

# 2018 Metropolitan Partnerships Youth Forum

Summary Report





**This report has been prepared by Capire and DELWP and is an independent account of the discussions at the assembly.**

Unless otherwise stated, all feedback documented by Capire Consulting Group and any person(s) acting on our behalf is written and/or recorded during our program/consultation activities.

Capire staff and associates take great care while transcribing participant feedback but unfortunately cannot guarantee the accuracy of all notes. We are however confident that we capture the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during our consultation activities.

Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in our work represent those of the participants and not necessarily those of our consultants or our clients.

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# Executive Summary

The first Metropolitan Partnerships Youth Forum was held on Monday 7 May 2018 at the State Library of Victoria. It was an energetic day with 117 young people sharing their priorities and challenges for each of Melbourne's metropolitan regions.

After the 2017 Metropolitan Partnership Assemblies, it was recognised that a different format was required to engage people 15 -19 years of age; a dedicated youth forum during school hours. Young people were invited through schools and community groups, and their attendance was supported by teachers or youth workers.

The intent of the Youth Forum was to hear from young people about their priorities for their regions. It was also designed to build young people's knowledge about planning for Melbourne and the roles and responsibilities of the Victorian Government, Local Governments and the Metropolitan Partnerships.

Overall, the key finding from the Youth Forum was that while the 2017 Partnership priority outcomes resonated with young people, a few suggested changes can be made to ensure they reflect the views of Melbourne's young people. Participants focused on improving mental health, education about life skills, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability. They were less likely to identify the economy and new infrastructure as priorities.

There were similarities between the priorities for young people and the Partnerships' 2017 priority outcomes. This means that it is possible for the Partnerships to incorporate young people's priorities into their existing priority outcomes, through minor changes to the meaning and focus of each outcome.

Across all the activities the consistent messages from participants to the Partnerships were:

- to prioritise mental health services - make them accessible and relevant to young people
- to update secondary education curriculums to include life skills
- to make public transport more accessible and extend its reach (time and geography)
- to continue to include young people in government decision making processes, especially for decisions about young people and on big issues like climate change
- that cultural diversity and community connectedness is important.

Feedback from young people on the day was that they really enjoyed the Youth Forum, and having the chance to contribute to the future of Melbourne. In particular, they strongly agreed with the statement '*I feel that my ideas and opinions were listened to and will be considered*'.

*'I really enjoyed this opportunity to contribute my voice to the state of Victoria. Youth voice is, in my opinion, so important. We will be on this earth long after those who are currently making the decisions, so I appreciate this opportunity to have my say. Thanks.'* – Northern Region participant.





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# The Metropolitan Partnerships

The Victorian Government wants to better understand and respond to the needs of Melbourne's communities.

Over the next thirty-five years, Melbourne is projected to become Australia's largest city, with its population expected to almost double. A key challenge will be ensuring our suburbs are equipped for the future.

The Metropolitan Partnerships are advisory groups established by the Victorian Government in 2016. The Partnerships are a way for local communities to engage directly with state and local governments, and to advise the Victorian Government of the top priorities for jobs, services and infrastructure across each region.

There is a Metropolitan Partnership for each region of Melbourne, including Inner Metro, Inner South-east, Western, Northern, Eastern and Southern. Figure 1 shows the locations of each region.

Each Partnership is comprised of community and business representatives, the CEO of each local government in that region, and a Deputy Secretary from the Victorian Government.

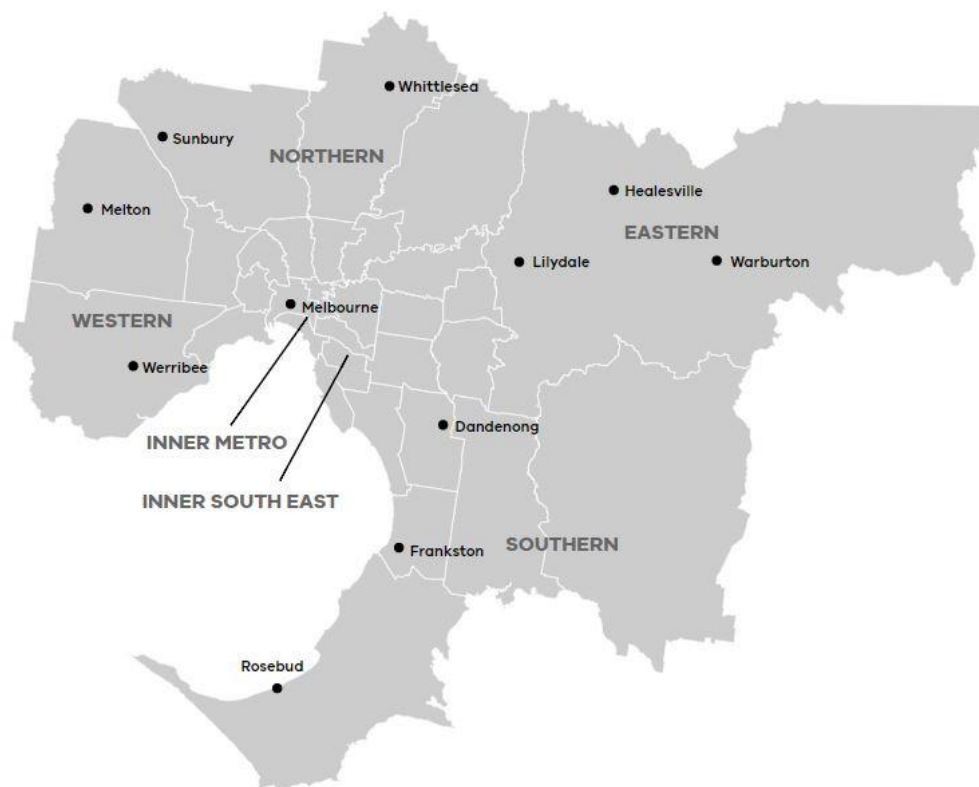


Figure 1: Map of Melbourne's regions



# The Metropolitan Partnerships Youth Forum

The first Metropolitan Partnerships Youth Forum (Youth Forum) was held on Monday 7 May 2018 at the State Library of Victoria, with 117 young people in attendance to share their challenges and priorities for Melbourne.

The Metropolitan Partnerships have committed to engaging young people in the annual Metropolitan Partnership Assemblies. However, young people (15-24 years of age) were underrepresented in the 2017 Assemblies, comprising of only 2 per cent of participants, compared to 13 per cent of the metropolitan Melbourne population.

In 2018, a new approach was taken to engage people 15 -19 years of age; a separate youth forum during school hours. Weeknight assemblies are difficult for school-aged young people to attend due to extracurricular activities and a reliance on parents and guardians for transport. Instead, young people were invited through schools and community groups, and their attendance was supported by teachers or youth workers. Effort will be made to increase participation from people aged 18 to 25 at the Metropolitan Partnership Assemblies for 2018. This group have more time flexibility and ability to travel to events and therefore should be able to attend the main Assemblies.

## What we hoped to achieve

The objectives of the Metropolitan Partnerships Youth Forum were:

- to support youth engagement through a more accessible format for people 15-19 years of age
- to educate and empower young people to engage with Melbourne and their regional challenges and opportunities
- to understand how current issues and priorities impact young people
- to collect feedback from young people about the priorities and outcomes put forward by the Partnerships
- to inform the Partnerships' advice to government.



The Minister for Suburban Development, the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, delivers the opening address.



## Overview of the day

The day's program was split into two sessions; exploring Melbourne's complex challenges all together and then identifying priorities in regional breakout sessions.

For the first part of the day, all participants were in one room on tables with a table host. They heard a short presentation on Melbourne's liveability and the challenges facing the city. Melbourne's liveability was then explored from a youth perspective by a panel of young people:

- Alex Nikolaou, Victorian Youth Congress
- Lizzy Kuoth, Inner South-east Partnership member
- Shabnam Safa, Southern Partnership member
- James Simondson, Office for Suburban Development, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The first part of the day concluded with table discussions about how Melbourne's challenges impact young people.

For the second part of the day participants were divided into their regional groups. These discussions took place in separate rooms around the State Library. In the regional breakouts participants learnt about their region and discussed what they love, what frustrates them and what they want to see improved. After lunch participants reviewed their Partnership's 2017 priority outcomes and provided their feedback. They were asked if the priority outcomes meet the needs of young people, and what other priorities were important for them.

The day concluded with participants sharing their top three priorities for their region with participants from all regions through a report-back session.

The Youth Forum agenda is included at Appendix 1.



# Who took part in the conversation?

The Youth Forum was attended by 117 young people from across Melbourne's six regions. Figure 2 shows that the Northern Region had the most representation, with 24 participants.

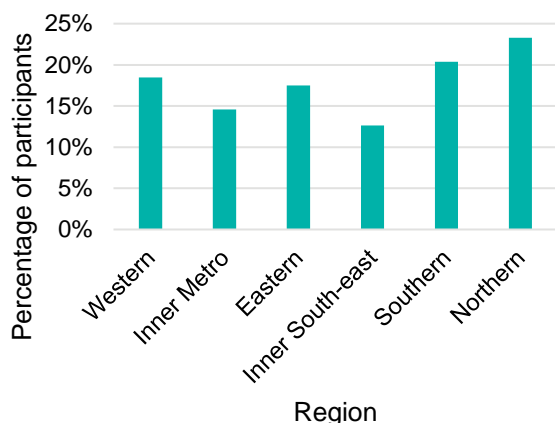


Figure 2: Number of participants per region (n=110)

## Age of participants

Figure 3 shows that participants were between the ages of 14 and 20, with the majority of participants aged between 16 and 18 years.

