

Ipswich Youth Advisory Council Intake 1: 12-Month Report

October 2019

Community Development Section

Community, Cultural and Economic Development Department



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the land, winds and water we share. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging, as the keepers of the traditions, cultures and stories of a proud people.

INTRODUCTION

The Ipswich Youth Advisory Council (IYAC) is a youth engagement initiative for young people in the City of Ipswich, aged between 16 and 25 years of age. The goal of IYAC is to ensure Ipswich's young people are heard on issues they care about and are empowered to undertake change-making initiatives across the city – designed by young people, for young people.

The program has three key objectives:

1. Ipswich's young people are empowered to voice the issues they care about
2. Ipswich's young people are empowered to develop, advocate for, and implement initiatives which affect and matter to them
3. To build and enhance the capacity for civic leadership in the young people of the City of Ipswich.

The group works to identify a small number of key priorities for the youth community in Ipswich. IYAC plan and deliver a series of projects and initiatives to address targeted outcomes. This model aims to empower IYAC members to advocate for the needs of young people in a supportive and structured environment.

While Ipswich City Council (council) has run a youth council initiative for a number of years, the program was re-vitalised in 2018. The first intake of participants (Intake 1) were selected through a public Expression of Interest process. Intake 1 met in July 2018. From 46 applications, 20 young people were selected, based on:

- demonstration of existing engagement in their communities
- initiative and willingness to learn and contribute
- demographic representation (i.e. age, gender, cultural background and geography across Ipswich).

Intake 1 participants met in July 2018 and continue to meet monthly, these meetings are facilitated by council's Community Development Section. IYAC works to identify and key priorities for the youth community in Ipswich and plan and deliver projects and initiatives to address targeted outcomes. This model aims to empower IYAC members to advocate for the needs of young people in a supportive and structured environment.

In order to track the impact and outcomes of IYAC, Ipswich City Council have been engaged in a multi-stage monitoring and evaluation project. This report integrates data collected during the first 12-months, including the outcomes of a baseline survey, a 12-month survey and interviews with a sample of IYAC members at 6 and 12-months. A second intake (Intake 2) were engaged in July 2019. While this report reports only on Intake 1, we acknowledge the valuable ongoing contribution of those young people involved in Intake 2.

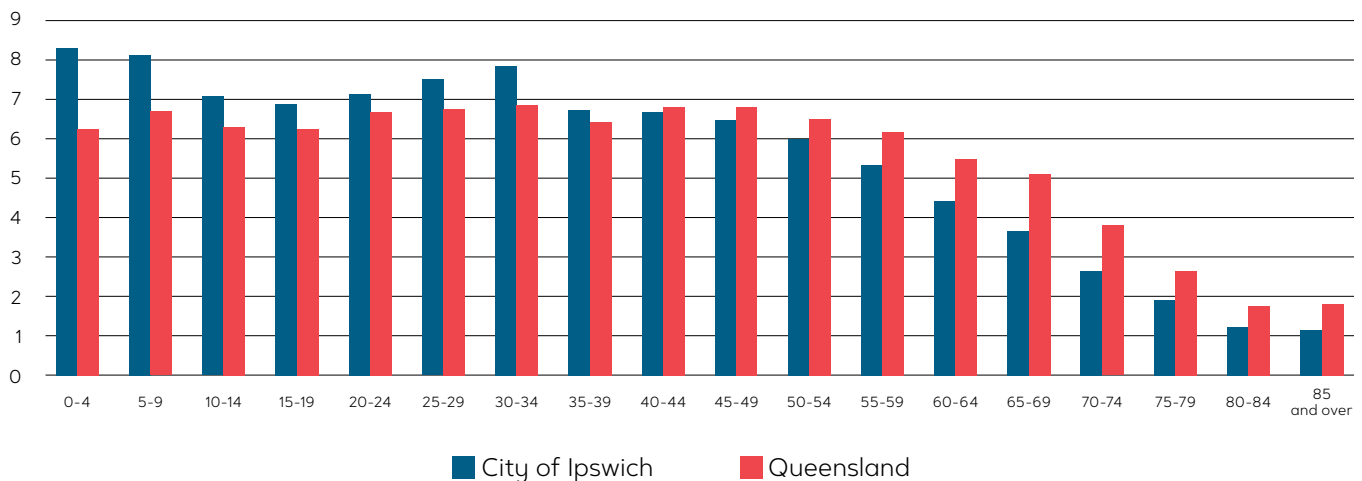
This report includes:

- an overview of youth in Ipswich
- monitoring and evaluation methodology and research tools
- survey and interview results
- profiles of key projects that IYAC have initiated and been involved with.

YOUTH IN IPSWICH

Ipswich is home to a large and vibrant youth community. Ipswich has a younger population in comparison to the Queensland State median age – 37.8% of Ipswich residents are aged 24 and younger, compared to 31.5% of the broader Queensland population (ABS, 2016, from id.profile, 2019).

Five year age groups (years)
(Source: ABS, 2016, via id.profile, 2019)



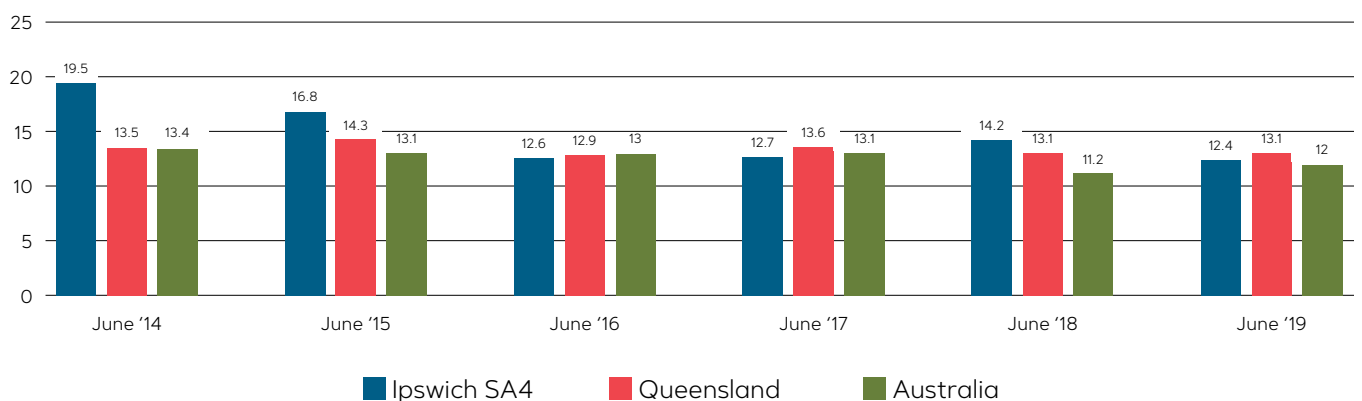
The youth population is also diverse. Over 7% of people aged 15 to 25 in Ipswich identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. 7.4% were born in New Zealand, while 0.8% were born in the Phillipines, 0.7% in Samoa, 0.6% in India and 0.4% in Sudan (ABS, 2016).

Ipswich young people access vocational education pathways, and a smaller proportion access University education (in comparison to Brisbane) (ABS, 2016).

There are rich opportunities for young people to access all levels of education within Ipswich, including primary schools, secondary schools, TAFEs, Universities and other educational/training pathways all within Ipswich. Ipswich also has in excess of 80 schools including primary schools, secondary schools, and independent schools. A larger proportion of

While most youth in Ipswich are either studying or working, youth unemployment in Ipswich is currently at around 12.4% (QGSO, 2019). Key industries employing youth include retail, accommodation and food services, healthcare and social assistance, and construction (ABS, 2016, from id.profile, 2019). Ipswich is also home to a strong youth sector with a long-standing legacy of collaboration, with many youth services and organisations.

Youth Unemployment (15 to 24 years) Ipswich SA4, 2014-2019
(Source: QGSO, 2019)



PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

In order to track the work of IYAC, literature on the impact of other youth councils was examined. The following literature review looked at the impact of youth councils in Australia and internationally. Academic literature discusses the value and importance of youth civic engagement, arguing that civic identity is developed during adolescence, with ongoing benefits for society, psychological well-being and life outcomes (Godfrey & Cherng, 2016).

In responding to findings that youth are “not engaged in electoral politics” and have little interest in politics, Keeter et al. (2003, p. 3) argue that “youth who are active in their community may become more likely to... recognize political solutions to problems... It is not unreasonable to expect that civic behaviour in early adulthood will lead to political engagement in later years”. As such, Keeter et al. (2003) outline three indicators for measuring youth civic engagement:

- community problem solving, measured by involvement with groups to solve problems in the community
- regular volunteering for a non-electoral organisation
- active membership in groups or associations.

Keeter et al. (2003, p. 18) argue that these activities “contribute to the development of well-rounded citizens who are able to contribute to the health of our democracy”.

Godfrey and Cherng (2016) measure the association between socio-economic status and youth civic engagement, using the following indicators:

- Values around the importance of helping others, using the question “How important is it to you in your life to help other people in your community?”
- Values around inequality and a reflection of critical consciousness (as discussed by Watt et al. 2011), using the question “How important is it to you in your life to work to correct social and economic inequalities?” Critical consciousness captures structural understandings of social problems, critical social analysis, the perceived ability to effect socio-political change, and participation in civic or political action
- Frequency of volunteering and community service.

Augsberger et al. (2018) examine the capacity for youth councils to reduce or reinforce social inequality. They find that youth councils have the capacity to:

- build social connections for young people, particularly with representatives
- build knowledge and engagement with governance systems
- involve and empower youth to take part in decision making
- create opportunities for broader community engagement.

