

2020

Ipswich Youth
Advisory Council

Annual Report



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Ipswich Youth Advisory Council (IYAC) and Ipswich City Council (council) respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the land and waters 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.

“With more than 60,000 years’ experience as the custodians of land and waters, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have, and continue to, walk with our Ancestors to shape the landscape, our families, and our next generations. Our culture, our traditions, our stories, and our strength live on through our children and young people. Our Elders pass on their wisdoms for our future generations to teach and share so the cycle can continue; ensuring the history of Indigenous Australia is never forgotten, never repeated, and true reconciliation can happen. Our children and young people are at the heart of our community, and always will be.”

- Kacie (IYAC member)

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TERESA HARDING

We are undeniably a youthful city. In comparison to other cities and regions across the state, our population is a younger population, averaging 32.8 years, lower than the state average 37.4 years.

Ipswich is a city of opportunities and the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council (IYAC) is just one platform for young people to use their voice and contribute to a dialogue on important topics they feel most passionate about.

IYAC boosts the confidence and capacity of the next generation of leaders to engage in civic matters, and the program empowers our youth to develop, advocate for and implement initiatives that matter to them now and into the future.

Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand how IYAC enables young people in our community to develop their leadership capacity while making a real difference on issues that matter to their demographic. As a parent, I have personally experienced the value of IYAC and I am proud to share that my daughter participated in IYAC a number of years ago. Ipswich City Council has supported IYAC since its inception in 2007, and we are proud of what these young leaders have achieved in 2020. It was an absolute highlight to participate in the inaugural *"Flick the 'swich"* youth engagement series last year. After sitting down with our emerging leaders to discuss mental health and wellbeing, diversity and acceptance, employment and transitions to independence; I felt completely inspired and confident that our city's future is in good hands.

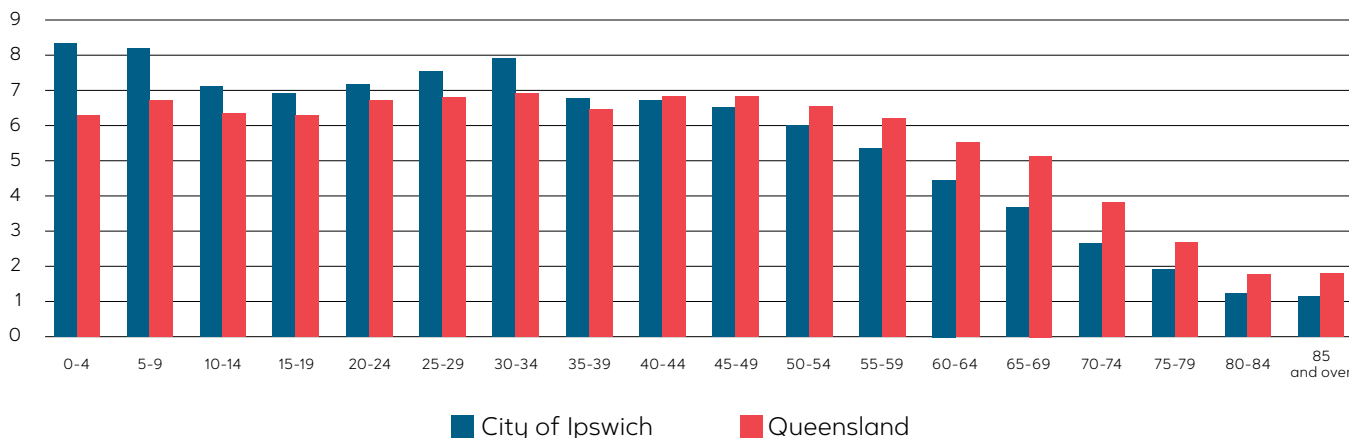
Our city's young leaders are full of great ideas to shape the future of Ipswich, and this council is super excited to engage with and get behind them. We look forward to continually working alongside Ipswich Youth Advisory Council in 2021 and beyond and I encourage all young people to explore their passions – be it sport, art, culture, politics or whatever else – and use their voices and actions to be the change they wish to see.



YOUTH IN IPSWICH

Ipswich is home to a large and vibrant youth community. Ipswich has a younger population in comparison to the Queensland State, with a median age of 32.8 years compared with 37.4 years respectively (ABS and Queensland Treasury 2019, from QGSO 2020). 37.8 per cent of Ipswich residents are aged 24 years and younger, compared to 32.4 per cent of the broader Queensland population (ABS, 2016, from id.profile, 2020).