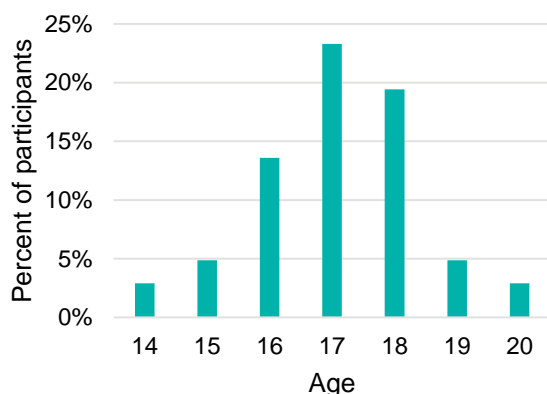


Figure 3: Age of participants (n=103)

## Schools and groups represented at the Forum

There were 58 schools and groups represented at the Youth Forum. These included:

- public and private schools
- religious and non-religious schools
- single sex and co-ed schools
- schools from all regions
- groups that represent young people such as youth councils.

A full list of schools and groups represented is provided at Appendix 2 and a map showing their location has been provided below (Figure 4).

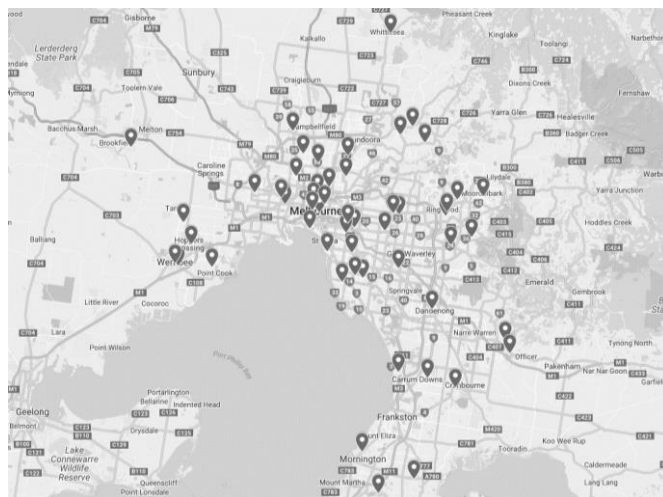


Figure 4: Map showing locations of schools and youth groups represented at the Youth Forum

## Who else attended?

The Youth Forum was facilitated by young people from Capire Consulting Group.

Other attendees included:

- Minister for Suburban Development the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, and Minister for Youth Affairs the Hon. Jenny Mikakos
- Partnership members and DELWP staff
- teachers and youth workers



# Melbourne's Complex Challenges

Following a panel session discussing liveability in Melbourne for young people, participants took part in table conversations about how Melbourne's complex challenges affect young people. This section of the report summarises participant's discussions about the following complex problems presented:

- climate change
- growing population
- technological disruption
- social inclusion
- other challenges raised by participants.

## ACTIVITY 1

### Table discussion: How do these challenges affect you and other young people?

Table hosts facilitated a conversation with participants about the complex problems facing Melbourne by asking the following question:

1. How do these challenges affect you and other young people?



## Climate change

Participants identified that young people would be affected by climate change in both direct and indirect ways. Direct impacts were described as those that affect young people physically, for example, heat stroke. Indirect impacts of climate change were discussed as things that would affect the places young people live, work and play.

Feedback from several table discussions was that community members in general have low awareness of climate change and its potential impacts.

Participants felt that their young age increases their vulnerability to future climate change impacts. They are frustrated that despite the large impact climate change will have on young people, they feel like they are not included in decisions about climate change mitigation.

Participants said that some impacts of climate change could be:

- increased frequency of droughts, and higher fire risk in outer suburbs
- limitations on food production, impacting food security
- threatened national parks, waterways and greenspaces
- higher temperatures leading to higher energy costs for cooling, dangers on public transport.

Many tables discussed the idea that the impacts of climate change would vary greatly depending on the geographical area in which young people live. For example, some areas have infrastructure and housing that is less suited to mitigating climate change impacts. Many participants also felt that climate change was likely to affect young people from lower socio-economic groups more than other young people.

## Growing population

The main impacts of a growing population identified by participants was the stress that will be placed on housing, transport and education.

Participants pointed out that more people looking for places to live would increase competition in a housing market with an already limited supply. For young people, this means increased unaffordability of housing, difficulty finding housing, unlikelihood of purchasing property and higher risk of becoming homeless.

Participants also felt that increased numbers of people would place pressure on existing transport infrastructure. More cars on the road would likely increase congestion and time delays as well as increase safety issues. Public transport may also become overcrowded causing uncomfortable travelling conditions, longer journey times and the likelihood of not being able to get to school and work on time, especially during peak hour.

A key impact for many participants was that a growing population would intensify demands on local schools. They felt that schools were already becoming overcrowded with large class sizes, demountable classrooms and limited outdoor space. This will impact young people because they will experience more competition to get into 'top' or 'suitable' schools which could lead to unequal access to quality education.

Other impacts of a growing population identified by participants were:

- fewer employment opportunities due to high levels of competition
- food and water shortages and higher prices
- gaps in the provision of services such as healthcare
- increased levels of waste and water pollution
- higher levels of crime
- misuse of resources especially land
- environmental destruction
- over development
- gentrification and unequal development.



Participants said that the main positive impact of a growing population would be the increase in cultural diversity across Melbourne. Population increase and the money it brings could also create opportunities for innovation, sustainable building, increased use of renewable energy and potentially more money to invest in public housing and education.

## Technological disruption

The key effects of technological disruption on young people related to social, privacy and employment issues for the participants. Many participants felt that as technology becomes a bigger part of day-to-day life there will be less opportunity to engage with others face-to-face. Without this chance to connect in 'real time', young people may become distant from friends and relatives and may experience more mental health issues. Mental health issues could include addiction to mobile devices, lack of sleep, never being able to 'switch off', procrastination and FOMO (fear of missing out).

Many participants discussed the importance of social media for young people's identity and flagged online bullying and invasion of privacy as having the potential to significantly impact mental health.

Several participants felt that technological disruption could have impacts on the availability of employment opportunities for young people in the future. They are concerned that robots and computers have the potential to replace humans in jobs.

Other participants were concerned that small local businesses, which are currently an employment source for young people, may shut down as online businesses take over. There was also concern that education was not 'keeping up' with advancement of technology.

Other impacts of technological disruption discussed by participants were:

- distraction, for example looking at a mobile device instead of the road
- education loses touch with 'traditional subjects' such as arts and philosophy
- overreliance and dependency on technology
- political disruption, for example when confidential information is leaked.

To minimise the negative impacts of technological disruption, participants suggested that the government provide more education about digital use. This could help young people understand how to prevent digital products from 'taking over your life', how to be safe online and how to address the privacy challenges of social media.

Participants also said that technology has the potential to have many positive effects on young people's lives in the future by creating more efficiencies and by making information and knowledge easily accessible.



## Social inclusion

Most participants felt that living in a socially inclusive Melbourne was very important. Social inclusion was discussed as occurring on many levels - for example, economic status, culture, religion, gender, age and ability. Many participants also recognised the geographical nature of social exclusion, discussing gentrification and differences between suburbs and regions.

Participants said that young people who are part of an excluded community or group may experience one or all of the following: less access to education opportunities, lower chances of employment, feel disempowered, be more likely to experience domestic violence and have a higher likelihood of mental health issues such as depression.

Young people who live in communities that are not very socially inclusive may have limited understanding of other cultures and religions, be more likely to stereotype people they feel are different and are less likely to celebrate multiculturalism.

Participants at several tables discussed ways of increasing social inclusion in Melbourne. These ideas included:

- the use social media to spread knowledge and positive stories about people seen as 'different' and connect people from different places
- to encourage interaction by creating safe spaces and culturally diverse areas
- to increase education in schools about the diverse nature of communities for example by providing information about Aboriginal culture, different religions and LGBTIQ+ communities
- to promote social services to support people who are feeling excluded.

## Other challenges affecting young people

Conversations about other challenges faced by young people touched on a wide variety of issues including:

- Mental health - stigma attached to depression, suicide as a taboo subject, limited awareness and education about it and not enough support for young people with a mental illness
- Inequality based on gender, social and economic status or geographical location
- Education opportunities are not equal, for example public versus private
- Cost of living increasing, for example unhealthy food is generally cheaper than healthy food
- Leading a healthy lifestyle, for example eating 'the right' foods and finding time to exercise
- Safety, including feeling unsafe on public transport or on the street, women's safety, and 'catcalling'.
- Drug and alcohol dependency
- Unfair law enforcement, for example stigmatisation of young people based on race
- Health care - not enough services, not culturally aware, unequal access
- Youth representation - current politicians are not in touch with the actual voice of youth, youth being dismissed as 'too young to have a say'
- Limited public transport in outer suburbs, for example no buses on weekends.



# Exploring the regions

During the first breakout session participants reflected on the metropolitan region in which they go to school. This section of the report summarises participant's discussions about what they love, find frustrating and would like to improve Melbourne's regions.

## ACTIVITY 2

### Breakout session #1: Exploring the regions

The Metropolitan Partnership member delivered a presentation about the region and its priorities and then participants discussed what they:

- love about their region
- find frustrating about their region
- would like to see improved or new.



## Inner Metropolitan Region

Participant discussions about the Inner Metropolitan Region are summarised in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 5.