Augsberger et al. (2018) noted a lack of diversity in terms of “educational privilege” in the youth councils they examined, signalling the risk of excluding youth who may be engaged in alternative educational institutions.

Checkoway and Aldana (2013) also identified four forms of youth civic engagement, including ‘citizen participation’. Citizen participation involves young people participating in political and governmental institutions, with young people seen as “citizens in the making”.

KEY INDICATORS

From the above review, and drawing on the key objectives of IYAC, the following indicators have been developed:

Impact	Questions/Indicators	Targets
Give youth a voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception on having a say on key issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members report an increase in their ability to have a say on key issues
Build values around civic engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception on responsibility to engage with community Perception on the need to address inequality Tracking formal participation in democratic processes Tracking knowledge of council roles and responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members report an increase in their civic engagement and knowledge
Engage youth in decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication with representatives Perceptions on capacity to influence change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members report an increase in their engagement in decision-making
Build social connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking membership of groups, community meetings and volunteering Connection to other youth Communication with representatives Connections to other cultural groups Perceptions on the value of multiculturalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members report an increase in their social connections
Have representation from council divisions and major cultural backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathered in registration form: gender; age; location; education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council includes representation from young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from each council division from the city's major cultural backgrounds
Build Skills to take initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perceptions on capacity to influence change Communication with representatives Perception on skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members report an increase in their skills and capacity
Empower youth to take ownership of initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to organise events and initiatives Perceptions on capacity to influence change Tracking key issues of concern Tracking ownership of key initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of survey respondents believe they have ownership of Program of Work as they have been consulted and involved in its development

METHODOLOGY

An ongoing monitoring and evaluation project with IYAC aims to track outcomes and impact. Key methods have included:

- a baseline survey with Intake 1 (July 2018) members (see Appendix A for survey)
- one-on-one interviews conducted with a sample of Intake 1 members after six months and 12 months (10 interviews in total) (see Appendix B for interview questions)
- a 12-month survey with Intake 1 members (see Appendix C for survey).

While 20 young people were accepted into Intake 1, five young people exited the program over the first year, for a range of personal reasons. The survey results included in this report track only those 15 young people still engaged in the program after twelve months.



IYAC Members discussing the key issues facing young people in Ipswich

STUDY RESULTS

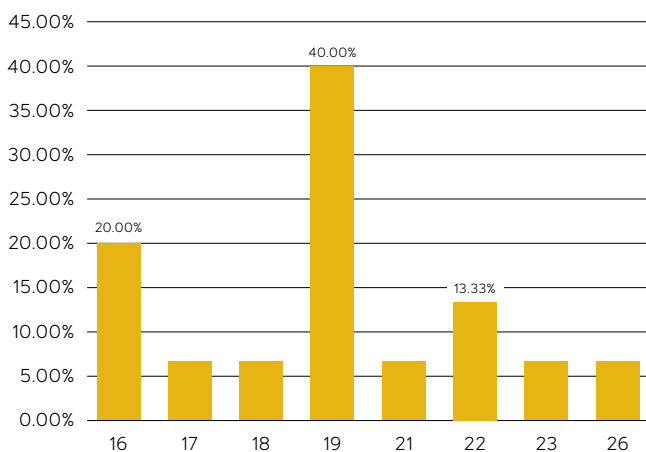
The following section reports on the results from the baseline and 12-month surveys, and interviews with IYAC members. For percentage data throughout the report, small numbers have been excluded to ensure privacy.

IYAC MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

The following demographics data was gathered from IYAC members at the program inception in June 2018. A key goal of IYAC was to be representative of the Ipswich community, including age, gender, cultural background and geography¹.

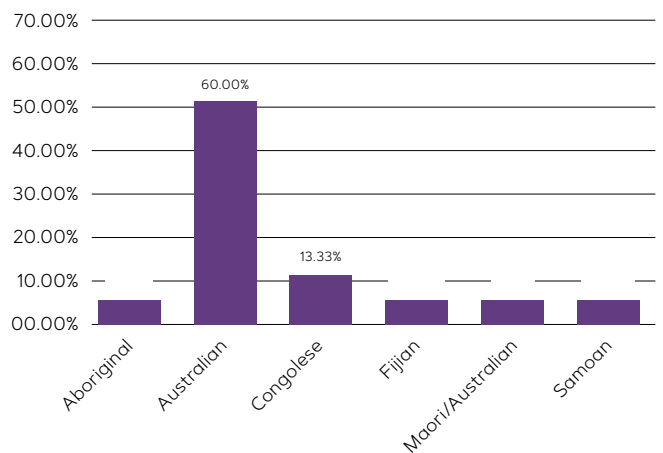
IYAC members are aged between 16 and 26².

Age Range of IYAC members
(Respondents = 15)



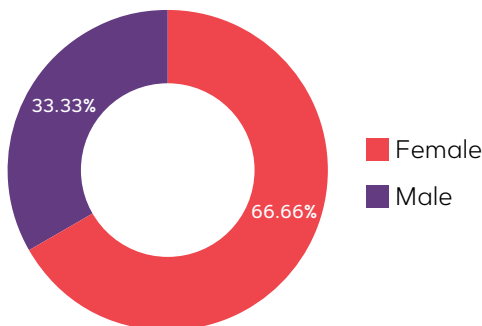
While the majority of IYAC members identify as Australian, the group includes members who identify as Congolese, Aboriginal, Fijian, Maori and Samoan.

Cultural Background of IYAC members
(Respondents = 15)



IYAC members predominantly identify as female.

Gender of IYAC members
(Respondents = 15)



¹ Note that the initial selection criteria included representation from across the existing 10 divisions of Ipswich. At the time of writing, these divisional boundaries are being re-drawn. As such, data on geographical representation has not been included here.

² Note that age limits (16-25) were applied at the time of application.

IYAC GOALS AND DECISION-MAKING

As part of a process to empower youth, build values around civic engagement, and engage youth in decision-making, IYAC and community development staff worked to develop a collaborative decision-making process, that reflects some of the processes used by council. The group collaboratively developed a set of values and principles, meeting procedures and decision-making procedures, documented in an IYAC Terms of Reference. For decisions to be made, a quorum (50% of membership) need to agree. Proposals are brought to the groups via a formal submission process, involving a written submission, a presentation, Q and A, followed by a vote (see further discussion regarding IYAC decision-making below).

IYAC members identified a number of key issues that IYAC would focus on over their two-year tenure. These were decided upon over a series of facilitated sessions, with brainstorming followed by thematic grouping of key ideas. Through this process, the group identified the following goals:

- improving youth mental health
- building diversity and acceptance.

GIVE YOUTH A VOICE

One of the key indicators being tracked is around giving youth a voice, including the capacity for young people to identify and articulate key issues facing young people in Ipswich, and advocate for young people.

KEY ISSUES FACING YOUTH IN IPSWICH

In surveys and interviews, members were asked to indicate key issues that are affecting youth in Ipswich. These have been clustered into key themes in the table below, including number of instances for each survey, along with key quotes. The key issues across the baseline and 12-month responses include:

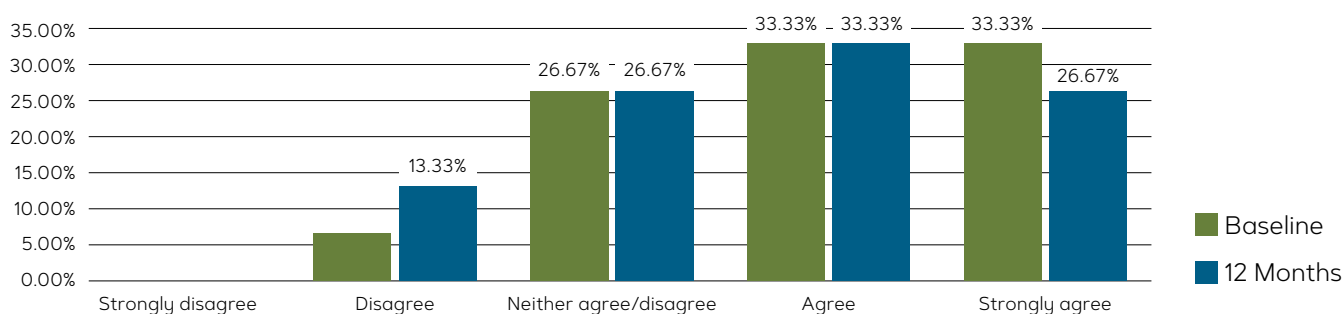
- youth unemployment
- education
- mental health
- drug and alcohol use
- personal development
- lack of youth spaces, activities and entertainment
- homelessness.

	Baseline Responses	12-Month Responses	Quote
Youth unemployment	8	7	"Employment/employability/job market"
Education	6	4	"Motivation to complete school"
Mental health	6	5	"There is a lack of... free or affordable mental health [support]"
Homelessness	4	3	"I see a lot of homelessness with our young people"
Community cohesion and engagement	3	0	"Not respecting the community they live in"
Drug and alcohol use	3	5	"Unemployment and substance abuse"
Lack of access to services	3	2	"[Lack of] General Support for youth"
Interpersonal conflict	2	0	"Fighting"
Personal development	2	5	"Youth do not own their own identity"
Poverty and financial hardship	2	3	"Financial hardship" "Low socio economy"
Support for multicultural communities	2	2	"Lack of cultural awareness/support"
Crime	1	2	"Violence/gangs"
Domestic violence	1	1	"Domestic violence"
Environmental challenges	1	0	"Sustainability"
Impacts of social media	1	0	"Misuse of Social Media"
Indigenous disadvantage	1	2	"Indigenous disempowerment by colonizing policies"
Lack of business opportunities	1	1	"Economic opportunities specifically in the creative industries (no jobs or strong industry)"
Lack of support for people with disabilities	1	1	"Lack of community support for people with disabilities"
Lack of youth spaces, activities and entertainment	1	4	"Night Life (not enough for people to do within Ipswich especially at night)"
LGBTQIA+ issues	1	0	"LGBTQIA+ issues"
Physical health	1	0	"Health – physical"
Racism	0	1	"Racism"
Family support	0	1	"Generally poor parenting skills"
Political engagement	0	1	"Lack of political knowledge"
Limited opportunities for the arts	0	1	"Lack of structure for Arts and culture (facilities, arts and culture Officer, clear programs and strategy)"
Media representation	0	1	"Media representation"

YOUTH VOICE

In order to gauge and track youth voice, empowerment, decision-making and initiative, members were asked to indicate whether they feel they have a say on important issues in their community. Most members – 60% – felt that they were able to have a say on important issues.