Five year age groups (years)
(Source: ABS, 2016, via id.profile, 2020)

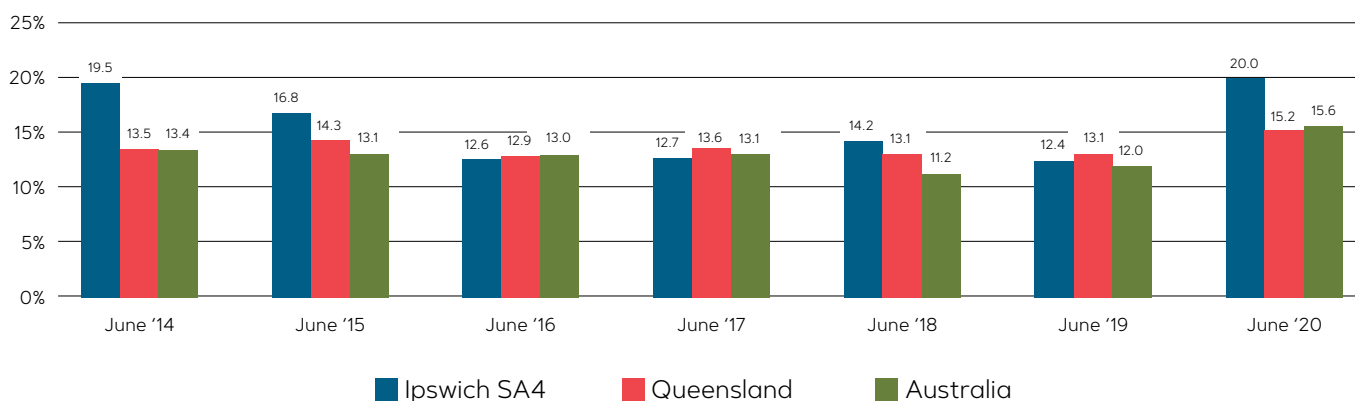


Ipswich' youth population is also diverse. Over 7 per cent of people aged 15 to 25 in Ipswich identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. 7.4 per cent were born in New Zealand, while 0.8 per cent were born in the Philippines, 0.7 per cent in Samoa, 0.6 per cent in India and 0.4 per cent in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

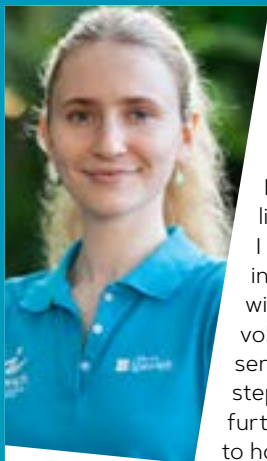
There are rich opportunities for young people to access all levels of education within Ipswich, including primary schools, secondary schools, TAFEs, universities and other educational/training pathways. Ipswich has in excess of 80 schools including primary schools, secondary schools, and independent schools. A larger proportion of Year 12 completers access vocational education pathways, and a smaller proportion access university education in comparison to Brisbane (QGSO, 2020).

While most youth in Ipswich are either studying or working, youth unemployment in Ipswich is currently at around 20 per cent (QGSO, 2020). Youth unemployment rates have fluctuated over the years, and in 2020, many young people nationally have had their employment disrupted by COVID-19 (Monash Sustainable Development Institute, 2020). Key industries in Ipswich employing youth include retail, accommodation and food services, healthcare and social assistance, and construction (ABS, 2016). 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, 2014-2020
(Source: ABS via QGSO, 2020)



GET TO KNOW YOUR IYAC



Alexandria, 20

2018 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

Born and raised in Ipswich, I have lived locally for my whole life. As I grew older, I became immersed in my community, getting involved with fundraising initiatives, volunteering, and community service. Joining IYAC was the next step in being able to connect even further: opening up the opportunity to have a say in projects that affect Ipswich, to listen to my peers and give

them a voice, and to have direct influence on projects that impact us.

What I like about Ipswich.

I love the libraries, the hole-in-the-wall cafés, and public green spaces where anyone can go to relax. I also love the people; how diverse they all are, how friendly they can be, and willing to help anyone who's in need. I love it all.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

I want to see youth homelessness and unemployment reduced, and the opportunities for youth to enjoy themselves in Ipswich increase. I think financial difficulty impacts our lives from the ground up: from paying for a Learner's licence to being able to drive to a job, then saving and budgeting for bills, and finding financial independence. It's all linked together, and without financial freedom, it can be difficult to live life to the fullest.



Apolina, 23

2019 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC because I am passionate about empowering young people and IYAC is the ideal body for me to achieve that. I would like to continue encouraging young people and ensure that their voices are heard. Ultimately I joined IYAC because I want to ensure that young people are elevated in education, health, employment and community engagement.

What I like about Ipswich.

I love and appreciate the diversity within Ipswich. With this powerful advantage, I look forward to seeing growth and prosperity.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

I would like to see more youth participation in Ipswich with the wider community, service providers and government representatives and vice versa. I think this will encourage conversations on how to improve aspects of young people's lives, that being education, employment, health, entertainment etc.



Blake,

2020 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC in hope to better my communication skills and to also expand my contact list throughout Ipswich in case I can use any necessary support services to pass on to my employer and or customers of the organisation I work for.

What I like about Ipswich.

I really enjoy the work lifestyle up here. Since moving to Ipswich from Sydney I have been shown just how well a community and different organisations can cooperate and work together to achieve greater things.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

1 thing that I would like to see improved not just in Ipswich but the youth in general, is for more information and activities regarding people living with a disability. I want to see more community events that are Dis-friendly such as sporting events, cultural activities and even some more disability focused information being taught throughout our local schools.