Table 1: What participants love, find frustrating and would like to improve about the Inner Metropolitan Region

| Love   | Frustrate   | Improve  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the diversity</li> <li>being 'the hub of everything'</li> <li>easy access to nature: river and beach, greenery, walking tracks</li> <li>public transport</li> <li>places of education</li> <li>public spaces: libraries, parks, gardens</li> <li>culture: food and drink, markets, entertainment, music, arts</li> <li>health resources and services</li> <li>diverse employment opportunities</li> <li>access to government services</li> <li>opportunities for citizen participation: open spaces, events and festivals</li> <li>availability of public housing</li> </ul> <p><i>'Good access to public transport.'</i></p> <p><i>'Great to be the centre of an exciting city.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public transport: availability, reliability, fees and lack of cross town connections</li> <li>traffic: congestion, speeding, noise pollution and unsafe hook turns</li> <li>lack of street lights</li> <li>drugs and crime</li> <li>poor cycling and pedestrian infrastructure</li> <li>destruction of public housing</li> <li>high density development</li> <li>inefficient and expensive housing</li> <li>lack of student accommodation</li> <li>limited indigenous representation</li> <li>selective government support</li> <li>waste pollution</li> <li>limited number of open spaces</li> <li>large homeless population</li> <li>cost of living</li> <li>limited employment opportunities</li> </ul> <p><i>'Melbourne is very centralised, it would be good if there were more things like VSL language centres in the less central, more suburban areas.'</i></p> <p><i>'Dangerous at night – poor lighting.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public transport: availability, reliability, fees and lack of cross town connections</li> <li>traffic management</li> <li>street lighting at night time for safety</li> <li>provide safer cycling and pedestrian infrastructure</li> <li>greener public areas /spaces/ parks</li> <li>environmental sustainability: electric cars and taxis, building materials, urban planning</li> <li>environmental management: protect the ozone layer, decrease greenhouse gases</li> <li>opportunities for use of vacant buildings in CBD.</li> <li>inner city housing affordability</li> <li>more student accommodation</li> <li>access to public toilets</li> <li>community engagement opportunities</li> <li>support of local artists</li> <li>indigenous place names for public areas</li> <li>facilities for the homeless</li> <li>free wi-fi access</li> <li>improved access for people with a disability</li> </ul> <p><i>'Safety for pedestrians and cyclists.'</i></p> <p><i>'Green the CBD such as more mini parks or gardens.'</i></p> |



## Inner South-east Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about the Inner South-east Metropolitan Region are summarised in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 6.

Table 2: What participants love, find frustrating and would like to improve about the Inner South-east Metropolitan Region

| Love   | Frustrate   | Improve   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ease of access to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>youth services</li> <li>nature: greenery, parks, beach</li> <li>hospitals</li> <li>facilities: shops, restaurants</li> <li>public transport</li> </ul> </li> <li>friendly and inclusive community</li> <li>safe</li> <li>free public activities: art, galleries, nature</li> <li>cultural diversity</li> <li>large number of food and drink options</li> <li>clean beaches</li> </ul> <p><i>'Great schools with high level of education.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public transport is often unreliable, especially buses but sometimes trams and trains</li> <li>difficult to access beach via public transport</li> <li>traffic congestion: level crossings</li> <li>limited cultural diversity in community conversations and council representation</li> <li>lack of support for young people around gender, racial discrimination, and mental health</li> <li>limited funding for public schools</li> <li>lack of equal opportunity based on socio economic status</li> <li>limited access to affordable food</li> <li>difficult to access healthcare</li> <li>lack of community spirit</li> <li>housing unaffordability</li> <li>negative branding of the region as 'bad'</li> <li>high rise housing development</li> </ul> <p><i>'Healthcare, housing and basic education should be accessible to everyone.'</i></p> <p><i>'Limited diversity, no conversation about first Australians.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public transport: availability, reliability and connectivity – more train stations, more trams</li> <li>cycling infrastructure</li> <li>road rules</li> <li>professional development and training for teachers to understand up to date student related sensitivities</li> <li>racial and gender discrimination</li> <li>funding for public schools</li> <li>drug and alcohol control in private and public sphere</li> <li>equal opportunities in education</li> <li>indigenous representation</li> <li>graffiti and street art</li> </ul> <p><i>'Provide separate gender-neutral bathrooms for transgender and non-binary individuals who cannot use disabled bathrooms.'</i></p> <p><i>'Better funding for public schools like in Glen Eira.'</i></p> |

## Western Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about the Western Metropolitan Region are summarised in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 7.

Table 3: What participants love, find frustrating and would like to improve about the Western Metropolitan Region

| Love   | Frustrate   | Improve  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community: good vibes diverse, multicultural</li> <li>variety of shops and facilities: culturally diverse foods, arts</li> <li>community facilities: sporting, libraries, youth centre, community youth spaces</li> <li>access to education opportunities</li> <li>public transport</li> <li>nature: parks and green spaces</li> <li>the nyep 10ew health ward</li> <li>western treatment plant</li> <li>the zoo</li> <li>housing</li> </ul> <p><i>'I love how culture is big, making the Western suburbs very culturally diverse.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public transport: availability, reliability, lack of cross town connections</li> <li>parking</li> <li>traffic congestion</li> <li>high density population and housing</li> <li>unaffordability of housing, facilities</li> <li>centralisation: main shops in CBD not in suburbs</li> <li>lack of youth community activities, especially on the weekend</li> <li>false image of region being 'safe and rich'</li> <li>youth crime: fights on train stations, disrespect to elders, bullying</li> <li>access to public health care</li> <li>lack of renewable energy and solar panel initiatives</li> <li>rubbish and pollution: not enough public bins</li> </ul> <p><i>'The stigma attached to living in the West just because of the West's history damages self-confidence of people who are financially unstable and require assistance.'</i></p> <p><i>'Nothing to do on the weekend.'</i></p> <p><i>'There are so many sporting facilities and places to improve health but they are not affordable.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public transport: availability, reliability, buses, frequency</li> <li>traffic: congestion, safety, traffic lights</li> <li>parking</li> <li>homelessness</li> <li>awareness about youth programs and services to youth</li> <li>access to sporting opportunities: more tennis courts, improve affordability</li> <li>safety: more security in schools, make streets and public transport safer for young woman at night</li> <li>access to health care</li> <li>access to healthy food options</li> <li>number of green spaces, trees and parks</li> <li>access to education</li> <li>access to diverse shops and facilities in all parts of the region</li> <li>over development: apply cap to new apartment numbers</li> <li>employment opportunities for young people</li> <li>stigma of the region</li> <li>environmental sustainability: renewable energy, recycling, pollution</li> </ul> <p><i>'I feel like the road needs to be wider between streets.'</i></p> <p><i>'More healthy restaurants should be available.'</i></p> <p><i>'Access to quality education at an affordable price. Schools are zoned and kids are being made to wait.'</i></p> |



## Northern Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about the Northern Metropolitan Region are summarised in Table 4 and illustrated in Figure 8.

Table 4: What participants love, find frustrating and would like to improve about the Northern Metropolitan Region

| Love  | Frustrate  | Improve   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>people centred community</li> <li>diverse and multicultural</li> <li>local/independent businesses</li> <li>community facilities: pools, community centres</li> <li>public spaces: parks, trails, open spaces</li> <li>country areas</li> <li>location: close to both the city and nature</li> <li>access to youth groups and hubs</li> <li>near education facilities</li> <li>variety of facilities and activities: food, restaurant, shops, entertainment</li> <li>access to public transport</li> <li>ease of access to medical facilities; hospitals, mental health</li> <li>prospect of East Link project</li> <li>broad awareness about environmental sustainability</li> <li>safe atmosphere</li> </ul> <p><i>'The ability to move around quite easily, especially into the CBD.'</i></p> <p><i>'Diverse and creative community, lots of practising artists creating successful creative businesses and social enterprises.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public transport: availability, reliability, fees and lack of cross town connections</li> <li>traffic congestion especially around level crossings</li> <li>parking difficulties</li> <li>east link project</li> <li>limited number of allied health care services and lack of alliance with GP's</li> <li>lack of mental health education and support for young people</li> <li>family violence</li> <li>levels of crime</li> <li>discrimination</li> <li>distance to hospitals</li> <li>waste pollution</li> <li>access to nature</li> <li>limited employment opportunities leading to high youth unemployment</li> <li>rapidly increasing population and housing density</li> <li>over development and lack of sustainable housing options</li> <li>youth homelessness</li> <li>inequity in access to education</li> <li>streetscapes: maintenance, access to nature strips</li> </ul> <p><i>'Support groups for LGBTIQ+ community and people with mental health issues.'</i></p> <p><i>'Nature strips: Who's is it? I can't touch it!'</i></p> <p><i>'The amount of people we're trying to cram in to a small place.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>buses and trains: frequency and availability in the north of the region</li> <li>transport costs: free Myki cards for young people</li> <li>cleanliness of public transport</li> <li>traffic congestion: provide alternative routes to main roads, co-ordinate road works across the region to minimise disruption</li> <li>streets: more street lights, put powerlines underground</li> <li>parking availability</li> <li>cycling infrastructure</li> <li>availability and access to allied health care and community services: access to non-religious counsellors, more youth services</li> <li>school curriculums: update to include education on acceptance and tolerance, as well as guidance on business ownership and entrepreneurship</li> <li>domestic violence: increase awareness and educate about how to prevent</li> <li>youth homelessness</li> <li>social inclusion: host more community events to build relationships and connections</li> <li>arts and cultural activities</li> <li>education equality</li> <li>youth employment: increase employment opportunities, provide youth employment services and opportunity to develop skills</li> </ul> |

- governance: transparency, communication between council and community, listen to community, more youth forums
- housing affordability
- environmental sustainability: clean energy
- Emergency preparedness including road infrastructure to support residents in times of emergency eg. during a bushfire

*'Need more allied healthcare professionals in the area and to have them easily accessible.'*

*'Family violence; there needs to be places to go whilst not having a feeling that you are going to be judged but also having someone that is going to do something about it.'*





## Eastern Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about the Eastern Metropolitan Region are summarised in Table 5 and illustrated in Figure 9.