I am able to have a say on important issues in my community
(Respondents = 15)



The question of youth voice was further explored in interviews. Some interview participants reflected on the importance of incorporating a youth voice into decision-making, and the challenges of encouraging youth to participate in processes and spaces where they might not feel welcome. In describing the value of youth perspectives, one young person said:

“Young people have a perspective of their own from a generation, for example I think we’re generation Y. Yeah. It has different perspectives from the previous generation for example. So our voice also needs to be recognised in some of the more important issues”.

Another young person reflected on the failures of representatives to meaningfully engage with young people, saying:

“I’ve spoken to a lot of different community development people in business and also in the council and things are often made without consultation to you then they’re actually irrelevant. For example, park developments... they’ll build a park that no one will come to. So you can spend a lot of resource time and energy in the wrong direction. So I like the idea that people would come and actually put it before the youth. I think youth don’t want to be necessarily called youth but you know what I mean? Like that you be considered in that respect.”

Some members felt that IYAC offered some level of institutional legitimacy, which gave them the confidence to speak up in different contexts. One member said:

“But I feel like... I have more of an informed opinion because I have connections to a government body now. I’m not just like another person who says this. I can go “oh actually”, you know, with this this this. Like I have something behind me that I can refer to when they go “oh, so how do you know all this?”. I can like “oh, I’m just part of IYAC”.

While another said:

“If you’re from IYAC, you’re also a representative of Ipswich, young people and stuff, also representing other people... like multicultural people... yeah, so I can tell them, yeah, I’m from IYAC”.

In one case, council staff actively engaged IYAC to gather ideas for the Ipswich Festival. This engagement led to IYAC members being engaged to set up a ‘youth space’ and a series of activities:

“... we spoke with the people from the Ipswich Festival and [IYAC members] have been asked to be on the volunteer now, which is really exciting. Because I realise that – it was great that they were coming to us for ideas for a youth thing but I feel like if you can’t just take youth ideas and put them all together and call it a youth thing, I feel like if you want it to be you know, our generation, then we should run it... I feel like it needs to be youth led. If you want our ideas, I think you need to have some of us on board”.

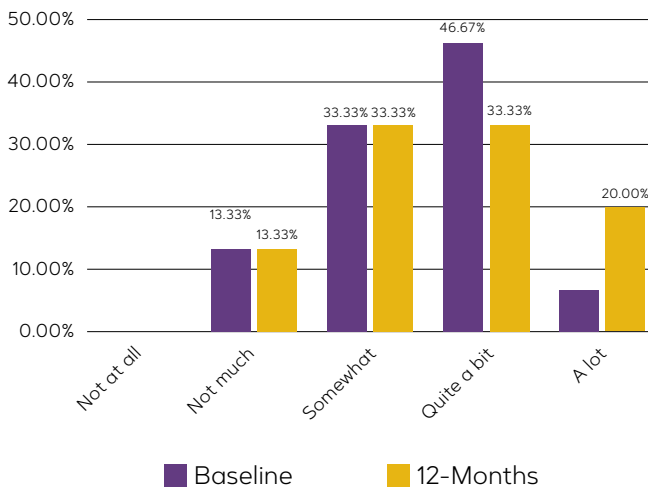
BUILD VALUES AROUND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A key indicator being tracked is civic engagement among young people, including attitudes and opinions around the capacity to influence change, engagement in broader community activities, opinions around civic engagement, and involvement in political decision-making.

CAPACITY TO INFLUENCE CHANGE

Members were asked to indicate to what extent they felt they were able to influence change on key issues facing youth. At 12-months, 57.14% of members felt they were able to influence change ('quite a bit' and 'a lot').

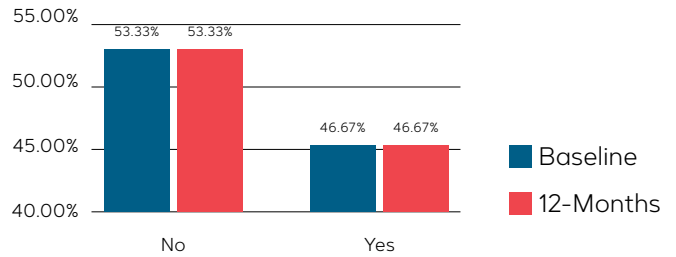
How much do you currently feel you are able to influence change on the above issues?
(Respondents = 15)



ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY GROUPS

In order to gauge levels of civic engagement, social connections and initiative, members were asked if they are the member of any community groups. Outside of IYAC, 46.67% were members of other community groups.

Are you a member of any community groups?
(Respondents = 15)



For those IYAC members taking part in community groups, these include:

- arts networks
- church community group
- church groups
- church youth groups
- community choir
- Creative Ipswich
- cultural organisations
- dancing groups
- ICYS Ambassador
- Ipswich Musical Theatre Company
- Ipswich Rocks event
- local community centre
- political parties
- Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)
- University Pacific Islander Association
- University Student Ambassador.

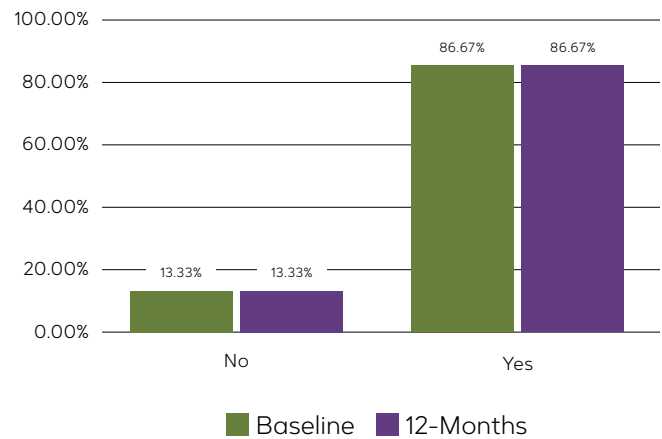
VOLUNTEERING

Members were asked if they had contributed to any organisations as volunteers, noting volunteering as an important factor in building youth civic engagement. Reflecting an engaged and active group, almost all members – 86.67% – had volunteered with community groups or events outside of IYAC.

For those IYAC members who have volunteered, volunteering activities include:

- ANZAC Day March
- arts festivals and events
- Christmas for Homeless Youth
- church groups
- Creative Ipswich
- cultural community group
- DVAC
- Footprints in the Park
- Gen X Unleashed Brisbane
- Harmony Day
- Headspace
- ICYS
- Ipswich Court
- Ipswich Festival
- Ipswich Homeschool Co-op
- Ipswich Hospital Foundation at the Ipswich Show
- Ipswich Housing and Support Services
- Ipswich Multifest and Polyfest
- Ipswich Musical Theatre Company Events
- Ipswich Pasifika
- Ipswich Rocks
- Litter control
- Multicultural youth carnival
- Park2Park
- political parties
- Pyjama Angels
- Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)
- Relay4Life
- Rosewood Festival
- Rosie's
- RPSHS Election Day barbeque
- Smith Family
- Sound Point Goodna
- St Vincent De Pauls
- Staines Memorial College IMPACT night
- tree planting
- various op shops/ animal welfare related volunteering.

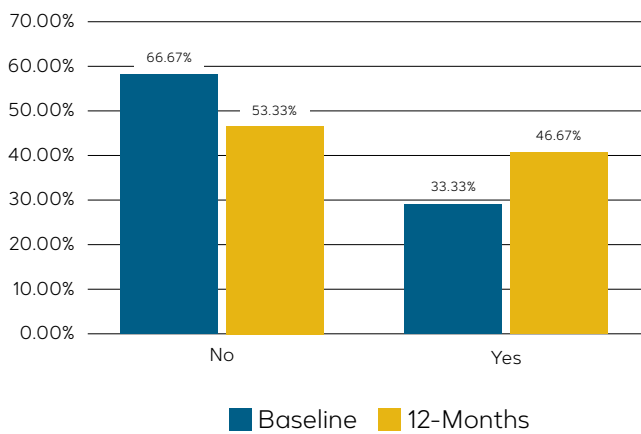
Have you ever volunteered in the community or assisted with community groups/events?
(Respondents = 15)



ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Members were also asked if they had taken part in community meetings, a further measure of engagement in the community. At 12-months, 46.67% of IYAC members were involved in community meetings outside of IYAC, up from 33.33% at the baseline.