Caleb, 17
2020 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC to engage with my community, to volunteer in a meaningful way, and to make an impact in the lives of people living in Ipswich every day. My goal is to create a change in the lives of young people, by fully engaging them in the Ipswich community and in the opportunities the Ipswich City Council and the community provides.

What I like about Ipswich.

The aspect of Ipswich I like the most is its constant and ever-present growth. Ipswich's exponential growth will soon lead it to become a large city in not only Queensland, but also the entirety of Australia, making it an even more vibrant city with more to offer.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

What I want to see improved in Ipswich is for the youth to have easy access to learning what the council and the Ipswich community has to offer. There are many events that a minimal amount of youth in Ipswich have known about, so them being able to easily learn what is going on in their city.



James, 23
2020 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC to create a voice for the young people at the main decision making, so that the older generation can see, feel, sense, and hear the important voice of the emerging generation.

What I like about Ipswich

Ipswich is culturally diverse. It is an industrial area and easy to access educational institutions as well as transport networks and recreational centres.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

Inclusivity in job networks- more young people from migrant backgrounds don't have jobs. I would also like to see more sports activities representing cultures and Ipswich suburbs competitions, plus Ipswich Mr and Mr Year (more branding) and more promotion of activities.



Jacinta, 18
2018 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC to meet like-minded people. I've lived in Ipswich for over 16 years and have always had a love for the area. With this love for Ipswich I wanted to help influence and improve the local community. I especially want to help Ipswich become a more enjoyable, fun and accepting place for youth.

What I like about Ipswich.

What I like most about Ipswich is that the city is always growing. Not only in population size but also in innovation and programs. Another charm about Ipswich is the diversity and the strong sense of community that comes with that.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

In Ipswich I would love to see more events targeted at youth and see more young people attend those events.

I would also like to see an improvement in support for the LGBTQ+ community.



GET TO KNOW YOUR IYAC

Chloe, 22

2018 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC because I wanted to meet like-minded people who felt the youth of Ipswich did not have a voice. I had a feeling that joining IYAC would allow us to speak up about what we, as a collective group, believe the youth may need. I also wanted to join IYAC because of the amazing opportunity to work on projects with the City Council and other organisations across Ipswich.

What I like about Ipswich.

What I like about Ipswich is that there is always somewhere new to go or something new to experience. After living in Ipswich for over 12 years, I would have thought I knew Ipswich like the back of my hand. I am glad to say that I was wrong and there is still so much about Ipswich that surprises me - whether it be a festival I have never attended before, or a cute little cafe which is hidden away that I have never seen before. There are always hidden gems to uncover all around Ipswich.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

I would like to see more publicity for youth activities across Ipswich. I have found that the youth of Ipswich believe that there is nothing entertaining for them, when in actuality, there are quite a few festivals, events and activities across Ipswich. The problem is that the youth are not aware that these events are happening. I am not saying that we do not need more events for youth - we do! But we just need to find a way to better advertise the events across Ipswich that already exist.



Chloe, 19
2020- Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC so I could meet people who have the same passion as I do about our town. Have lived in Ipswich my whole life and grew up in a very giving family with my father being born and raised in Ipswich as well. His love for Ipswich grew on me and now I wish to give back and love this town as he has. Being a member of IYAC has given me the opportunity to meet like-minded people and create a voice for the youth of our town.

What I like about Ipswich.

The thing I love the most about Ipswich is the community spirit. You can walk the street and be greeted with multiple welcoming smiles and many "Hello's" from people you don't even know. Another thing I love about Ipswich is the history it holds and shows within the buildings.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

I would like to see more opportunities given for the youth of Ipswich for jobs. I have said this multiple times but a lot of jobs want experienced people but no one is willing to help young people get the experience they need. I also wish to see more youth activities or at least more advertisement of youth activities. That last improvement I would like to see is motorsport precinct improvement. I love the motorsports world and happen to be heavily involved myself and would love to see improvement on a few of the motorsport precincts around.



Jorrell, 17

2019 - Current

Why I joined IYAC? I have joined IYAC because I want to help people in need to support with fundraisers and donations etc. and help out with other things in IYAC.

What I like about Ipswich. What I like about Ipswich is the Ipswich showgrounds that happen every once a year as it is fun and enjoyable also Riverlink that me and my friends can meet up there and watch movies or go to some other shop.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich. There is not many things to do in Ipswich which results the youth in Ipswich to mainly stay inside and do nothing but video games or Netflix. What I would like to see in the future for youths is that there is something for them to do or even exercise or at least go outside more often.



Kacie, 25

2018 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

As a young person who champions the next generation and is passionate about what our youth bring to the table, I jumped at the opportunity to continue in a program that aims to give the young people of Ipswich representation in matters concerning their community. My goal is to give a voice to under-represented youth cohorts and shine a light on current and emerging youth issues. My personal areas of interest are LGBTQIA+ rights, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, child safety, young-care and disability, and life skills for youth.