Table 5: What participants love, find frustrating and would like to improve about the Eastern Metropolitan Region

| Love  | Frustrate   | Improve   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>close to the city</li> <li>number of bus stops and frequency of public transport</li> <li>close to nature: national parks, forests, wildlife, beach</li> <li>access to education opportunities</li> <li>community facilities: libraries, sports clubs</li> <li>proximity to east link</li> <li>access to shops, restaurants, diverse food</li> <li>community services that promote wellbeing and interaction</li> <li>bicycle paths</li> <li>feeling of community</li> <li>safe with low crime rates</li> <li>progressive vibes: new buildings, employment opportunities</li> </ul> <p><i>'I love how the Eastern region is very easily accessible to the stuff we need.'</i></p> <p><i>'Access to nature, parks and amenities.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>social inclusion: not many events, limited face-to-face socialising, feeling excluded from the community</li> <li>public spaces disappearing as more apartments appearing</li> <li>poor cycling infrastructure</li> <li>housing unaffordability</li> <li>limited public transport on the weekend</li> <li>traffic congestion</li> <li>feeling unsafe: public transport stations and stops, limited number of police and paramedics, public drinking</li> <li>stigma attached to young people on the region</li> <li>limited opportunities for legitimate youth input into decision making</li> <li>community facilities: libraries overcrowded</li> <li>climate change inaction</li> </ul> <p><i>'Lack feeling of safety and security.'</i></p> <p><i>'Public transport during extreme weather- trams break down every time its gets hot. This is only going to get worse with climate change and I do not want to have to endure that.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public transport connectivity to the city: more frequent buses, trams and trains</li> <li>street lights</li> <li>traffic safety: longer green lights for turning</li> <li>youth and community spaces/facilities</li> <li>education: cost, education on current social issues, more cultural programs, teacher's pay and resources, cultural representation in teachers</li> <li>youth access to training, information and resources</li> <li>healthcare, especially mental health</li> <li>gap between young people and adults</li> <li>crime: increase police presence and preventative measures for youth crime, improve youth rehabilitation programs</li> <li>waste and pollution: public bins</li> <li>shopping facilities: update, modernise</li> </ul> <p><i>'Tougher penalties for youth related crimes.'</i></p> <p><i>'More safe and accessible areas for young people to spend time.'</i></p> |

## Southern Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about the Southern Metropolitan Region are summarised in Table 6 and illustrated in Figure 10.

Table 6: What participants love, find frustrating and would like to improve about the Southern Metropolitan Region

| Love  | Frustrate  | Improve  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>location near both the beach and city</li> <li>access to education</li> <li>shops and activities: food, restaurants, markets, festivals, shops, entertainment</li> <li>access to nature: parks, gardens, national park</li> <li>variety of educational opportunities</li> <li>support and guidance at school</li> <li>community facilities: pools, community centre</li> <li>the community: friendly, diverse, multicultural</li> <li>local and independent businesses</li> <li>available land</li> <li>artistic and creative opportunities</li> <li>public transport</li> <li>opportunities to be heard: youth forums</li> <li>police presence makes it feel safe</li> </ul> <p><i>'Multicultural, how diverse it is.'</i></p> <p><i>'Love the access to education, it allows me to learn and improve.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>frequency of buses</li> <li>congestion at level crossings</li> <li>school: teacher student gap, capped classes, learning support</li> <li>limited diversity and mix of cultures</li> <li>housing unaffordability</li> <li>limited employment opportunities</li> <li>homelessness</li> <li>drug and alcohol use</li> <li>access to healthcare</li> <li>lack of mental support for youth</li> <li>lack of environmental sustainability focus: wind turbines, no more dredging, solar presence</li> </ul> <p><i>'Lack of funded support systems for struggling youth i.e. school drop outs, youth homelessness.'</i></p> <p><i>'So much land for clean energy and not doing anything with it.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>education: number of public schools, choice of elective subjects, less focused on stem</li> <li>community knowledge: mental health, special needs, LGBTQI+ community</li> <li>lack of gender neutral bathrooms</li> <li>social inclusion: acceptance and understanding, religion, sexual orientation, race</li> <li>youth engagement entertainment, cultural opportunities community facilities</li> <li>access to mental health support and services for young people</li> <li>access to healthcare for gender diverse patients</li> <li>housing unaffordability</li> <li>homelessness</li> <li>drug issues</li> <li>employment opportunity</li> <li>public transport: broaden bus routes, increase train frequency, improve efficiency and speed</li> <li>wildlife protection</li> <li>climate change mitigation: promote renewable energy</li> <li>education on recycling</li> </ul> <p><i>'Improve on knowledge about special needs and LGBTQI+ community.'</i></p> |



# Young people's priorities

## ACTIVITY 3

### Breakout session #2: Does the 2017 advice to government reflect the needs of young people in the region?

Participants reviewed and discussed the 2017 Partnership priority outcomes and responded to the following questions:

- What are your initial reactions to the advice from last year?
- Do these priorities reflect the priorities and needs of young people in the region?
- If you could add one priority outcome to the advice for 2018, what would it be?

At the end of the session, participants voted for their top three future priorities for the region and could vote for their Metropolitan Partnership's priority outcomes as well as all of the additional priority outcomes suggested by participants.

This section of the report provides an overview of participant's reactions to the 2017 Partnership priority outcomes and provides advice on potential priority outcomes for 2018.

Table 7 includes the top priority outcomes for young people by region. These are detailed further in the following pages.

Table 7: Top priorities for young people in each region (110 participants took part in the voting activity).

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Inner Metro</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• rough sleeping and housing affordability</li><li>• mental health</li><li>• cycling and pedestrian safety</li></ul> | <b>Inner South-east</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an inclusive curriculum</li><li>• affordable and social housing</li><li>• environmental sustainability</li></ul> |
| <b>Western</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• violence and bullying awareness and resources</li><li>• drugs and alcohol</li><li>• homelessness</li></ul>             | <b>Northern</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• health and wellbeing</li><li>• education pathways</li><li>• life skills resources and support for young people</li></ul> |
| <b>Eastern</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• education</li><li>• public safety</li><li>• environmental sustainability</li><li>• mental health</li></ul>             | <b>Southern</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• mental health</li><li>• life skills</li><li>• housing</li></ul>  |

## Inner Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about priority outcomes for the Inner Metro region are illustrated in Figure 5 and summarised in Table 8. The priority outcomes are listed in order of highest votes received, and include young people's comments and observations on most of the Metropolitan Partnership's priority outcomes for 2017.

The top three priorities identified by young people for the Inner Metropolitan Region, highlighted in blue in Table 8, were:

- rough sleeping and housing affordability (12 votes)
- mental health services (9 votes)
- cycling and pedestrian safety (8 votes).

Table 8: Young people's priorities for the Inner Metro region

| Metropolitan Partnership Priority outcomes 2017   | Young people's priorities at the Youth Forum   | Votes |
|---|--|-------|
| <b>Rough sleeping and housing affordability</b><br>500 people who are currently rough sleeping exit homelessness into long term accommodation, and do not return to homelessness because they continue to receive the support they need.<br><br>Increased number of affordable housing units, and new supportive housing initiatives to eliminate rough sleeping over time. | <b>Rough sleeping and housing affordability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the Inner Metro area a place where young people can afford to rent.</li> <li>• Housing affordability causes massive anxiety.</li> <li>• Rising housing costs will have a large impact on young people in the coming years.</li> <li>• Improve availability of public housing.</li> <li>• Open public spaces so that rough sleepers can use them to sleep/rest.</li> </ul>  | 12    |
|   | <b>Mental health services</b><br>Improve access to mental health services for young people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are barriers to accessing mental health services for young people (such as GP referrals, cost and stigma) and existing services are not advertised properly.</li> <li>• Information needs to be disseminated more broadly so that existing services and new services can be readily accessed (advertise and promote services for young people through appropriate channels such as on social media).</li> </ul> | 9     |
|   | <b>Cycling and pedestrian safety</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicly promote cycling and walking as a viable alternative to cars.</li> <li>• Cycling infrastructure should include lighting, paths and better road-sharing systems to make cycling a safe and attractive option.</li> </ul>  | 8     |
| <b>Environment</b><br>Environmental gains including: improved   | <b>Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce waste reduction by providing more bins and keeping</li> </ul>   | 4     |



|  |   |          |
|--|---|----------|
| transport options that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, better energy efficiency and renewable energy, improved waste treatment and minimisation, improved water recycling, reductions to the heat island effect, and increased bio-diversity. | <p>beaches clean and litter free.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green the city by planting more trees, especially in Richmond where there is currently a lack of green infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>Address issues arising from climate change including sea level rise by promoting the use of renewable energy and sustainable transport.</p>   |          |
|  | <p><b>Public transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide access to public transport that is fast and reliable.</li> <li>Prioritise accessibility for people with disability across all public transport modes and services.</li> </ul>   | <b>3</b> |
|  | <p><b>Urban design around new development</b></p> <p>New buildings and developments should be well designed in a safe and sustainable city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building codes should regulate smart and liveable design of new developments.</li> <li>Urban design and planning should plan for green spaces and open space.</li> </ul>   | <b>3</b> |
|  | <p><b>Inclusive learning environments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools should be safe places for all students and staff. This is especially important for LGBTIQ+ students and students from religious or cultural minority groups.</li> </ul>  | <b>2</b> |
|  | <p><b>Waste management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage recycling and ensure recycling processes are efficient.</li> <li>Ban plastic bags.</li> </ul>   | <b>2</b> |
| <p><b>Aboriginal children</b></p> <p>Improved health and wellbeing, safety and educational outcomes for all Aboriginal children 0-4 years in the Cities of Melbourne, Port Phillip and Yarra.</p>  | <p><b>Aboriginal children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote aboriginal art and culture in the broader community.</li> <li>Treat aboriginal children equally, and fairly by ensuring they have access to educational and health resources.</li> <li>Support aboriginal children to stay in school.</li> <li>A key element of indigenous recognition is involving aboriginal people in decisions about the area in which they live.</li> </ul> | <b>1</b> |
| <p><b>Innovation and creative economies</b></p> <p>Innovation and creative economies precincts have the right levers to attract, promote and develop new economy jobs and businesses.</p>  | <p><b>Innovation and creative economies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage creative start-ups and provide spaces for creative young people to work.</li> <li>There are already enough jobs for young people in creative fields.</li> </ul>  | <b>1</b> |
| <p><b>Fisherman's Bend tramline extension</b></p> <p>Fisherman's Bend Urban Renewal Area is well connected to attract, promote and develop new economy jobs and businesses.</p>  | <p><b>Fisherman's Bend tramline extension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not many young people live in or visit Fisherman's bend so this is not a priority.</li> </ul>  | <b>0</b> |

## Inner South-east Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about priority outcomes for the Inner South-east Metropolitan Region are illustrated in Figure 6 and summarised in Table 9. The priority outcomes are listed in order of highest votes received, and include young people's comments and observations on most of the Metropolitan Partnership's priority outcomes for 2017.

The top three priorities identified by young people for the Inner South-east Metropolitan Region, highlighted in orange in Table 9, were:

- an inclusive curriculum (11 votes)
- affordable and social housing (6 votes)
- environmental sustainability (6 votes).