Have you taken part in any community meetings?
(Respondents = 15)



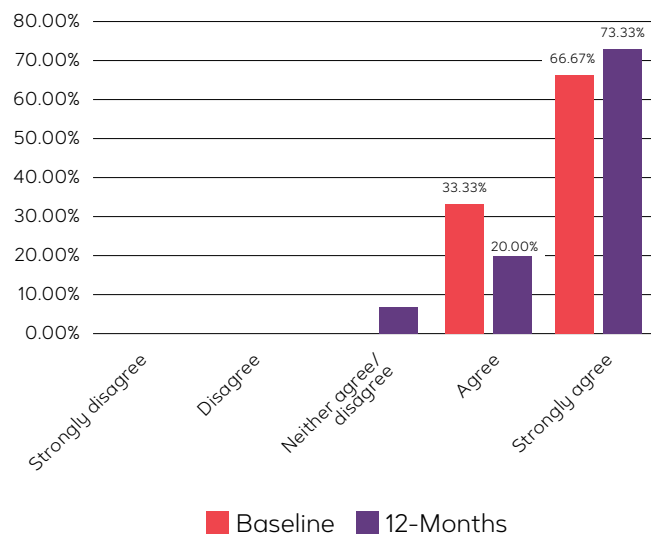
For those IYAC members who have taken part in community meetings, these include:

- church community group meetings
- Creative Ipswich meetings
- cultural community meetings
- diversity leaders meetings
- Ipswich Arts meetings
- Ipswich Musical Theatre Company meetings
- Marburg Community Consultation
- Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) board meetings
- Rosewood Cultural Centre meetings.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY LIFE

Members were asked to indicate to what degree they feel a responsibility to engage in community life, as a key measure of critical consciousness and civic engagement. At 12-months, almost all members indicated that they felt they had a responsibility to take part in community life.

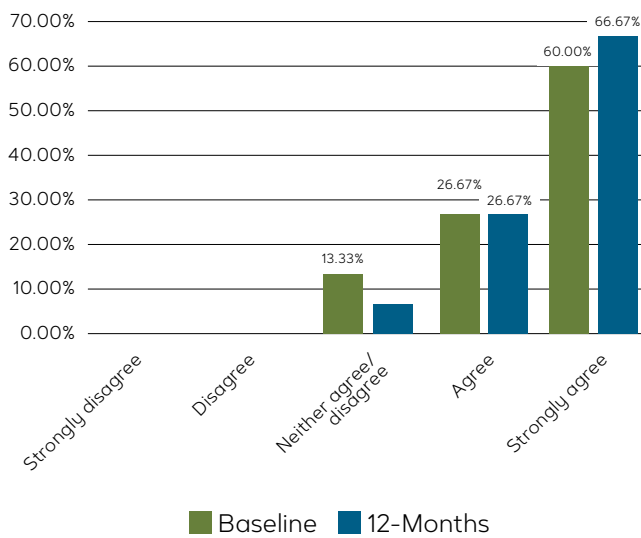
I feel I have a responsibility to take part in community life
(Respondents = 15)



ADDRESSING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

In order to further gauge and track critical consciousness, members were asked to indicate whether they feel they should be working to address economic and social inequalities. At 12-months, almost all members – 93.34% – felt strongly that it is important to work to correct economic and social inequalities (compared to 86.67% at the baseline).

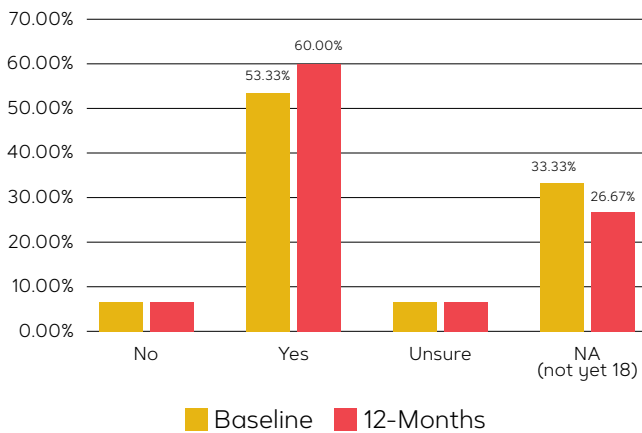
It is important that I work to correct economic and social inequalities
(Respondents = 15)



ENGAGE YOUTH IN DECISION-MAKING

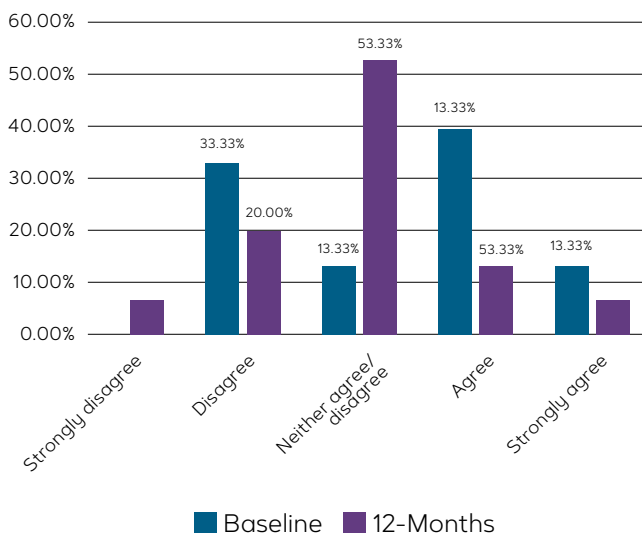
Engagement of youth in decision-making is a key indicator being tracked. To gauge engagement in decision making, members were asked to reflect on their formal participation in democratic processes. For those members who are over 18, most were regularly taking part in local, state and federal elections.

(If you are over 18) Do you regularly vote in local, state and federal elections?
(Respondents = 15)



However, when asked if they felt able to communicate with elected representatives, many felt less confident. At 12-months, only around 20% of members felt able to communicate with elected representatives.

Currently, I am able to communicate with elected representatives about important issues in my community
(Respondents = 15)



This question was explored in interviews, where participants expressed mixed opinions on the value of engagement in political decision making. Some expressed the value of engagement, the importance of being involved, and felt positive about this process. Some felt positive about their capacity to effect change via political engagement. One young person said:

"I always vote, so I always feel like just being able to have the option to vote is always, just do it. That's our biggest way of being involved in that kind of thing... Even when you're not 18 and cannot vote, you can still have your say. You can still write into the ministers and tell them what you think. It's completely open to be able to do that, which is why we have ministers that are elected by us, so you can go and talk to them and talk to your state members and federal members and stuff. I think it would be good to encourage younger people to just write in about it... you can write into them and call them and say 'hey I don't like this thing'".

Others reflected with more pessimism on the failures of the political system to respond to community needs, and failures to incorporate and include young people. One young person said:

"I always find that older people are a lot more inclined to have their say on things. I don't know if it's just because young people are just kind of scared to go against what's happening. I think it would be really great if we could just encourage younger people to have their say".

Another said:

"Because I think a lot of the time they go 'oh, you know, they're changing it. I'm just going to have to live with it'. But you can say 'hey, no I don't really like that'. Like it might not always change the decision but if you don't say anything then of course it's not going to change it".

While another said:

"I think they (politicians) need [information on] how do they talk to youth".

One young person reflected on a lack of knowledge and engagement among young people, and the future implications of this, saying:

“When I went to vote, I posted about it on Snapchat, and all my friends were like ‘what? What is that?’ They had no idea. And all my friends are enrolled, they are eligible to vote, and they don’t know anything about it. I think this is a real problem, because as young people, soon we’ll be the ones making the decisions, and people aren’t taking part. I reckon it’s only a small proportion of people who vote – 10 per cent I reckon, yeah”.

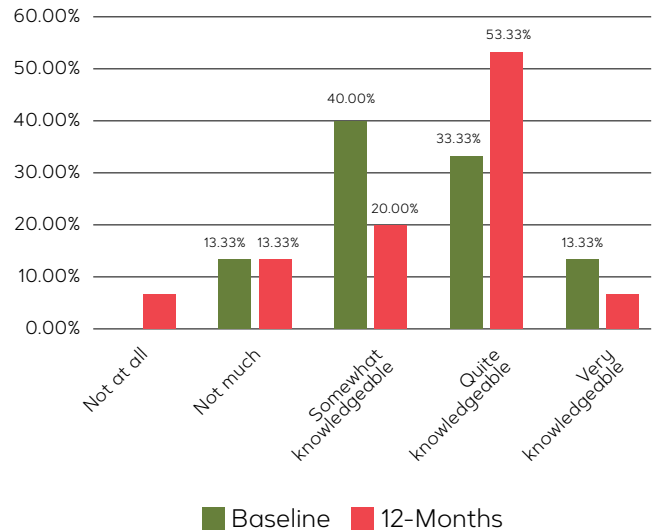
Another said:

“A very small percentage [of young people get involved], I would say less than 10 [percent]... I don’t think most young people see the point... because they have a stereotype that is already there, the stigma around Ipswich, being nothing but a no-good place... they’d be like again, no, what’s the point... there are some young people that actually care where the development of Ipswich is going... [but] most of them are like ‘well I’m not staying anyway”.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WORK IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

As a further measure of engagement in decision-making and civic engagement, members were asked to consider their current level of knowledge regarding the work of council. In the baseline survey, members indicated a moderate level of knowledge of council work, and many indicated that they’d like to build knowledge around governance and government, as well as engage in advocacy and policy development. At 12-months, most members – 60% – said that they had some knowledge regarding the work that council is responsible for. This is an area for further work.