What I like about Ipswich. Having lived in Ipswich my whole life, I have grown to love its unique charm and sense of 'small town' community. Despite its growth, at its core, Ipswich strives to maintain strength in community support. This is a quality that resonates strongly with me as I value local involvement. What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich. Youth engagement and participation are my focus areas, as I see them as overarching factors to all other youth issues. Youth that are actively and respectfully engaged by Government, and service providers are the key to unlocking best-practice when dealing with youth issues including mental health, diversity, employability, and housing.



Nathan, 19

2019 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I have a passion for politics and government, and I saw IYAC as a great way to learn and gain experience working within my local area. The chance to voice my hopes and concerns for Ipswich in a more recognised, official capacity is a fantastic and rare opportunity.

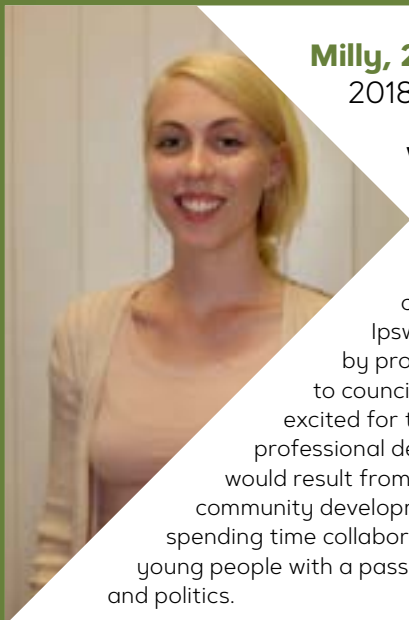
What I like about Ipswich.

I like that, despite continued growth and investment, Ipswich has maintained the culture and feel of a small town, making it seem unique amongst other cities in South East Queensland.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich

I believe that the only way to improve long term opportunities for youth in Ipswich is through fundamental, cultural change amongst both youth and families, whereby an emphasis upon personal responsibility and a realignment of community values will promote Ipswich as a fantastic place to live. This achievement is reliant upon a careful consideration for community structure and make up, which have unfortunately deteriorated over time.

GET TO KNOW YOUR IYAC



Milly, 24

2018 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I applied for IYAC because I saw it as an ideal way to make a contribution to the Ipswich community by providing my voice to council. I also was excited for the personal and professional development that would result from being a part of a community development initiative, and spending time collaborating with other young people with a passion for social justice and politics.

What I like about Ipswich. I love that Ipswich is extremely diverse- socioeconomically, ethnically, linguistically, has a large Indigenous population, and many front line community services looking after the vulnerable. The social issues that plague all

communities are visible in Ipswich, because it is small and the paths of people experiencing vulnerability overlap with the privileged in public spaces every day. I believe this means there is a lot of potential for more connectedness between different social, economic and cultural groups, if the city central can grow in a diverse and forward thinking way. Finally, Ipswich is small enough where one tends to see familiar faces around, and there is some spirit of community care, without being a 'small town', in the sense of being dominated by gossip and small mindedness.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

I believe my generation is still learning what Ipswich is and can be, as older generations of leaders have not established a clear, positive, modern identity for the city, yet. I hope that youth in Ipswich will have an increased sense of belonging, wellbeing, and connectedness, with access to all the services they need, the ability to coexist with people from different backgrounds, and the desire to share wealth and care with others. I believe this can be achieved through a combination of top-down policies, and grassroots initiatives that seek to connect young people under a common vision, and to empower them.

Molly, 21

2018 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC to make a real difference within the community and hopefully make things a little easier for people. I want young people to feel listened to and respected.

What I like about Ipswich

What I like about Ipswich is the community pride, the generosity of the people, the appreciation of history buildings, the biodiversity, and the facilities and opportunities.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

- The river / additional places to swim / camp
- More interaction with the community to find out what the city needs
- Better night life
- More fun activities (bowling, ice and roller skating, arcades, go-karts, clubs and pubs
- Dedicated places to take photos
- Improved motorsport precinct
- Better relationship with the Government
- Lime scooters!





Sally, 20
2020 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC because I wanted to make a difference in my community and to bridge the gap between young people and local government. It is important for the future of Ipswich for youth to be engaged in politics, to know who is making the important decisions and acting on the behalf of the people - because someday their choices will affect all of us. Being a part of IYAC contributes to a greater cause that I am deeply passionate about and I am proud to serve Ipswich.

What I like about Ipswich.

I like how Ipswich has excellent services for people who struggle with mental illness. The empathy, patience and support is what I love - as everyone deserves to feel like they are cared about.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

Young people tend to struggle with finding themselves in a society that demands nothing but excellence - I hope there are more opportunities for the youth to find their passions, hone their skills and discover who they are as individuals.



Seth, 16
2020 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC to try and better my city, create more opportunities and better outcomes for Ipswich youth and to give a voice to those who are often voiceless (the youth, the elderly, minorities, the LGBTQIA+ community and the economically disadvantaged).