Table 9: Young people's priorities for the Inner South-east Metropolitan Region

| Metropolitan Partnership Priority outcomes 2017   | Young people's priorities at the Youth Forum   | Votes |
|---|--|-------|
|   | <b>An inclusive curriculum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the secondary education curriculum by addressing and supporting the concerns of young people.</li> <li>• Represent, elevate and support the experiences of marginalised identities including the LGBTIQ+ community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and those living with mental illness.</li> <li>• Improve teaching resources and training to appropriately and sensitively address contemporary concerns for example, sex education training for teachers.</li> </ul> | 11    |
| <b>Affordable and Social Housing</b><br>Create the right mix of private, public and social housing to anticipate the future needs of the growing community. | <b>Affordable and Social Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the provision of affordable housing options for young people via:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– student accommodation</li> <li>– apartment style housing for young people so they can live in the Inner South-east.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | 6     |
|   | <b>Environmental sustainability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote sustainable practices to mitigate and adapt to the challenges of climate change by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- actively encourage the use of sustainable building materials</li> <li>- promote recycling, food waste separation</li> <li>- tax plastic bags</li> <li>- provide climate change and sustainability education.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | 6     |
|   | <b>Social media policy</b><br>Create safer online social networks by:  | 5     |



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- regulate social media bullying and online shaming</li> <li>- increase privacy protection of social media users.</li> </ul>   |   |
|   | <b>Community cohesion and inclusion</b><br>Create more cohesive communities by holding events that bring community members from different groups together and promote acceptance.<br>Develop programs to promote openness and acceptance about different religions.   | 4 |
| <b>Health and Wellbeing</b><br>Focus on caring for a range of illnesses in our community such as dementia, substance misuse, mental health problems.                                  | <b>Health and Wellbeing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the effectiveness of health and wellbeing organisations.</li> <li>• Implement a sugar tax to reduce obesity.</li> </ul>  | 3 |
| <b>Economy, Industry and Jobs</b><br>Encourage local employment hubs and flexible, co-working spaces in line with the 20-minute cities ideal.   | <b>Economy, Industry and Jobs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate greater levels of youth employment through increased wages and access to jobs:</li> <li>• more work experience opportunities for young people.</li> </ul>   | 2 |
| <b>Transport Connectivity</b><br>Improve connectivity of transport modes to cover sustainable, low-cost travel across the region (including north-south travel) and reduce car usage. | <b>Transport Connectivity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve efficiency of the Myki system.</li> <li>• The cost of public transport is too high for some young people to pay for themselves.</li> <li>• Transport is a key element of all young people leading independent lives with access to opportunities.</li> </ul> | 2 |
| <b>Equitable Access to Education</b><br>Reduce the gap between educational privilege and educational disadvantage.  |   | 0 |
| <b>Open Space and Environment</b><br>Promote healthy neighbourhoods by developing an increased network of active open space   |   | 0 |

Other feedback was that the 2017 priority outcomes for the Inner South-east:

- do not take into consideration the contemporary concerns young people are facing, they 'are millennial rather than gen-z based'
- need more short-term solutions, they are all long-term
- were focused on infrastructure and economy rather than people and social issues.

## Western Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about priority outcomes for the Western Metropolitan Region are illustrated in Figure 7 and summarised in Table 10. The priority outcomes are listed in order of highest votes received, and include young people's comments and observations on most of the Metropolitan Partnership's priority outcomes for 2017.

The top three priorities identified by young people for the Western Metropolitan Region, highlighted in green in Table 10, were:

- violence and bullying awareness and resources (13 votes)
- drugs and alcohol (13 votes)
- homelessness (10 votes).

Table 10: Young people's priorities for the Western Metropolitan Region

| Metropolitan Partnership Priority outcomes 2017  | Young people's priorities at the Youth Forum   | Votes |
|--|--|-------|
|  | <b>Violence and bullying awareness and resources</b><br>Provide a wide range of diverse and culturally appropriate resources to minimise the widespread issue of violence and bullying amongst young people in the community.  | 13    |
|  | <b>Drugs and alcohol</b><br>Reduce the prevalence of illicit drug and alcohol induced violence among youth.  | 13    |
|  | <b>Homelessness</b><br>Create awareness in the broader community about homelessness and provide support to homeless people to aid them to move into more stable and permanent living situations.<br>Provide more funding for public housing.                                 | 10    |
| <b>Jobs and Skills</b><br>A diverse and sustainable offering of local jobs close to where people live. |  | 5     |
|  | <b>Health and nutrition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote nutritious foods to combat community health issues associated with unhealthy lifestyles and fast food.</li> <li>• Create policies and programs to make healthy food more affordable.</li> </ul> | 5     |
|  | <b>Community 'hotspots'</b><br>Create local hot spots throughout the West (Tarneit, Wyndham) where local community members and young people can gather.  | 3     |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spread awareness about gathering spaces to young people to help them remain engaged in with the broader community.</li> </ul> <p>Hotspots need to be culturally diverse places of acceptance.</p>                    |   |
|  | <b>Media</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the portrayal of young people in the media to address the stigmatisation of young people from culturally diverse backgrounds.</li> <li>Promote good news stories about young people.</li> </ul> | 2 |
| <b>Public and active transport, road congestion and freight</b><br><br>Improved public transport and active transport for liveability, health, access to jobs and services and reducing road congestion.<br><br>Further develop the West as a central hub for freight and logistics. |   | 2 |
| <b>Waste and Recycling Centre of Excellence</b><br><br>Showcase innovative and best practice approaches to waste management and recycling through a Centre of Excellence.  |   | 2 |
| <b>Reduce entrenched disadvantage through better health and education services</b><br><br>Improved health and wellbeing outcomes through better access to health and education services and facilities.  |   | 1 |
| <b>Connected Communities</b><br><br>An inclusive and creative western region of Melbourne that celebrates its cultural, social and economic diversity.   |   | 0 |
| <b>A greener region</b><br><br>Liveable and well-planned suburbs which incorporate open spaces, trees and appealing streetscapes.  | <b>A greener region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the use of renewable energy.</li> </ul>  | 0 |

Other feedback on priority outcomes included:

- Encourage a greater focus on arts in schools to 'move away from STEM stigma'
- Improve access to sporting facilities
- Young people should be encouraged to hang out in physical spaces rather than online.



## Northern Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about priority outcomes for the Northern Metropolitan Region are illustrated in Figure 8 and summarised in Table 11. The priority outcomes are listed in order of highest votes received, and include young people's comments and observations on most of the Metropolitan Partnership's priority outcomes for 2017.

The top three priorities identified by young people for the Northern Metropolitan Region, highlighted in blue in Table 11, were:

- health and wellbeing (17 votes)
- education pathways (13 votes)
- life skills resources and support for young people (13 votes).

Table 11: Young people's priorities for the Northern Metropolitan Region

| Metropolitan Partnership Priority outcomes 2017   | Young people's priorities at the Youth Forum  | Votes |
|---|---|-------|
| <b>Health and Wellbeing</b><br><br>Prevention of avoidable hospital admissions and improved health and wellbeing through increased access to affordable clinical health and community services that cater to our culturally diverse community.  | <b>Health and Wellbeing</b><br><br>Expand this priority outcome to include mental health prevention and support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide one-stop-shop community centres that cater to all needs and provide a variety of recreation activities.</li> <li>• Provide mental health support especially on life issues, stress, racism and sexism.</li> <li>• Advertise health services and make them easier to access.</li> </ul> Be proactive and link education and health programs to remove stigma of mental health. | 17    |
| <b>Education Pathways</b><br><br>A seamless approach to lifelong learning from early childhood to retirement years, resulting in a more skilled, work-ready, employed, resilient and connected community.<br><br>The priority focus in this first year is the transition of young people to employment. | <b>Education Pathways</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broaden subject focus in schools from STEM.</li> <li>• Provide job training in schools to prepare young people for the workplace, for example the ability to receive food handling and Responsible Service of Alcohol certificates at school.</li> </ul> Support the varied ways young people learn.   | 13    |
|   | <b>Life skills resources and support for young people</b><br><br>Education is not just about getting a job and good grades, it needs to educate young people about 'life stuff'. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower young people by giving them more information about key issues such as family violence, mental health, cultural sensitivities.</li> <li>• Provide young people with time, resources and support to 'figure things out for themselves', for</li> </ul>   | 13    |

|   |  |    |
|---|--|----|
|   | example decision making frameworks.  |    |
| <b>Economy and Transport</b><br><br>A connected, thriving community with jobs created in the region, unemployment rates lowered and congestion eased to create greater liveability for the growing Northern community.  | <b>Economy and Transport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economy and transport should be separate priority outcomes.</li> <li>Increase public transport equity by improving transport availability in the North of the region.</li> <li>Increase frequency across all modes of public transport.</li> <li>Prepare public transport for the demand from the growing populations.</li> </ul>  | 11 |
|   | <b>Environmental protection</b><br><br>Protecting our environment for future generations is important. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate the broader community about how to decrease their individual footprint.</li> <li>Promote sustainable technology practices.</li> </ul> Deliver programs to involve young people in environmental protection.  | 9  |
| <b>Environment</b><br><br>Connection to the natural environment through recreational trails, and increased use of cycling and walking.<br><br>That the Northern Region is renowned for its integrated regional trail network that showcases the region's diverse natural and cultural heritage, and provides for a range of recreation interests that connects people to places and contributes to community wellbeing. | <b>Environment</b><br><br>There were some comments made by young people around this. Can this be included?<br><br>Comments related to – protecting the natural environment/assets for future generations and educating the community about the importance and reasons for protecting the environment.  | 5  |
| <b>Connected young people</b><br><br>To build a strong and resilient region where young people have a voice, feel connected to their communities, are healthy and respected, and where diversity thrives.   | <b>Connected young people</b><br><br>Allowing young people to have a voice is the most important element of this priority. Ways young people can be given a voice include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote young people as leaders.</li> <li>Advocate to have young people in permanent parliamentary positions.</li> <li>Lower the voting age.</li> <li>Visit schools to hear from a broader range of young people.</li> </ul> | 4  |

General feedback was that the 2017 priority outcomes are achievable and are heading in the right direction. Initial reactions from most young people were 'yes', the outcomes do reflect the needs of young people and the community.