How knowledgeable do you feel you are about what work Ipswich City Council is responsible for?
(Respondents = 15)



Members indicated the following key pieces of work that council engages in (bracketed numbers indicate recurring responses):

	Baseline Responses	12-Month Responses	Quote
Roads, infrastructure and maintenance	8	11	"Maintenance of the city (local roads etc.)"
Funding and supporting community initiatives	6	0	"Funding community initiatives and business"
Parks and public spaces	4	2	"Maintaining parks and public spaces"
Waste	4	2	"Public health (bins)"
Economic development	3	2	"Business development and employment"
Local regulations	3	4	"Regulating by-laws"
Events	2	1	"Attending community events as representatives"
Planning and development	2	3	"Construction and town planning"
Representation	2		"Make sure all people are being heard in the community"
Championing Ipswich and advocacy	3	3	"Develop Ipswich into a modern city"
Community development	2	2	"Ensuring a strong community"
Community engagement	1	4	"To help connect and engage the community"
Environmental protection	1	2	
Libraries	1	3	"Public facilities (libraries)"
Safety	1	1	"Ensure that Ipswich is a safe community"
Addressing homelessness	0	1	"Improving homelessness"
Supporting vulnerable community members	0	3	"Improving economy for low income families"
Transport	0	1	"Transport"
Resource allocation	0	1	"Local governance and resource allocation"
Data collection and research	0	1	"Statics and data collection"
Community awareness on key issues	0	2	"Domestic Violence awareness"
Tourism	0	1	"Tourism"

In interviews, some members felt that they had been able to develop a deeper understanding of council processes, or a desire to learn more. One young person said:

“I’ve definitely been able to build a bit more understanding of council members and community people around through IYAC”.

While another said:

“Being in IYAC has opened my eyes to the process of how council are to do things, like, you have to have a lot of supporting information which is good, because you need that accountability to be like, we’re not wasting your money”.

However, others felt they wanted more information:

“I’d love to know more about how local council works... I would love to know the ins and outs of how like decisions happen. When you apply for grants what happens? Because I feel like at the moment I feel like you just fill out a piece of paper and it goes somewhere and I don’t know what happens. So yeah I’d personally love to know how it works in council”.

One young person reflected on the challenges that Ipswich City Council has faced, and the perceptions from young people, saying:

“We’ve had some insight into what’s going on within council, [staff members are] very honest with us, [they don’t] beat around the bush, [they are] quite honest about things... it has been [a difficult time in council] for the last two to three years, and it will be for the next two to three years, so, it’s going to be difficult... When people do see something funded by Ipswich City Council, people walk away... it is because of what has happened, and that’s really sad”.

ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING

IYAC members have also been engaged by council staff in a number of community engagement activities, to help inform council decision making. This has included:

- engagement for the development of a Children, Youth and Family Friendly City policy
- feedback on ideas for the Ipswich Festival
- feedback on Shape Your Ipswich, Ipswich City Council’s online engagement portal.

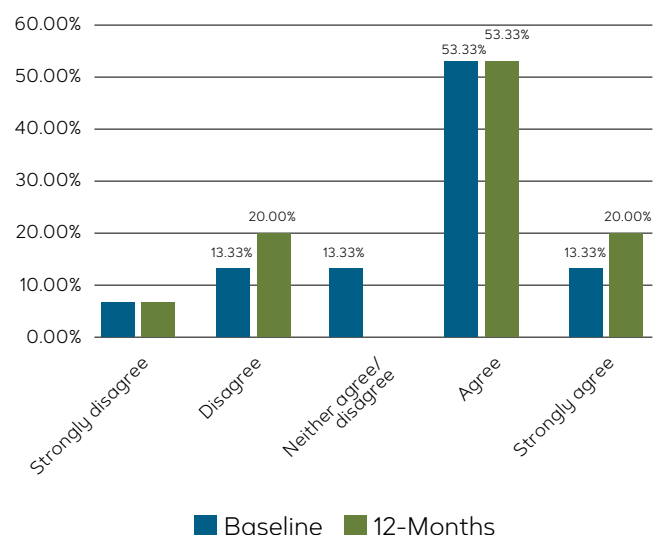
Some members were also positive about the prospect of youth-related council initiatives being brought to IYAC for consideration and feedback. One member said:

“I love the fact that [council staff] wants to start an initiative to have anything for youth to put in front of the IYAC Council, I think that’s a really smart thing because I’ve spoken to a lot of different community development people in business and also in the council and things are often made without consultation to you, then they’re actually irrelevant”.

BUILD SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

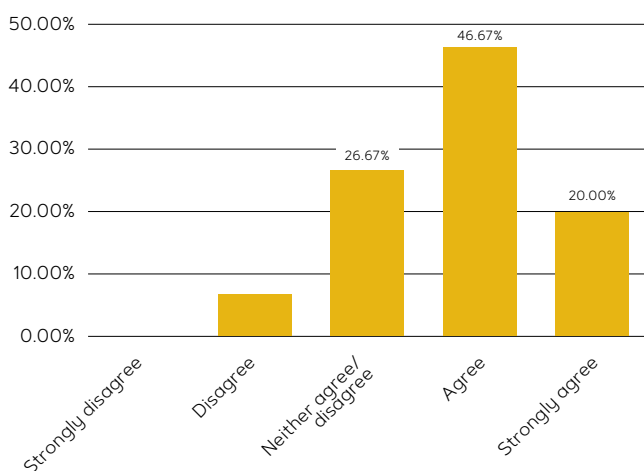
A key indicator being measured is the building of social connections among young people, as a key part of strong communities. In the baseline survey, many young people indicated that they’d like to build collaboration and communication skills. At 12-months, 73.33% of members felt connected to like-minded youth in Ipswich. However, it should be noted that some young people involved still felt limited in their connections to other young people, suggesting scope for more work in order to create a safe space for network-building.

I feel connected to other like-minded young people in Ipswich
(Respondents = 15)



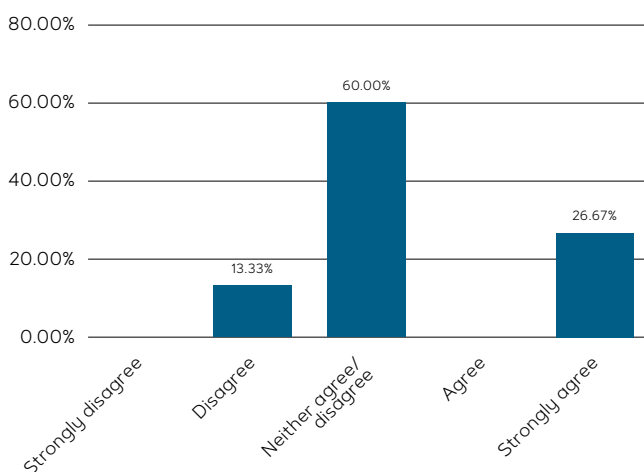
Members were also asked to reflect on whether they felt they had built connections with IYAC members, or new connections in the broader Ipswich community. There was mostly positive feedback regarding connections built with IYAC members, with 66.67% of members at the 12-month mark feeling they had built strong networks.

I have built strong networks with other IYAC members over the past 12-months
(Respondents = 15)



Networks in the broader community, however, were less strong, indicating that there is scope to be finding opportunities for IYAC members to be connected with relevant organisations, institutions and individuals.

I have built strong networks with organisations, institutions and individuals in the broader Ipswich community over the past 12-months
(Respondents = 15)



Participants were asked in interviews to reflect on any relationships they had built with other IYAC members, or with broader networks. Some felt that they had built enduring connections with other IYAC members. One young person said:

“... I think everyone’s going to go on to go and do great things so it will be great to, you know, if down the line... you can go to them... and be able, you know, hopefully improve the community even further like after IYAC which will be really great”.

To a lesser extent, some also felt that they had had the opportunity to build connections with community members and organisations, however this was an area where more work could be done, and many were looking forward to future opportunities. One young person said:

“When I was working on [an IYAC community project] I was looking for organisations who could help with [cultural performances] and I was put in touch with this group. And now in the future, when I’m working on other stuff, I can say, here is this group, they’re good, they’re reliable, and I wouldn’t have had that connection without IYAC”.

While another said:

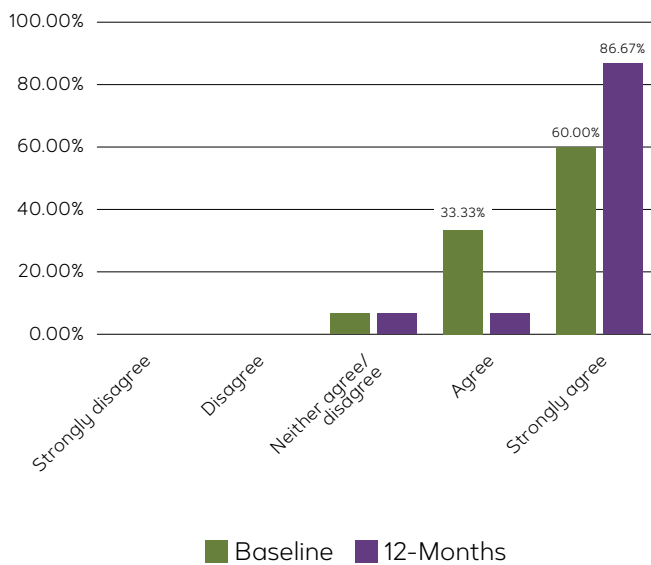
“Researcher:... do you feel that building these relationships will be beneficial for you going forward? For IYAC and beyond as well?”

IYAC Member: I think so yeah. Especially with like organisations, just being able to get your name in with them kind of thing, so that could always open up opportunities in the future. To further work with them even if you’re not doing it through IYAC and stuff.”

DIVERSITY AND REPRESENTATION

IYAC aims to represent the diversity of young people in Ipswich. The group also identified “Building diversity and acceptance” as a key priority for their work and initiatives. The vast majority of members – 93.34% – felt positive about cultural diversity (combining ‘agree’ and ‘strongly agree’).