What I like about Ipswich. I have spent my entire life in Ipswich, and this city is an integral part of who I am. I grew up in a single parent house hold and although I didn't have a positive father figure, the vibrant community of Ipswich, from school to activity groups, has taught me what it means to be and how to be a man in society.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

My vision for Ipswich is a city where everybody, regardless of background, is able to not just survive, but thrive. This means providing the youth with economic opportunities that allow for the embrace of their creative needs, happiness and fulfilment.



Taletha, 16
2020 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC as a way for myself to contribute to the community. Being heavily involved within my school community I wanted to branch out and volunteer within the Ipswich community and IYAC provided a way to do that whilst also providing me with a chance to voice my concerns and ideas for the youth of Ipswich to help better not only the community but their life experience in Ipswich.

What I like about Ipswich.

Bushland areas such as White Rock and Castle Hill are probably my favourite things about Ipswich as they provide ad sense of serenity and peace in the crazy world we love in. Just going for a walk through those areas is a great time to embrace nature and enjoy life away for electronics and social media. Growing up in Ipswich I have been lucky enough to be a part of as well as witness our community getting together and helping those in need in difficult times. I particularly love the sense of community the Ipswich people offer.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

Youth mental health as well as youth unemployment are the two issues I wish to see improved most for the youth of Ipswich as both are vital to living a healthy and functioning life as an adult.



GET TO KNOW YOUR IYAC



Zahed, 24
2020 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

As a Rohingya from a poor background, where poverty and poor well-being never cease to change, I realised the importance of having the youth well equipped with personal and socials that will navigate them through adversaries and challenging conditions. The youth, especially the refugees and teenagers with language barriers, needs to see an organisation like IYAC exists to provide support and activities that will help them and make them they are not alone. I want to help them with their mental, physical and social well-being.

What I like about Ipswich.

Ever since my family have moved to Ipswich city, not a single complain or flaws we have noticed. That's how good it is. The neighbours, parks, lakes, big shopping centres, universities, public swimming pools and a big loving community are all the some of the parts I love about Ipswich!

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

Some of the areas I believe could be address to improve the youth in Ipswich are better mental health services, youth workshops where teenagers can voice their concerns and make them feel heard, outdoor activities to improve their mental outlook and provide support interrelationship issues such as domestic violence, break ups and so on.



Wilo, 24
2018 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

I joined IYAC because I really want to help people and make our City of Ipswich better. I want to make good and different things happen in Ipswich. One day I would like to work in the government and help people who are in a similar situation to me. For this reason I want to be part of IYAC because it will give me good skills for my future.

What I like about Ipswich?

I really like Ipswich because we have good health, education, libraries, free parks, sport, places of worship and community.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich?

I really want to see more opportunities for the youth of Ipswich and see better mental health for the youth of Ipswich. I want to see young people stop fighting, respect older people, and support young people to stop them getting in trouble. I want to see our City of Ipswich be better than before.



Zara, 19
2019 - Current

Why I joined IYAC?

IYAC presents a wonderful opportunity to promote engagement and voice topical ideas concerning the younger demographic in Ipswich. This was seen to me as an obvious trajectory in steering positive change while elevating the youth of the region, inviting new opportunity and experience for betterment for all.

What I like about Ipswich.

Ipswich hosts fantastic eateries; outdoor family and pet friendly spaces and educational facilities.

What I want to see improved for youth in Ipswich.

I would like to see youth engagement improved through the provision of increased opportunity for young people. It is through instilling adequate leadership opportunity; mentorship; employment prospects; meaningful learning and the encouragement of discovery through self-expression that engagement must be improved upon.

**For complete member biographies visit
ipswich.qld.gov.au/iyac**

2020 IN REVIEW



70%

overall attendance

July – December 2020
includes IYAC meetings and other IYAC engagements



11

monthly meetings

January – December 2020



73%

meeting attendance

July – December 2020
IYAC meetings returned to in-person format



47%

**meeting attendance
January – June
2020**

impacted by COVID-19



**Provided youth input into
6 projects**

including the Children, Young People and Families Policy, the Ipswich City Council iFuture Corporate Plan (2020-2025), Ipswich Children's Voices, Flick the 'switch, Environment and Sustainability Strategy, Ipswich Australia Day Awards



5

**members with 100%
attendance**

July – December 2020



4

meeting locations

including OIKOS Café, Ipswich Community Youth Service (ICYS), Queensland Youth and Families Support Service (QYFSS), Ipswich Civic Centre



**IYAC brainstorming
day**

hosted at the Ipswich Civic Centre on Saturday, 17 October 2020



6

**online group
check-ins**

April – June 2020

3

**IYAC project
cancellations**

including Harmony Day 2020, Visit to State Parliament, Relay for Life 2020



1

public engagement

Grand opening of Tulmur Place



90%

response rate

on the annual IYAC member survey



7

**departed IYAC
members**

January – December 2020



3

IYAC-led projects

delivered for Ipswich young people, by IYAC; Flick the 'switch, Christmas Hampers Project and IYAC Online Biographies



8

**IYAC members
inducted**

Commenced August 2020

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Ipswich Youth Advisory Council (IYAC) is an Ipswich City Council (council) youth development 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 IPSWICH YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (IYAC) HAS THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES:

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

BACKGROUND:

Since the program's inception in 2007, IYAC has supported in excess of 163 young people from the City of Ipswich. This has included various iterations of the program such as the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council (IYAC), and the Ipswich Indigenous Youth Advisory Council (IIYAC); a program facilitated by council between 2013 and 2014.