## Eastern Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about priority outcomes for the Eastern Metropolitan Region are illustrated in Figure 9 and summarised in Table 12. The priority outcomes are listed in order of highest votes received, and include young people's comments and observations on most of the Metropolitan Partnership's priority outcomes for 2017.

The top priorities identified by young people for the Eastern Metropolitan Region, highlighted in yellow in Table 12, were:

- education (12 votes)
- public safety (9 votes)
- environmental sustainability (9 votes)
- mental health services (9 votes).

Table 12: Young people's priorities for the Eastern Metropolitan Region

| Metropolitan Partnership Priority outcomes 2017 | Young people's priorities at the Youth Forum   | Votes |
|---|--|-------|
|   | <b>Education</b><br>Provide practical life skills in the school curriculum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater connectivity between schools and higher education.</li> <li>• Increasing applicability of high school education.</li> <li>• Provide education for like skills such as budgeting, taxes and bank loans.</li> </ul>   | 12    |
|   | <b>Environmental sustainability</b><br>Protected national parks, waterways and greenspaces. Community members who are highly educated community members and long term environmental protection policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage people to think about environmental sustainability not just convenience.</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy.</li> <li>• Reduce traffic fumes.</li> </ul> Develop programs where young people can learn about and contribute to environmental protection. | 9     |
|   | <b>Mental Health</b><br>Improve mental health services and advocacy on mental health issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove the barriers to that prevent young people accessing services.</li> <li>• Increase awareness and information about mental health issues in schools and the broader community.</li> </ul> Remove the 'taboo' nature of mental health discussions.   | 9     |
|   | <b>Public safety</b><br>Improve public safety and ensure all members of the community  | 9     |



|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | <p>feel safe, especially women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve security in areas such as transport hubs at night.</li> </ul> <p>Focus on reducing crime.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Affordable and Social Housing</b></p> <p>An increase in the supply of affordable housing within the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR), providing greater access to local housing for key workers and greater access to social housing for vulnerable people.</p>                                 |   | 8 |
|  | <p><b>Communication and community connectedness</b></p> <p>Improve communication with young people so they can be more active in their community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate and provide more opportunities for legitimate youth input in decision making.</li> <li>• Improve youth connection with their community by providing more social events.</li> <li>• More adult to teenager social connection and interaction.</li> <li>• Improve the sense of community.</li> </ul> | 3 |
| <p><b>Jobs for Youth</b></p> <p>A significant reduction in unemployment young people in the Eastern Region of Melbourne.</p> <p>Growth in apprenticeship opportunities, apprenticeship completion rates, and an increase in skills that support improved transition from secondary school to work.</p> | <p><b>Jobs for Youth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support small to medium businesses.</li> <li>• Offer volunteer jobs in which young people can work for the Victorian government.</li> </ul>   | 2 |
| <p><b>Social Inclusion</b></p> <p>Improved social connections to ensure all people in the region have opportunities to participate in community life regardless of gender, age, physical ability or cultural background.</p>   | <p><b>Social Inclusion</b></p> <p>Young people feel like they are being included. To enhance this feeling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of community events and youth facilities.</li> <li>• Provide more opportunities for face-to-face socialising.</li> </ul>  | 2 |
| <p><b>Regional Connectivity</b></p> <p>It will be easier to get around and across the region by public transport and other active modes such as cycling and walking. The region's natural assets will be more accessible to local people and visitors alike.</p>                                       | <p><b>Regional Connectivity</b></p> <p>Improve public transport infrastructure for better connectivity by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more frequent bus, tram and train services</li> <li>• double decker trains, trams and buses</li> <li>• better connections to shopping malls so youth can get to work and meet friends.</li> </ul>   | 0 |
| <p><b>Seamless Health and Social Services</b></p> <p>Health and social services will be accessible for those who need the most support. Service users, especially those with multiple conditions and complex needs, will find it easier to navigate the system.</p>                                    | <p><b>Seamless Health and Social Services</b></p> <p>Improve access to health and social services, especially those that support young people suffering from mental health issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face-to-face support is preferred over online support.</li> <li>• Provide more opportunities for exercise.</li> </ul>   | 0 |

Other feedback was that the 2017 priority outcomes:

- need to be more specific, focused and targeted
- are reflective of issues that will face young people but could better reflect immediate issues young people face
- are too focused on the short term and ignore long term issues such as global warming
- could also include more support to local councils to better reflect the needs of small communities.



## Southern Metropolitan Region

Young people's discussions about priority outcomes for the Southern Metropolitan Region are illustrated in Figure 10 and summarised in Table 13.

The top three priorities identified by young people for the Southern Metropolitan Region, highlighted in red in Table 13, were:

- mental health (15 votes)
- life skills (10 votes)
- housing (8 votes)

*Note: Initial voting resulted in health and housing receiving the same number of votes, when the group voted again housing was more important than health.*

Table 13: Young people's priorities for the Southern Metropolitan Region

| Metropolitan Partnership Priority outcomes 2017  | Young people's priorities at the Youth Forum  | Votes |
|--|---|-------|
|  | <b>Mental health</b><br>Increase mental health services and awareness of mental health issues. This includes promotion in schools and services better suited to adolescents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More services for whole community, not just in schools</li> <li>• Better qualified counsellors</li> <li>• More funding for services</li> <li>• More youth centres</li> <li>• Focus on prevention and awareness</li> <li>• Include mental wellbeing strategies in primary school curriculum</li> <li>• Adolescent friendly services</li> <li>• Access to specialised care</li> <li>• Reduced waiting time</li> </ul> | 15    |
|  | <b>Life skills</b><br>Life skills help young people achieve independence. The education system should incorporate life skills training to teach young people how to manage life after school independently.<br><br>Create links between work and education.   | 10    |
| <b>Housing</b><br>Greater access to affordable housing options in the Southern Region including an inclusionary housing pilot on public land parcels in Frankston and investigation of potential youth foyers connected to TAFE sites. | <b>Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing is not affordable for young people as they are generally only in entry level employment.</li> <li>• Young people can get stuck in a cycle of renting.</li> <li>• On campus housing at universities is expensive.</li> </ul>   | 8     |



|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are limited housing options for young females.</li> </ul>   |   |
|   | <b>Health</b><br>Improve access to 'young people friendly' health care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>   | 8 |
|   | <b>Arts and culture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater focus on arts and culture to improve engagement and to celebrate and understand diversity.</li> </ul>   | 7 |
| <b>Education and Youth Engagement</b><br>Increased engagement and retention in education for at-risk youth in the middle years age group to break the cycle of disadvantage and a focus on early years literacy for preschool-aged-children.  | <b>Education and Youth Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledge different styles of learning.</li> <li>Promote diverse subjects, put more thought in to developing curriculum, move focus away from purely STEM subjects.</li> </ul>  | 7 |
| <b>Transport</b><br>Improve access to employment, education, services and recreation across the region with higher frequency public transport and greater connectivity and integration of services. Includes development of a Southern Region Transport Masterplan, and new bus services.                       | <b>Transport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase public transport access everywhere, not just on main roads.</li> <li>Provide more frequent public transport services.</li> <li>Improve connections between suburbs.</li> <li>Provide alternative transport routes for use when there are delays on main routes.</li> <li>Encourage cycling as a transport option by maintaining cycle paths, providing dedicated cycle lanes and working to improve driver's attitudes towards cyclists.</li> <li>Improve footpaths.</li> </ul> | 5 |
|   | <b>Social inclusion</b><br>Community education on social inclusion to generate more understanding between members of our diverse community to enable people to live their life free of judgment.<br>More education on social inclusion regarding gender, culture, sexuality, race, religion and ethnicity.   | 3 |
| <b>Water</b><br>Broad scale uptake of fit for purpose recycled water across the Southern Region providing a climate resilient water resource for long term economic growth and environmental benefit, including water reuse at the Eastern Treatment Plant and upgrading the Pakenham Sewerage Treatment Plant. |  | 0 |

Other feedback on the 2017 priority outcomes was that they could also include:

- providing more access to healthy food, for example healthy school canteens
- waste reduction policies, for example encouraging recycling
- policies to address social media issues of privacy and reduced face-to-face social connection
- improving law enforcement.





## Key Findings

Overall, young people supported the Partnerships' 2017 priority outcomes, but thought they were not necessarily the highest priority issues for young people in their respective region. When asked to choose their top three priorities (from the Partnerships' 2017 priority outcomes and those that young people developed on the day) participants were more likely to select the ones they had developed. For most regions, one out of the three top priorities for young people were the Partnerships' 2017 priority outcomes.

The young people focused on the following priorities: improving mental health, education about life skills, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability. They were less likely to prioritise the economy and new infrastructure. The main example where they did prioritise an infrastructure related issue was related to housing affordability and homelessness (which was a Partnership priority chosen by three of the regions).

Many of the young people's priorities were not divergent from the Partnerships' 2017 priority outcomes but focused more on the issues as they relate to young people within the Partnerships' priority outcomes.

For example, with education, participants discussed broadening the focus from STEM subjects to a more inclusive curriculum and life skills, whereas the Partnership's priority outcomes focus more on access to educational facilities and programs. This means it is possible to incorporate most of the young people's priorities into the existing Partnership priority outcomes. However, they require further refinements to address the issues young people have identified.

Overall the key advice from participants to the Partnerships through all activities was:

- to prioritise mental health services: make them accessible and relevant to young people
- to update secondary education curriculums to include life skills
- to make public transport more accessible and extend its reach (time and geography)
- to continue to include young people in government decision making processes, especially for decisions about young people and on big issues like climate change
- that cultural diversity and community connectedness is important.





Throughout Activities 2 and 3 at the Youth Forum, storyboard artists created a visual representation of regional discussions through a technique known as active listening. The below storyboards (Figures 5-10) were produced for each of the six Metropolitan Partnership Regions.