It is a good thing for our community to be made up of people from different cultures
(Respondents = 15)



In interviews, members were asked to reflect on the value of diversity, including cultural backgrounds, as well as gender and sexuality. All participants felt that IYAC had good representation of ages and geographies, with room for improvement around gender representation and cultural backgrounds. Many members appreciated working in a diverse environment, with one young person saying:

“I think if the rest of the world was like IYAC, that would be my paradise. Because we all work together, and we celebrate difference”.

While another said:

“[IYAC] looks more like the way Ipswich looks... you think, yeah, this is Ipswich, cause you have different people in Ipswich, and I feel like the population is growing, so we’re getting more people from different backgrounds, different places... which is good, it’s good to have different people in the group so we can also talk about different stuff, cause if you were like born in Australia, and someone who is born overseas, I mean you have different, you know, opinions and stuff, and the way you look at life, so it’s good when we mix, so we can all share, learn”.

Others reflected on the learning that they and the group had gone through, as a result of working with people from diverse groups and diverse experiences:

“Because we’re from all different parts of Ipswich. And like some of us are older, some of us younger... But then we’ve got the ones that are still in high school so it’s really good just to be able to hear from everyone’s point of view. Especially since like a few of them have worked with like community centres and stuff. They kind of see more of the things from youth that are disadvantaged, so it’s a real eye opener for just being able to hear everyone’s different experiences and everyone’s different ideas”.

Others felt that their own cultural background and experience was a valuable contribution to the group:

“My most valuable contribution has been] My opinion I suppose... Being from a different cultural background, I think there’s a lot of cultural backgrounds in IYAC but me specifically, I’m [from two cultural backgrounds] at the same time. So my contribution from both those perspectives I believe”.

Some participants reflected on the challenges around diversity and multiculturalism in Ipswich. One young person reflected on dated attitudes held by some people in positions of power, but felt excited about the new generation that would be eventually replacing them:

“I think a lot of [people in power] tend to be a bit older so it’s like, you know, especially in the higher up positions they’ve come from that time where maybe it was a bit ok to be a bit racist, so there’s that little bit of a gap but I also look around at the current generations that are coming up and they’re all like, some of them are motivated and so they’re wanting to go into parliament”.

Another young person also felt that young people had the capacity to influence change, saying:

“IYAC Member:... there’s so many different people from different areas, different backgrounds, and... we just decide you know, we’re not going to accept them. So it’s a big issue and since we’re younger and we can have influence over younger people...”

Researcher: So do you mean there’s these views out in the broader Ipswich community and you guys have an opportunity to be influencing that?

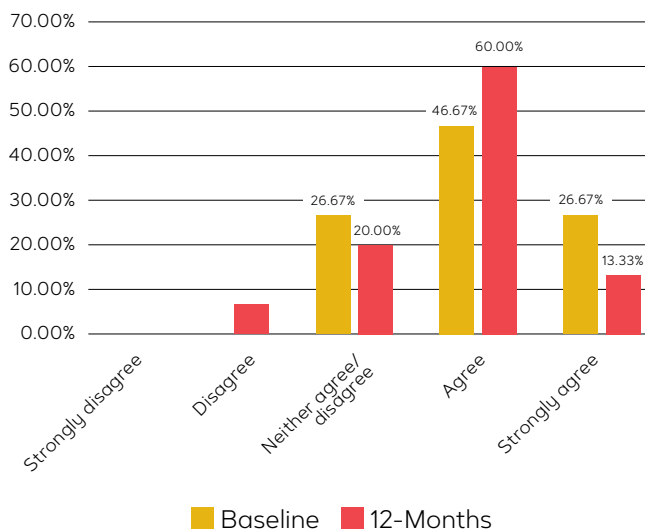
IYAC Member: Yeah, I think we really do have the opportunity to influence that”.



SKILLS, EMPOWERMENT AND OWNERSHIP

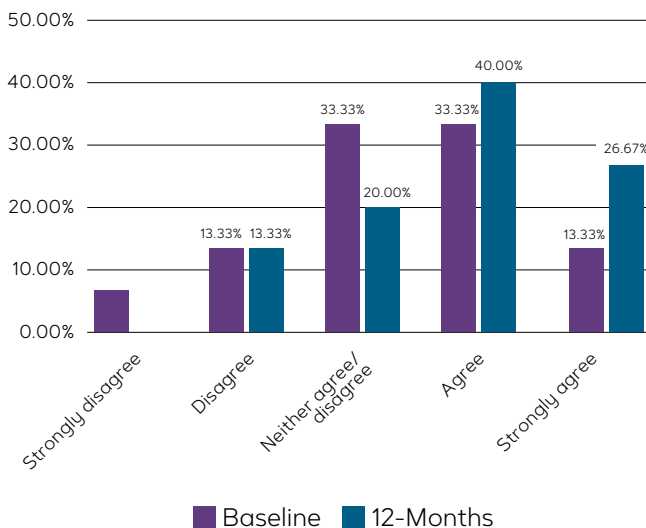
Two key indicators being tracked are to 'empower youth to take ownership of initiatives' and 'build skills to take initiative'. In order to gauge and track empowerment, skills and initiative, members were asked to indicate whether they had the skills to influence change on key issues affecting young people. The majority of members – 73.33% – felt that they have the skills to influence change.

I have the skills to influence change on issues impacting youth in Ipswich
(Respondents = 15)



At 12-months, 66.67% of IYAC members also felt confident that they could organise events and initiatives to address issues in their community. Around 33%, however, indicated that there was still scope for growth in these capabilities.

Currently, I am able to organise events and initiatives to address important issues in my community
(Respondents = 15)



Many participants reflected on the value of active initiatives. One young person said:

"... being able to help people is always something that's a big passion of mine. So IYAC gave me the means to do something that I wanted to for a very long time, which was definitely – it was memorable for me".

Another said:

"To date my most valuable experience would have been, the first time I actually physically got involved into a IYAC event. Yep. So that was an experience definitely. A shock at first, but I've come to realise I need to push myself outside my comfort zone just to evolve as a person".

Others reflected on the ways in which structures within IYAC helped members to take ownership of ideas and initiatives. This included the institutional support offered to the group, as well as internal processes that have helped to empower young people. One young person reflected on IYAC processes as enabling them to take ownership of initiatives, saying:

"... it was from that point in the first meeting that I was like "I'm going to start fleshing out my idea" so that I could not just say "hey Cam I got an idea".

I can say "I've got a project. This is what I want to do", and have it all planned out... I think the project plan that we do, that we have to fill out, it gives you everything you need to think about which was very helpful".

Others felt that they had been able to gain valuable skills and ideas from other IYAC members, with one young person saying:

"I do think I have, I would say, enhanced my current skills, so I have a passion for young people, children and young people, so being within IYAC I've been able to see other people that are in similar, I would say, passion as well, and just kind of taking some of their skills, and sharing with each other, I do think I have benefitted with my skills... listening to other people I've been like, OK, these things are really cool, like, ideas, I've been able to take those, and implement them into [other work outside of IYAC]".

Many had further suggestions about skills and experiences they'd like to build over their IYAC term, including:

- **confidence:** "Confidence (coming out of my shell)" and "Become more confident about my place in my community, and how I can offer assistance"
 - **public Speaking:** "Public speaking and debating practice"
 - **networks and connections:** "[Building] Network (inside and outside of council)"
 - **involvement in decision-making:** "Experiencing council decision making" and "Understanding of council"
 - **project planning:** "Real world experience organising and contributing to events"
 - **support for vulnerable community members:** "How to approach sensitive issues such as mental health"
 - **empathy and understanding:** "Understanding various points of view".
- Key goals and activities that IYAC members hoped to achieve included:
- **promoting IYAC as a central source of support for youth:** "Build a name for IYAC in the local community", "Getting IYAC known in the community", "A bigger social media presence", and "Access point for youth (for others to meet with us for help on their projects)"
 - **supporting council initiatives,** including Ipswich Festival
 - **acting as a key pathway for communication between council and youth:** "giving youth a place to let council know about issues" and "Educating young people as to council"
 - **mental health first aid training:** "I think the other initiatives like the first aid mental youth, mental health check training will be really good and sort of help everyone get on the same page with how we should be working in that area"
 - **active support for vulnerable people in Ipswich:** "... being able to help people is always something that's a big passion of mine. So IYAC gave me the means to do something that I wanted to for a very long time, which was definitely – it was memorable for me"
 - **further experience in the community:** "I think it would be great for us to get out in the community, which I think we're kind of aiming to do, especially if like this festival comes up. Like just being able us as IYAC members go out and actually talk to people. So I think that would be really helpful to do that"
 - **visits to council meetings and a visit to State Parliament**
 - **guest speakers from youth services**
 - **mentoring from council staff:** "I would like one-on-one... training with our sub-committees... I think to sit down with employees of Ipswich City Council who are already in sort of similar roles, would be good to just get some insight... even just having meetings with these people, formal and informal, would be beneficial... on the job experience"
 - **clarity on the responsibilities of different levels of government**
 - **cultural heritage training.**



IYAC DECISION-MAKING

Participants were asked to reflect on their engagement in IYAC decision-making processes, as a measure of ownership and empowerment. The response was resoundingly positive, with most members feeling included and engaged. One young person said:

“Researcher: So how involved do you feel you’ve been so far with the decision making that’s gone on within IYAC?”

IYAC Member: Very involved. Definitely... Yeah, it’s working really well. I like the template and everything and the voting process and everything that we have to go through. It seems, like there’s a level of professionalism there, so it’s not just like “Hey I’m going to do this”. Like we have to make sure it’s been approved and use buzzwords and do a little spiel. Yeah it’s really good”.

