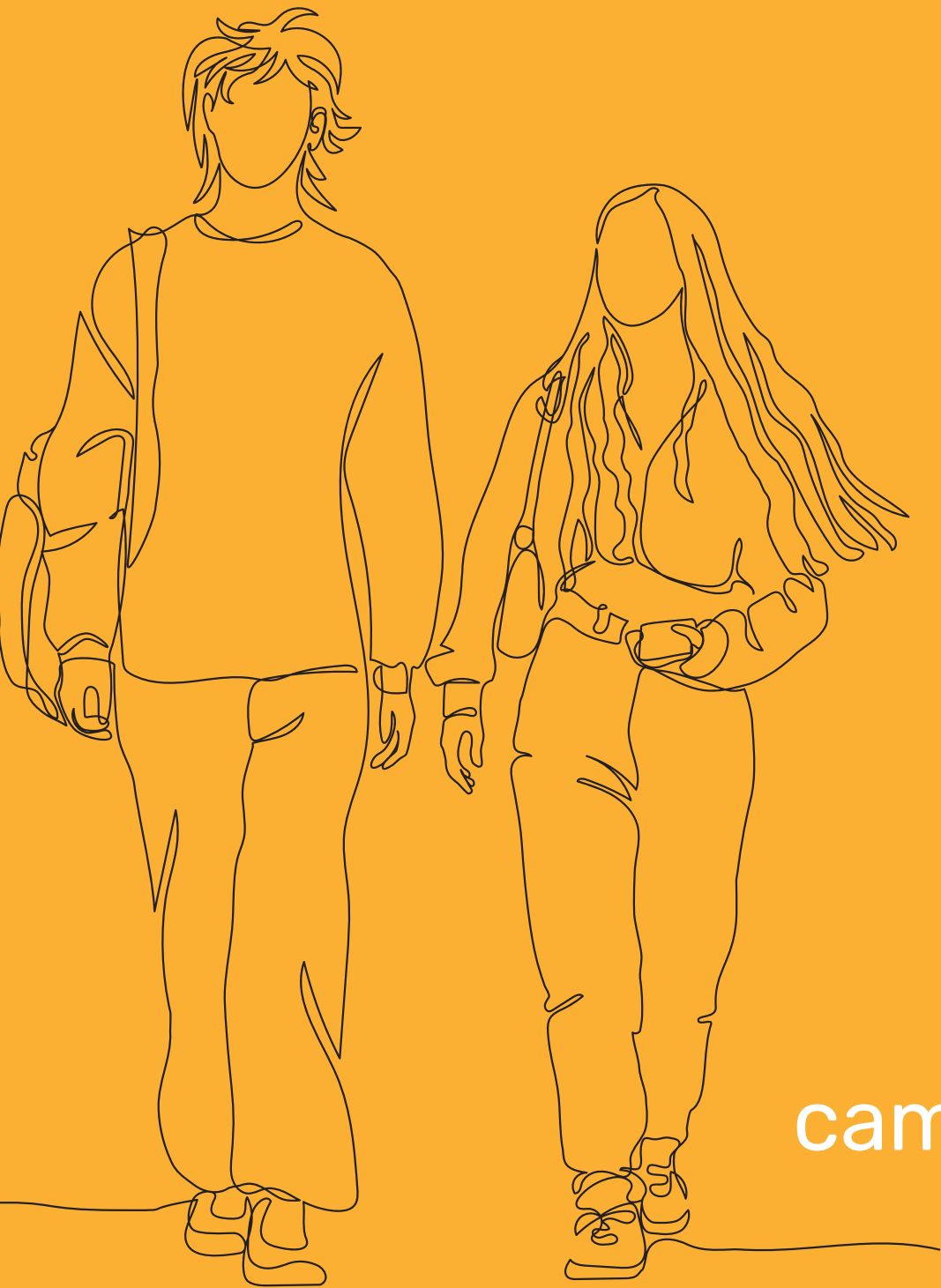
- i.) Development of a resource for schools listing all services available in the area to support families. To also include FREE and Low-Cost Programs that are available to connect young people to the Camden community.*
- ii.) Coordination of an annual parenting workshop at Julia Reserve Community Centre that is open and advertised through all local schools.*
- iii.) Development of a Mayor's award for school students for recognition of student engagement and other relevant attributes.*
- iv.) And more...*

## COMMUNITY INDICATORS

Throughout the remainder of this strategy, Council is committed to working towards the following community indicators.

- 1.) Young people in Camden have a say about things that impact them.
- 2.) Young people in Camden are safe, both at home and in our community
- 3.) Young people feel connected to the Camden Community.
- 4.) Young people in Camden have access to support and are aware of how to access support services.

However, to achieve these outcomes and to improve these indicators, we must work collaboratively. Council therefore encourages organisations, government agencies, community members and young people themselves to reach out to staff to see how you can contribute to this strategy and how to best support young people throughout the remainder of this strategy. To get in touch, please email [youth@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:youth@camden.nsw.gov.au) or call 13 22 63.



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