Storyboard by Brendan David





## Inner South-east Region (Figure 6)

Storyboard by Jamie Edward



## Western Metropolitan Region (Figure 7)

Storyboard by Sarah Firth



www.sarahthefirth.com





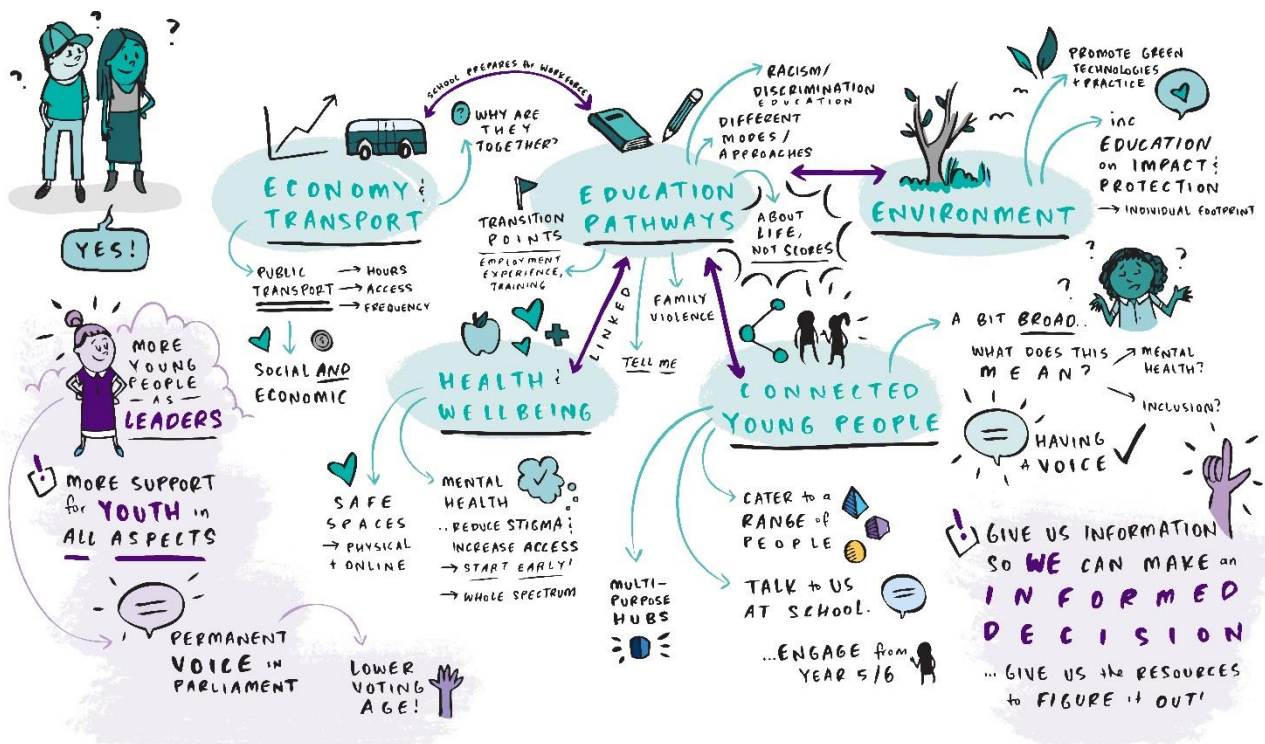
## Northern Metropolitan Region (Figure 8)

Storyboard by Jessamy Gee

# NORTHERN *region*



DOES THE 2017 ADVICE to GOVERNMENT REFLECT THE NEEDS of YOUNG PEOPLE in the REGION?



## Eastern Metropolitan Region (Figure 9)

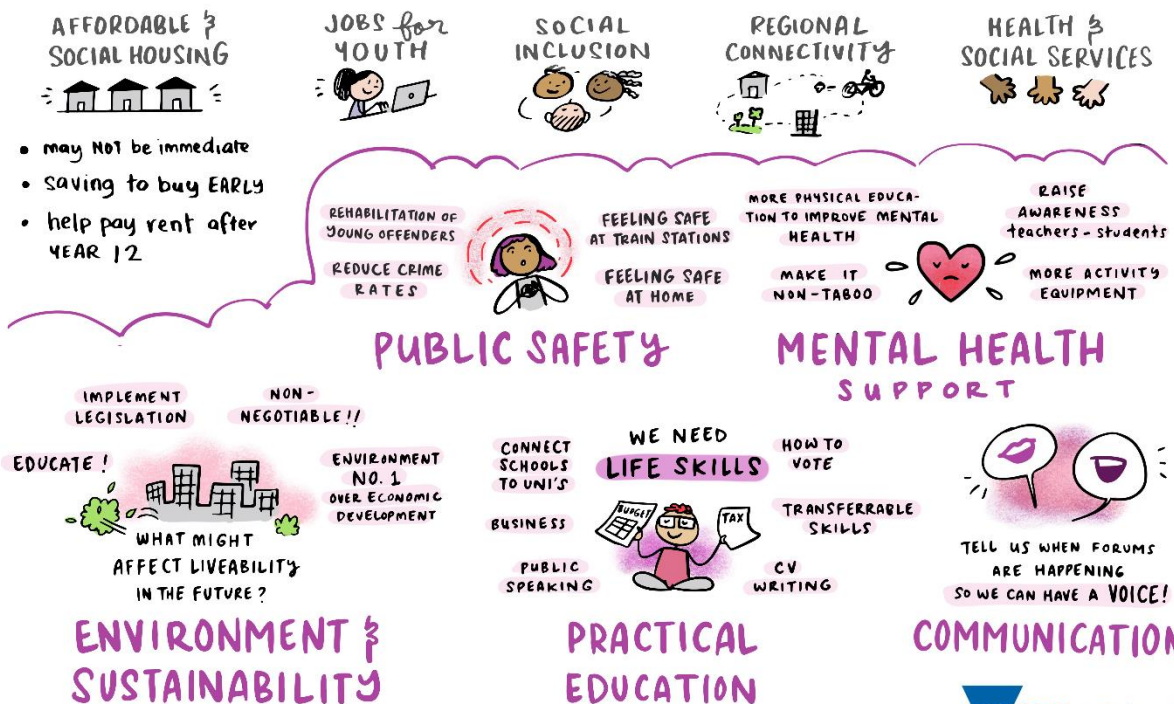
Storyboard by Zahra Zainal



## WHAT frustrates you? WHAT COULD BE improved?



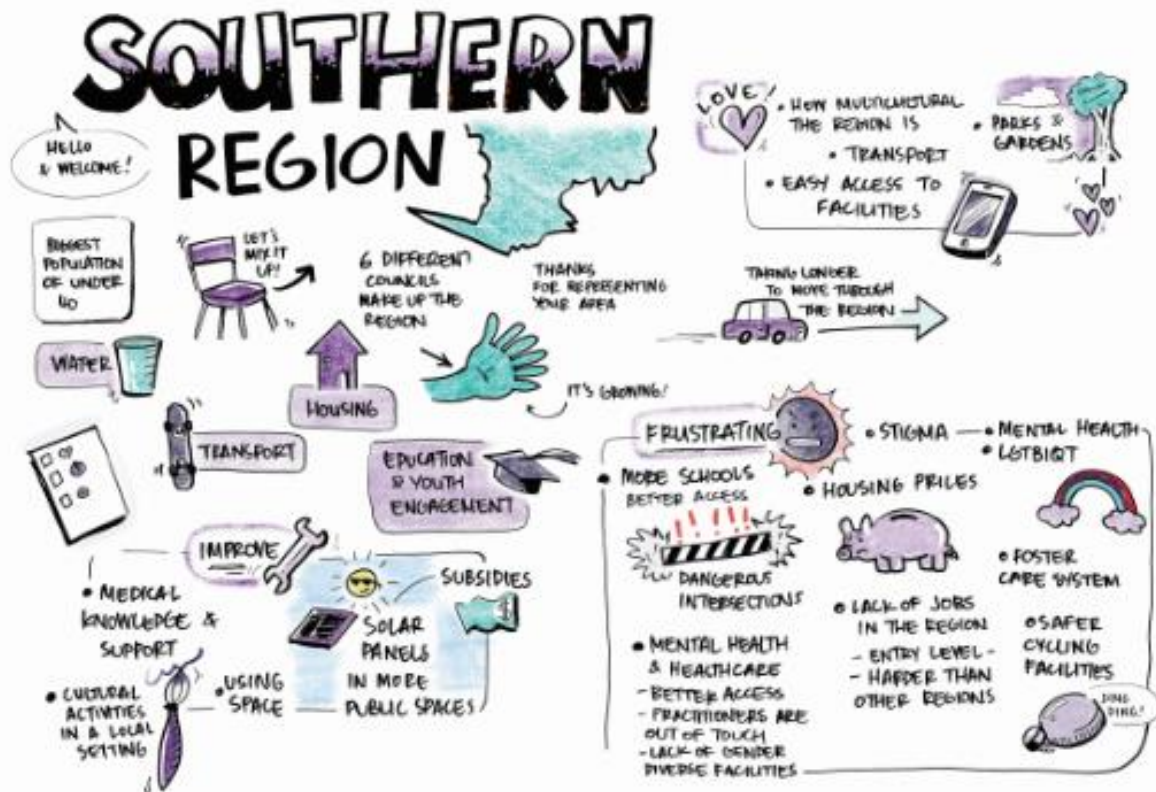
## DOES THE 2017 ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT reflect THE NEEDS OF young people IN THE REGION?





## Southern Metropolitan Region (Figure 10)

Storyboard by Maddison Kitching



DOES THE METROPOLITAN PARTNERSHIP'S 2017 ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT REFLECT THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE REGION?





# Youth Forum Evaluation

To evaluate the success of the Youth Forum, and improve future sessions, participants were invited to complete an evaluation form. Participants were asked to respond to four statements using a scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Participant responses from the forum are demonstrated in Figures 11, 12, 13 and 14. A total of 101 participants completed the evaluation forms.