While another said:

“Especially like the feedback, the way we give feedback. So before we raise our votes we give feedback. Each person has a time window to give feedback on the project or idea that’s been put forward”.

One young person reflected on the parallels with council processes:

“Well I like the idea of, you know, you vote and it’s like, it’s not anonymous but I like the idea in how it’s kind of structured similarly to how council would work. I think, you know, that’s helping a bit understand how council’s ideas are put through... and I feel like I have a massive say”.

CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

In parallel to decision-making and building social connections, some young people commented on the ways in which IYAC processes had given them skills to deal with conflict and cooperation. This is positive given that in the opening survey, a key goal for a number of members was to build their collaboration skills. In building skills around collaboration and cooperation, one young person said:

“I feel like I have, sort of, with our IYAC meetings, so like different sort of opinions or different issues, you know... Like you learn to listen to people, you learn to give constructive feedback. Just opening the space for dialogue. Like in IYAC there’s so much – like we emphasise hearing other people, hearing voices and I feel like that’s something that IYAC has really taught me is when I go into situations, is just stepping back a bit, you know, a third party perspective, bird’s eye view of the situation, breaking it down to its core and that’s something I’ve learned through IYAC is... taking in other opinions and perspectives”.

At least two participants commented that the structures put in place to manage discussion and decision-making had helped them work with people they might have previously clashed with:

“... if the values of IYAC weren’t there and you just threw all of us in a room, I feel like I would have clashed a lot with a lot of other IYAC members, but because we established the values, the mission, the purpose and all that stuff of IYAC at the beginning and it was all really well planned out, if all of that wasn’t done we wouldn’t have been able to work effectively as a team”.

One member also talked about the ways in which diverse personality types are accommodated:

“[The co-ordinator] makes sure everyone is included, so like we have some people who are very quiet sometimes, so he always likes sort of stops the discussion and goes hey, what do you think about this, you know, we value everyone’s opinion, he does that really well”.



IYAC PROJECTS

IYAC members have been involved in a number of council and community events, and have also driven a number of new IYAC-led initiatives. IYAC members have assisted as volunteers and youth representatives at events including:

- Ipswich Multifest 2019
- Educators' Link
- Ipswich Harmony Day 2019
- Ipswich Festival 2019
- Ipswich Film Festival for Youth (IFFY) 2019.

IYAC members have taken part in training, including:

- mental Health First Aid.

IYAC members have also developed new initiatives, including:

- the Youth Arena at Ipswich Festival (further details below)
- christmas Hampers for women's service Hannah's House (further details below)
- youth activities at Ipswich Harmony Day 2019 (further details below)
- youth activities at the Ipswich Film Festival for Youth (IFFY).

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR HANNAH'S HOUSE

Hannah's House is a not-for-profit organisation that provide young women with crisis accommodation. Hannah's House teach basic living skills, assists in finding long term living arrangements, and they carry out supportive follow-ups with the women. Hannah's House is one of the only organisations in Ipswich that provide their services to young single women aged 13 to 17.

I have wanted to do something to support this organisation for many years. When I got the call to say that I had been accepted onto IYAC, I started to put some ideas together. As one of the key objectives on IYAC is to promote better mental health for young people, and I felt this could be a good opportunity for IYAC to show these young people that someone is looking out for them, and to help ensure that these young women do not feel like they are tackling these broader societal issues alone.

We decided to together...deliver Christmas Hampers for the young women staying at Hannah's House. I put together a project plan and made a presentation to IYAC, and got feedback and approval from members. I also engaged with staff at Hannah's House, to find out exactly what resources would be most useful for the young women.

Me and a team of IYAC volunteers spent a day at Studio 188 putting the hampers together. We included toiletries, stationary, notebooks, gift vouchers, movie vouchers, packed into personal backpacks. We delivered the hampers to Hannah's House shortly before Christmas. We got some lovely feedback from the Hannah's House staff, who said, "you will be making a huge difference to the young women staying with us, your thoughtful gifts will bring a big smile on Christmas morning!". It was great to be able to organise peer-to-peer support, and do something practical for other young women in Ipswich. I'm hoping this is a project IYAC can continue to support in the coming years.

IYAC Member



IYAC members preparing Christmas hampers

YOUTH ARENA AT IPSWICH FESTIVAL

We were really excited to set up a dedicated Youth Arena at the Ipswich Festival. The idea started when some of the Ipswich Festival organising team came to speak with IYAC, to gather some ideas for youth activities at the Festival. Rather than just giving our ideas, a group of us suggested that we be actively involved in setting up a youth space at the Festival – rather than just being consulted, we thought, we could run activities for youth, by youth. So we went through the council volunteer induction, and we got to actively be part of the team organising Ipswich Festival. We spent two months as part of the team, helping plan the event.

With the Youth Arena, we wanted to create an inclusive space to celebrate young people of all backgrounds and their diversity. We wanted to create a culture that approves creative expression, embraces different cultural practices, promotes local youth business and builds a bridge between local creatives and the community. We wanted to create a space where people could come together and commemorate the youth, our talents and our shared history of this city.

With a 'tropical block party' theme, the Youth Arena included activities, music, arts and crafts, local youth services and cultural workshops. We hosted didgeridoo and clapstick carving workshops, flower crown and bracelet-making workshops, a tropical themed escape room, a silent disco, ukulele workshops, outdoor games, and photo booth. A number of local youth services also hosted stalls, including headspace and ICYS. The event ran over two days, and the feedback was incredible.

This is an example of what young people can achieve when we are given the opportunity to design and deliver our own activities and spaces, for youth, by youth.

IYAC Member



IYAC members at the Ipswich Festival Youth Arena

HARMONY DAY

IYAC members organised children's activities at the 2019 Ipswich Harmony Day. Harmony Day is an annual event that celebrates multiculturalism and cultural diversity. IYAC members, organised a large, interactive banner painting activity. Young people could come and stamp their hand, paint a flag, or write a message on a huge canvas. Over 100 kids and adults took part in the banner painting, alongside activities such as cooking demonstrations, ukulele and drumming workshops and face painting. An IYAC member also volunteered as the MC at the stage section of Harmony Day, demonstrating his growing talent in public speaking.



IYAC members at Ipswich Harmony Day 2019

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The last 12-months has seen IYAC develop into an important part of the council's Community Development portfolio. IYAC members have taken part in a number of council events, such as Harmony Day and Ipswich Multifest 2019, and have launched their own initiatives, including a Youth Arena at Ipswich Festival, and Christmas Hampers for a local women's service. Many members have developed confidence and connections. However, there is ongoing space for growth in key indicators around skills, broader networks and connections, and engagement in decision-making.

KEY ISSUES FACING YOUTH IN IPSWICH

In survey responses, IYAC members identified the following as key issues facing young people in Ipswich:

- youth unemployment
- education
- mental health
- drug and alcohol use
- personal development
- lack of youth spaces, activities and entertainment
- homelessness.

As a group, IYAC have decided to focus on two key priorities:

- improving youth mental health
- building diversity and acceptance.

GIVE YOUTH A VOICE

At 12-months, most members – 60% – felt that they are able to have a say on important issues. In interviews, members reflected on the importance of incorporating youth voice into decision-making, and the challenges of encouraging youth to participate in processes and spaces where they might not feel welcome. For some members, IYAC had given them a sense of support and institutional legitimacy to make their voice heard.

BUILD VALUES AROUND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

There have been some small improvements in member's skills and confidence to take part in change-making initiatives. Some members have reported increased social connections and networks. They have also reported a strengthening of values around civic engagement – at 12-months, almost all members indicated that they feel they had a responsibility to take part in community life, and 93.34% felt strongly that it is important to work to correct economic and social inequalities (up from 86.67% at the baseline). For many, IYAC has provided a platform to build their skills, test ideas and make a positive contribution to their communities.

ENGAGE YOUTH IN DECISION-MAKING

Survey and interview questions also sought to gauge how engaged IYAC members felt in broader decision-making processes. For those members who are over 18, most are regularly taking part in local, state and federal elections. Most members – 60% – also indicated that they feel knowledgeable about work that council is responsible for. However, only 20% of members felt able to communicate with elected representatives. Participants also expressed mixed opinions on the value of engagement in political decision-making, with some identifying a range of barriers to young people taking part.

IYAC members have been actively engaged in some council engagement and decision-making processes. There is scope to further build this connection between IYAC and council, and other levels of decision-making, with members suggesting activities including visits to council meetings and a visit to State Parliament, mentoring from council staff and clarity on the responsibilities of different levels of government.

BUILD SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

A key goal of IYAC is to build connections and relationships between youth and the broader Ipswich community. In the baseline survey, many young people indicated that they'd like to build collaboration and communication skills. At 12-months, 73.33% of members felt connected to like-minded youth in Ipswich. In interviews, some felt that they had built enduring connections that they would be able to draw on in the future. However, it should be noted that some young people involved still feel limited in their connections to other young people, and their connections to broader organisations and institutions, suggesting scope for more work to create safe and productive spaces for network-building.

DIVERSITY AND REPRESENTATION

A key goal of IYAC is to ensure the group represents the diversity of Ipswich. The group also identified "building diversity and acceptance" as a key priority for their work and initiatives. All participants felt that IYAC had good representation of ages and geographies, with some room for improvement around gender and cultural backgrounds. Members reflected on the learning that they and the group had gone through, as a result of working with people from diverse groups and diverse experiences. Others felt that their background and experience was a valuable contribution to the group. The vast majority of members – 93.34% – felt positive about cultural diversity. As reflected in both the baseline survey and 12-month survey, given the high level of positive regard for diversity among IYAC members, IYAC and IYAC members are ideally placed to be working to build cohesion and connections among the broader Ipswich community.