The IYAC program received a total of \$20,000 as part of the 2020-2021 budget allocation. This budget is used for the purpose of funding IYAC-led projects, training and skills development, venue hire, catering, uniforms, and marketing and promotions.

ROLE OF IYAC:

- Be involved in the design, development and delivery of youth initiatives across the City of Ipswich.
- Represent the youth of Ipswich at a range of community events and other civic duties.
- Advocate on behalf of Ipswich young people to the various levels of government; Local, State and Federal.
- Assist in the distribution of relevant community information and resources via youth networks, schools and the wider community.
- Provide a youth perspective via direct input and feedback into council programs, policies, strategies and initiatives which impact and matter to Ipswich youth.
- Promote the City of Ipswich and be a positive role model for fellow Ipswich youth.
- Build networks and contacts in the City of Ipswich and future abroad.

IYAC MEMBERSHIP

IYAC is made up of 20 young people aged between 16 and 25 years of age. To be eligible for IYAC, applicants must meet the age requirements and live in the City of Ipswich (at the close of applications). To be considered for IYAC, applicants must complete and submit an online application form, or a print friendly version of the application form (which can be returned via post).

Successful applicants participate in the IYAC program for a minimum of one year and a maximum two year term. After the completion of a two year term, IYAC members may re-apply for a second and final two year term providing they are eligible by age and reside within the City of Ipswich.

IYAC maintains an annual rolling membership in the program, with a key goal to be representative of the Ipswich community, including age, gender, cultural background and geography. At the time of this report there were 20 IYAC members participating in the program. Participants had been members with IYAC for either one year (5 members), two years (7 members) or they had recently commenced with the program (8 members).

In relation to the recruitment process, IYAC members are selected through an expression-of-interest campaign occurring between June to July each year.

This process includes a targeted digital campaign in conjunction with a targeted email campaign and the distribution of A3 posters across the City of Ipswich. Council received a total of 46 applications from Ipswich young people in 2018. This was followed by a total of 23 applications from Ipswich young people in 2019, and more recently 28 applications from Ipswich young people in 2020.

Through this process young people are selected annually to participate in IYAC 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).

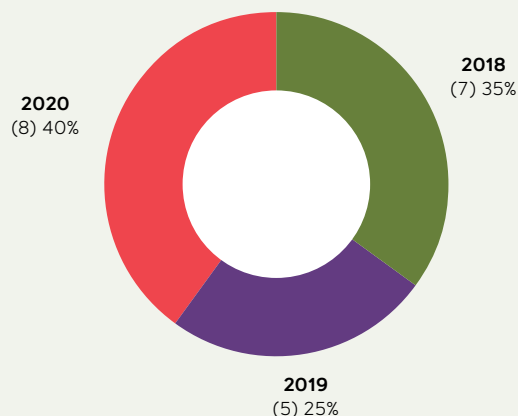
Members generally participate in IYAC between one and two years. During their time with the program IYAC members participate in monthly meetings facilitated by council's Community Development Section. Members also regularly contribute important insights towards council's ongoing monitoring and evaluation of IYAC outcomes and impact. This report includes results from the program's annual survey with commencing and continuing members.



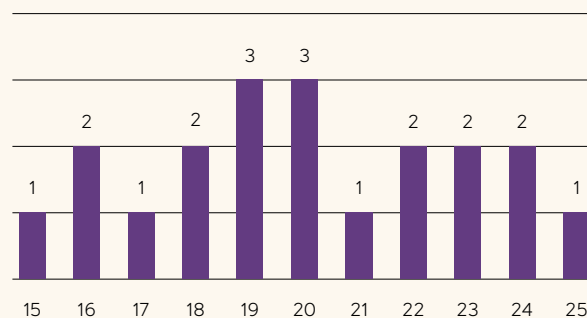
IYAC workshop held at the Ipswich Civic Centre in August 2020

IYAC MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

IYAC membership by commencement year
(20 members)

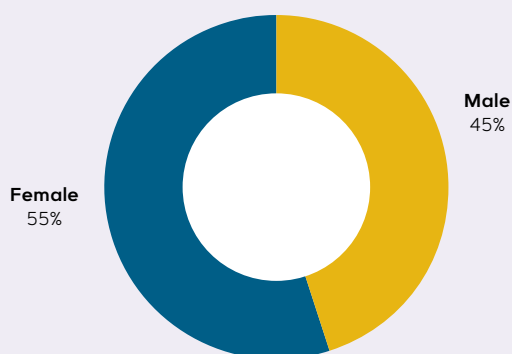


Age range of IYAC members



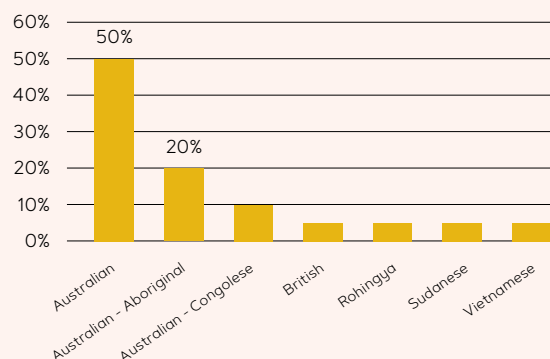
IYAC members range in age between 15 and 25 years¹.