## Statement: I understand more about Melbourne's liveability because of this Forum

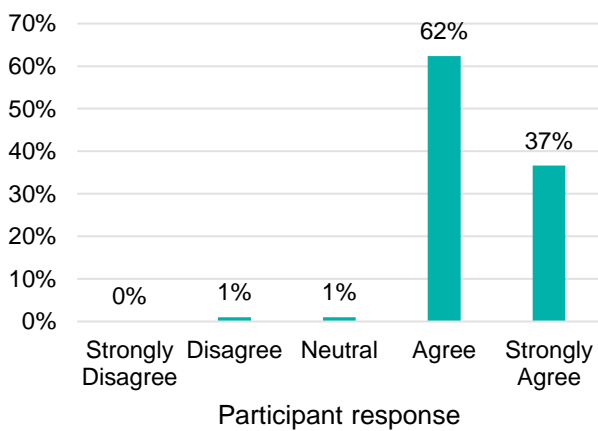


Figure 11: Participant responses to the statement: 'I understand more about Melbourne's liveability because of this Forum' (n=101)

## Statement: I know more about this region because of this Forum

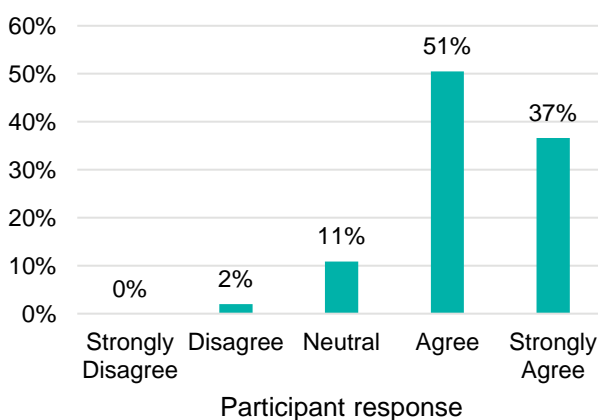


Figure 12: Participant responses to the statement: 'I know more about this region because of this Forum' (n=101)

## Statement: I understand the role of the Metropolitan Partnerships

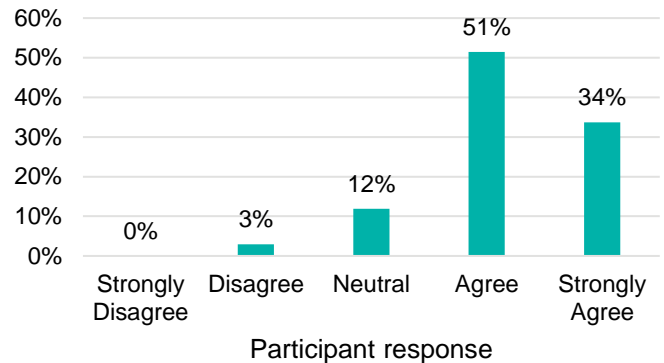


Figure 13: Participant responses to the statement: 'I understand the role of the Metropolitan Partnerships' (n=101)

## Statement: I feel that my ideas and opinions were listened to and will be considered

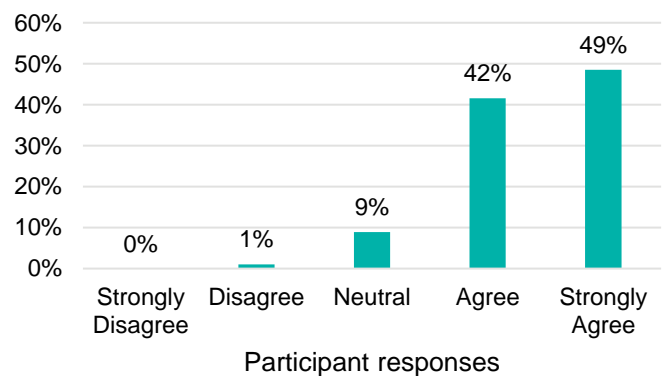


Figure 14: Participant responses to the statement: 'I feel that my ideas and opinions were listened to and will be considered' (n=101)

Overall feedback was very positive, with the majority of participants agreeing or strongly agreeing with all the statements. The statement with the highest level of 'strongly agree' was 'I feel that my ideas and opinions were listened to and will be considered'.

## Reflective comments

Table 14 provides a snapshot of reflective comments written on the evaluation forms by participants at the end of the Forum.

Table 14: Participant reflections on the Youth Forum

| Region                                      | Final comment   |
|---|---|
| <b>Inner Metro Metropolitan Region</b>      | <p><i>'Thank you for this opportunity to have meaningful consultation.'</i></p> <p><i>'The ideas we discussed today need to be listened to and acted on. These are ideas from young people that will be living in these regions in the future.'</i></p>   |
| <b>Inner South-east Metropolitan Region</b> | <p><i>'The day was conducted both professionally and casually which made it easier to provide ideas and listen to others' ideas. It also made it easier to present major points in general and I am very grateful for this chance.'</i></p> <p><i>'I am very grateful for this opportunity to get my voice heard and to contribute to the betterment and progress of my region.'</i></p>  |
| <b>Western Metropolitan Region</b>          | <p><i>'Thank you for having this forum, it shows that you care about our opinion.'</i></p> <p><i>'Thank you for giving us young people a chance to have a say and a platform to voice our concerns. I hope to see these ideas and what was spoken about implemented in the future (near or far).'</i></p>   |
| <b>Northern Metropolitan Region</b>         | <p><i>'I really enjoyed this opportunity to contribute my voice to the state of Victoria. Youth voice is, in my opinion, so important. We will be on this earth long after those who are currently making the decisions, so I appreciate this opportunity to have my say. Thanks.'</i></p> <p><i>'This learning experience has expanded my knowledge of the community. I haven't recognised till now that my region holds more problems than I thought but also the concerns my government have are being acted on. [This forum has] Brought a light eye to my blind eyes to truly know the real world made by the people who make this community.'</i></p>   |
| <b>Eastern Metropolitan Region</b>          | <p><i>'This day was beneficial in giving us the opportunity to help our community.'</i></p> <p><i>'As a common citizen of our communities we are like drops of water, but when we get together we form an ocean, where we can [generate] ideas and implement them faster.'</i></p>  |
| <b>Southern Metropolitan Region</b>         | <p><i>'I'd like to say that having a day like today was really educational and engaging. Listening to youth in your area is really important, especially with recommendations on changing and developing the region.'</i></p> <p><i>'Thank you for engaging with us. Please continue to do so. Keep a focus on youth voice. Please look at transportation between suburbs to the city as well as affordable housing. Bunjil place is amazing! Please keep supporting the arts - youth engagement, school, attendance and mental health are all improved by this support and especially the amazing opportunities we have. There is lots in our community but they are not promoted enough we need to use them.'</i></p> |

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Metro Youth Forum Agenda



### Agenda – Metropolitan Partnerships Youth Forum

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Date:  | Monday, 7 May 2018                                   |
| Time:  | 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM                                    |
| Venue: | Experimedia Room, State Library of Victoria VIC 3000 |

| Time   | Item   |
|--------|--|
| 9.30   | <b>Registration</b><br>Refreshments available (tea, coffee, snacks).   |
| 10.00  | <b>Welcome and introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome to Country</li><li>• Introduction by the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP and the Hon Jenny Mikakos MP</li><li>• Why are we here today?</li></ul>   |
| 10.35  | <b>Panel: Liveability in Melbourne</b><br>Panel on Melbourne's liveability and the role of the Metropolitan Partnerships initiative.   |
| 11.05  | <b>Table discussion: Melbourne's challenges</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do the challenges discussed by the Panel affect you and other young people?</li><li>• What other challenges do you think young people in Melbourne are facing?</li></ul> |
| 11.40  | <b>Breakout session #1</b><br>What do you love and find frustrating about your region? What would you like to improve?   |
| 12.15  | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 12.55  | <b>Break out session #2</b><br>Does the Metropolitan Partnerships' 2017 advice to government reflect the needs of young people in the region?  |
| 1.45   | <b>Final comments</b><br>Report back, thank you and next steps.  |
| 2.00pm | <b>Close</b>   |



## Appendix 2: List of schools and youth groups

Table 15: Schools and youth groups represented at the Youth Forum

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Alamanda K-9 College                          | Scotch College  |
| Albert Park College                           | Southern Peninsula Youth Advisory Group               |
| Aquinas                                       | St Helena's College                                   |
| Bentleigh Secondary School                    | St Peters College                                     |
| Berwick College                               | St. Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield campus       |
| Bialik College                                | Staughton College                                     |
| Boronia K-12 College                          | Tarneit Senior College                                |
| Box Hill HS                                   | The University High School                            |
| Carrum Downs Secondary College                | Thornbury High School                                 |
| City of Bayside Youth Ambassadors             | Werribee Secondary College                            |
| City of Port Phillip Youth Advisory Committee | Western Chances                                       |
| CREATE Foundation                             | Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee - Volunteer |
| Dandenong High School                         | Whittlesea Secondary College                          |
| Diamond Valley College                        | William Angliss Institute                             |
| Eltham College                                | Wyndham Community & Education Centre                  |
| Elwood College                                | Yarra Hills Secondary College                         |
| Flinders Christian Community College          | Yarra Youth Services                                  |
| Gilmore College for Girls                     | YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament                        |
| Glen Eira College                             | Youth Services  |
| Glen Eira Youth Services                      |   |
| Hoppers Crossing Secondary College            |   |
| Hume Central Secondary School                 |   |
| Knox C.C Youth Advisory Committee             |   |
| Lauriston Girls' School                       |   |
| Maribyrnong Youth Advisory Council            |   |
| Melba College                                 |   |
| Mitchell Shire Youth Council                  |   |
| Mitchell Shire Youth Services                 |   |
| Monash Youth Ambassadors                      |   |
| Moonee Valley Youth Development               |   |
| Mornington Secondary College                  |   |
| Northcote High School                         |   |
| Oxygen Youth Services                         |   |
| Pascoe Vale Girls College                     |   |
| Patterson River Secondary School              |   |
| Presbyterian Ladies' College                  |   |
| Princes Hill Secondary College                |   |
| Reservoir High School                         |   |
| Ringwood Secondary College                    |   |