SKILLS, EMPOWERMENT AND OWNERSHIP

The majority of members – 73.33% – felt that they have the skills to influence change, while 66.67% of IYAC members felt confident that they could organise events and initiatives to address issues in their community. Many felt that the internal decision-making processes had allowed everyone to be involved and engaged, while some young people commented on the ways in which IYAC processes had given them skills to deal with conflict and cooperation. Many identified further key skills that they would like to gain as part of IYAC, including:

- confidence
- public speaking
- involvement in decision-making
- project planning
- networks and connections
- support for vulnerable community members
- empathy and understanding.

Members also identified support, training and actions they would like to take part in, including:

- mentoring and advice from council staff
- promotion of IYAC
- guest speakers
- visits to council and State Parliament
- supporting council initiatives.

UPCOMING INITIATIVES

Upcoming initiatives that IYAC are involved in, or co-ordinating, include:

- volunteering at the annual Day for Daniel
- preparing Christmas hampers for a second year
- hosting a youth stall at the Ipswich Film Festival for Youth (IFFY) Screening and Awards Night.
- establishment of four new IYAC subcommittees, including: marketing and media; community engagement, social coordination; education and training.

RESEARCH NEXT STEPS

This 12-month report will form part of ongoing research, monitoring and evaluation with IYAC members. This will include:

- ongoing interviews with Intake 1 and 2 members
- a survey with members at the two-year mark.

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APPENDIX A: BASELINE SURVEY

IPSWICH YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: BASELINE SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey. This is for participants in the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council aged 16 to 25. Our purpose in asking these questions is to track outcomes of participants' involvement with the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council and help develop the initiative. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions, and honest responses will help us continue to tailor the program to the needs of young people. You will not be personally identifiable in any reports that come out of this project. Responses will be de-identified. Your name will not appear and your responses are pooled with other participants' responses. Your information will not be given to any other agency and your personal information is handled in accordance with the *Privacy Information Act 2009*. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Community Research Officer, Amy MacMahon, at amy.macmahon@ipswich.qld.gov.au.

1. Name: _____

2. How long have you lived in Ipswich? _____ years

3. Are you a member of any community groups?

Yes (please detail) _____ No

4. Have you ever volunteered in the community or assisted with community groups/events?

Yes (please detail) _____ No

5. Have you taken part in any community meetings in the past 12 months?

Yes (please detail) _____ No

6. (If you are over 18) Do you regularly vote in local, state and federal elections?

Yes No Unsure NA (if not yet 18)

7. How knowledgeable do you feel you are about what work Ipswich City Council is responsible for?
(Please indicate from 1 – Not at all, to 5 – Very Knowledgeable)

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all knowledgeable	Not much	Somewhat knowledgeable	Quite knowledgeable	Very knowledgeable

8. Based on your current knowledge, what are the key responsibilities of Ipswich City Council?
(Briefly list the top four issues below)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

9. What important issues are impacting youth in your neighbourhood/Ipswich?
(Briefly list your top four issues below, in order of priority to you, 1 = most important)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

10. How much do you currently feel you are able to influence change on the above issues?
(Please indicate from 1 - Not at all, to 5 - A lot)

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not much	Somewhat	Quite a bit	A lot

On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), how much do you currently agree or disagree with the following statements:

11. I have the skills to influence change on issues impacting youth in Ipswich.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

12. I am able to have a say on important issues in my community.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

13. Currently, I am able to communicate with elected representatives about important issues in my community.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

14. Currently, I am able to organise events and initiatives to address important issues in my community.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

15. I feel connected to other like-minded young people in Ipswich.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

16. It is a good thing for our community to be made up of people from different cultures.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

17. I feel I have a responsibility to take part in community life.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

18. It is important that I work to correct economic and social inequalities.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

19. What key skills, experiences and outcomes do you hope to achieve while on IYAC?
(Briefly list your top four goals below, in order of priority to you, 1 = most important. These can be individual goals or collective goals)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Thank you for participating in this survey.

APPENDIX B : INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Informed consent was gained from all interview participants. Interviews began with a discussion regarding privacy, the purpose of collecting the data, and approval to digitally record the interviews. Quotes included in the report have been de-identified for anonymity.

Questions	Indicators
<p>1. Part of the goal of IYAC is to give members to skills, confidence and analysis to give voice to issues that are important to you – to be able to articulate issues with each other, and the broader community.</p> <p>a. What are the key issues affecting young people in Ipswich/Australia?</p> <p>b. Has IYAC influenced the way you understand and talk about these issues, and if so, in what ways?</p> <p>c. If no, how could we be better supporting this?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give youth a voice
<p>2. IYAC aims to give members the skills to influence change on these issues, through advocacy or initiatives.</p> <p>a. Has IYAC helped to develop skills for you, or helped you to identify skills that you'd like to develop?</p> <p>b. If no, how could we better build your skills?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build skills to take initiative
<p>3. IYAC aims to build relationships and connections within IYAC, between members, between members and council staff, and members and the wider community.</p> <p>a. Can you reflect on the relationships that you've built over the past six months?</p> <p>b. Do you feel these relationships will be beneficial to you, and if so, how?</p> <p>c. If no, how could we better foster these relationships?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build social connections
<p>4. IYAC aims to engage young people in decision-making, at the council level and beyond.</p> <p>a. Do you feel you've been able to have a say in the plans and goals of IYAC?</p> <p>b. Has IYAC made you feel more engaged in broader decision-making, in council, or the broader community?</p> <p>c. How knowledgeable about council decision-making processes do you feel?</p> <p>d. How important do you think it is for community members to take part in decision-making?</p> <p>e. If no, how could we better foster engagement in decision-making?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build values around civic engagement ▪ Empower youth to take ownership of initiatives ▪ Engage youth in decision-making
<p>5. IYAC aims to include a diverse group of young people, and fostering inclusion and diversity is something that IYAC members have identified as important for IYAC, and the wider Ipswich community (cultural background, education, sexuality, background and experience, gender, geography).</p> <p>a. Do you feel that IYAC is achieving this goal?</p> <p>b. Why do you feel that diversity is important?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have representation from council divisions and major cultural backgrounds
<p>6. What would you say is your most valuable experience in IYAC to date? What would you say is your most valuable contribution to IYAC to date?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build values around civic engagement ▪ Engage youth in decision-making
<p>7. Is there anything you would change about IYAC processes and procedures?</p> <p>a. Agenda, meeting length, time, location, facilitation style, decision-making processes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage youth in decision-making

APPENDIX C: 12-MONTH SURVEY

IPSWICH YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: 12-MONTH SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey. This is for participants in the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council aged 16 to 25. Our purpose in asking these questions is to track outcomes of participants' involvement with the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council and help develop the initiative. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions, and honest responses will help us continue to tailor the program to the needs of young people. You will not be personally identifiable in any reports that come out of this project. Responses will be de-identified. Your name will not appear and your responses are pooled with other participants' responses. Your information will not be given to any other agency and your personal information is handled in accordance with the *Privacy Information Act 2009*. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Community Research Officer, Amy MacMahon, at amy.macmahon@ipswich.qld.gov.au.

1. Name: _____

2. How long have you lived in Ipswich? _____ years

3. Excluding IYAC, are you a member of any community groups?

Yes (please detail) _____ No

4. Have you volunteered in the community or assisted with community groups/events in the past 12 months? (This can include external groups or events that IYAC has assisted with)

Yes (please detail) _____ No

5. Excluding IYAC, have you taken part in any community meetings in the past 12 months?

Yes (please detail) _____ No

6. (If you are over 18) Do you regularly vote in local, state and federal elections?

Yes No Unsure NA (if not yet 18)

7. How knowledgeable do you feel you are about what work Ipswich City Council is responsible for? (Please indicate from 1 – Not at all, to 5 – Very Knowledgeable)

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all knowledgeable	Not much	Somewhat knowledgeable	Quite knowledgeable	Very knowledgeable

8. Based on your current knowledge, what are the key responsibilities of Ipswich City Council? (Briefly list the top four issues below)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

9. What important issues are impacting youth in your neighbourhood/Ipswich?
(Briefly list your top four issues below, in order of priority to you, 1 = most important)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

10. How much do you currently feel you are able to influence change on the above issues?
(Please indicate from 1 – Not at all, to 5 – A lot)

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Not much	Somewhat	Quite a bit	A lot

On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), how much do you currently agree or disagree with the following statements:

11. I have the skills to influence change on issues impacting youth in Ipswich.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

12. I am able to have a say on important issues in my community.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

13. Currently, I am able to communicate with elected representatives about important issues in my community.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

14. Currently, I am able to organise events and initiatives to address important issues in my community.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

15. I feel connected to other like-minded young people in Ipswich.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

16. It is a good thing for our community to be made up of people from different cultures.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

17. I feel I have a responsibility to take part in community life.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

18. It is important that I work to correct economic and social inequalities.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

19. I have built strong networks with other IYAC members over the past 12 months.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

20. I have built strong networks with organisations, institutions and individuals in the broader Ipswich community over the past 12 months.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

21. What key outcomes do you feel IYAC has achieved collectively over the past year?
(Briefly list your top four outcomes below, in order of priority to you, 1 = most important)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

22. What key skills and experiences do you feel you have achieved over the past year while on IYAC?
(Briefly list your top four skills and experiences below, in order of priority to you, 1 = most important.
These can be individual skills and experiences or collective skills and experiences)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

23. Do you have any other feedback on the IYAC program?

Thank you for participating in this survey.



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