Gender of IYAC members



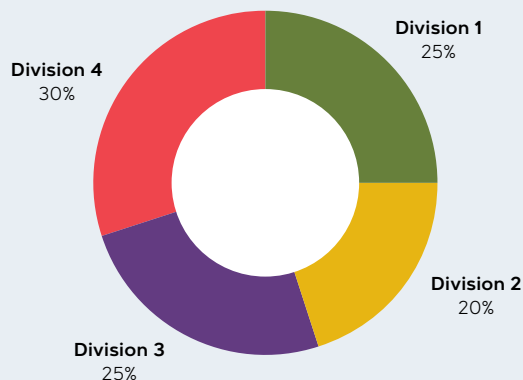
Slightly more IYAC members identify as female (55%) and 45% identify as male.

Cultural background of IYAC members



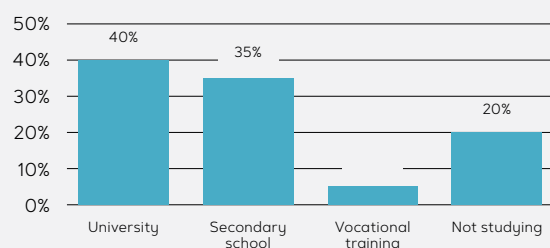
Approximately half of IYAC members identify as Australian. The group also includes members who identify as Aboriginal, Congolese, British, Rohingya, Sudanese and Vietnamese.

IYAC membership by local electoral divisions



As local residents, IYAC members call Ipswich 'home' across all four local electoral divisions.

IYAC members engagement in education/training



During the report period, just over three-quarters (80%) of IYAC members were engaged in education and training. 35% were in secondary school, 40% were at university, and 5% were in vocational training.

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

IYAC PRIORITIES

IYAC members gathered for a brainstorming day held at the Ipswich Civic Centre on Saturday 17 October 2020. The aim of this facilitated workshop was to bring together IYAC members for an interactive workshop to discuss the matters affecting Ipswich young people. In response to these matters, IYAC were tasked with establishing their IYAC's priorities for 2021 through a series of collaborative activities and exercises.

The main purpose of the brainstorming day was to determine IYAC priorities for the 2021. The outcome of this process was the establishment of two priorities, as identified by the group: Education and Engagement.

EDUCATION

Connecting young people to existing programs, and creating opportunities for young people to learn

ENGAGEMENT

Focussing on how we connect and communicate with Ipswich young people.



Of particular note, the workshop was co-designed and facilitated by former IYAC member, Caragh Bradbery (2018–2020), in her capacity as founder of local Ipswich creative business, Triangle House. Here's what former IYAC member Caragh had to say about her first facilitation experience with IYAC:

SESSION ONE: INTRODUCTION + GROUP CHECK IN

The Ipswich Youth Advisory Council Brainstorming Day started out with a brief introduction to the day by introducing myself and an acknowledgement to country. We quickly moved into a facilitated group check in session where I asked questions such as: How was your week? On a scale of 1-10 how are you feeling? If you could learn about anything in the world what would it be?

IYAC members were engaged during this process and open to understanding more about other members and sharing their own experiences. This helped to create an environment where people were safe to come as they were and share their ideas and experiences.

SESSION TWO: ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY

Moving into our next activity, we were able to use an icebreaker activity titled 'Identity' as a team building opportunity. This gave youth council members the task to think and express how they connected and identified with places and activities in the Ipswich area. The objective was to guess other youth council members' answers to these questions before the other team. These answers gave insight into how youth connected to the Ipswich area and what they enjoyed doing.

SESSION THREE: OBJECTIVES

A brief presentation of the key objectives for the day was presented to the group. It outlined the key outcomes were hoping to get from the day, the process in which we were going to identify the outcomes, and how members could engage with the process. It was also an opportunity to touch on how we could engage with other members and respectfully create space for the diverse experiences and ideas the collective group would have during the process. We used this opportunity to make a mention of the IYAC Terms of Reference document IYAC operate under.

SESSION FOUR: YOUTH MATTERS

After a break for morning tea, we were able to get into a key session for the day which was IYAC brainstorming and documenting key youth matters for the youth of Ipswich.

The youth council was broken into 3 groups where members were able to write their own answers to a number of different questions. These were presented to IYAC in strategic order to gain uninfluenced ideas and experiences. After each question was asked each group would move onto the next question, then at the end of the time brainstorming in groups, a speaker would be nominated by each group to present back to the group's collective ideas to the whole youth council. During this discussion both Cameron and I were able to gain more insight into understanding the key issues in further detail. This highlighted the need to build awareness of existing services, events and opportunities within the group.

As a point of interest, we asked a couple of questions regarding council's social media accounts in an attempt to better understand how the youth connect connected with these channels. As a result we were able to determine that 20% of IYAC members follow Ipswich City Council on social media, and only 10% of IYAC members follow the Ipswich Festivals page on social media.

During these discussions the workshop team created a short list of the key ideas being discussed for the next session. Through a dotmocracy exercise IYAC members were able to vote on the key issues they personally thought were the highest priority to focus on as a youth council. The votes were as follows:

TOP PRIORITIES (RANKED):

1. Education
2. Employment
3. Skills development
4. Engagement
5. Things to do
6. Workshops for young people
7. Mental health
8. Awareness (programs, services)
9. Transition to independence
10. Youth volunteering



SESSION FIVE: KEY ISSUES

IYAC identified the top priorities as Education, Employment, Skills Development and Engagement. In groups, IYAC members then went on to discuss in these same groups what IYAC might be able to do to support these key priorities. These are some of the key points they discussed:

1. EDUCATION

- Give information and guidance to equip Ipswich young people with the necessary skills to be successful in life
- Presentations
- Workshops
- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
- Other training such as Domestic and Family Violence Training

2. EMPLOYMENT

- Bridging the gap between employees and employers
- Workshops and fairs in schools to equip youth with skills to gain employment
- Share testimonies on how peers have been able to get a job
- Give volunteering opportunities to young people to gain more experience

3. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Funded workshops and skills development opportunities to address barriers to entry
- Leveraging connections in the community for capacity building workshops
- Opportunities for young people with ideas to connect with mentors and sponsors
- Fundraising for students to learn how to drive

4. ENGAGEMENT

- Council needs to create greater awareness
- Council could create their own app to consolidate all the events coming up. Also, directories for facilities or education about council
- Investing in targeted social media for young people
- Multicultural week – adding more events that are youth specific

Key themes between these concepts allowed us to condense even further to EDUCATION and ENGAGEMENT; as employment and skills development could fall under these categories. By selecting only two top priorities, it helps IYAC to have a clearer and more succinct vision for the year.

SESSION SIX: SELF-AWARENESS AND TEAM BUILDING

The next session had a focus of 'who' with the objective to create further self-awareness within the group and encourage them to think about the role that they could play within the group that best highlights their personal strengths. This session had 2 parts; an activity first followed by open discussion between the IYAC members debriefing their experiences.

The activity called 'sneak peek' was intentional about creating an experience that would push participants to understand more about themselves. The objective was to recreate a design of Lego working as a team. Taking turns, one member at a time would view a pre-constructed Lego piece, and then relay this information verbally back to their team who had to construct the piece, brick for brick.

After this activity we started our reflection session to discuss how individuals went with the experience, as well as what they learned about themselves and working efficiently in teams. Some of the feedback from this experience was:

After this debrief we talked about DISC profiling to understand personal strengths in a working capacity to better equip the group to help each other. We also spoke about how personal development and self-awareness will help them best know what they can bring to the table for IYAC.



SESSION SEVEN: TOP PRIORITIES

The final session for the day we were talking about projects and things that IYAC could do in the next 12 months to really focus on creating change in the areas of our top two priorities. This was more a tactical look at the steps that members could take to get things happening, and how we leverage the outcomes that IYAC are hoping for.

While the youth council thought it was really important to develop capacity building opportunities and community events, they believe that it's really important to look at how the youth are being engaged, and how to connect in with these opportunities, because this awareness is fundamental.



SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT WERE SHARED IN THIS SECTION WHICH MAY BE DEVELOPED FURTHER ARE:

1. Creating guides for young people for accessing services and helpful DIY's
2. Weekly/monthly written updates about what IYAC is doing and key youth events
3. Presenting a radio show once a month
4. Education workshops on job skills, business capacity building and domestic violence
5. Creating brochures with information about services and what's on etc.
6. Looking into development a centralized app for all information to be available
7. Educating the educators to inform them about youth events and opportunities
8. Using Shopping Centre stalls to engage with youth
9. Leveraging word of youth to better engage youth.

This session wrapped up leaving the youth council excited about what projects they might be able to start developing further in response to their two priorities over the next twelve months.

CONCLUSION:

Over the course of the brainstorming day that I facilitated with the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council (IYAC) I was able to see the passion and care that the youth council have collectively for Ipswich

Through the process the youth council were able to understand more about the collective experiences and came to unify their passions and experience to own the top two priorities / points of focus for the projects they are looking to develop in the future.

Having been through the program myself it was great to see how much this program has developed over the past 2 years since its rebirth. It was incredible to see the difference between the first focus in the brainstorming session on the commencement of my intake in 2018, and the outcomes of this facilitated workshop.

IYAC have been able to grow in their ability to think big picture, and to work strategically to address the real issues being faced by youth in our local area. They have a clear understanding of what direction their focus will be going towards and the challenges that the group will need to overcome to get there.

I look forward to seeing what the youth council do to have a voice over the city in the coming 12 months. Capacity building and innovative thinking will play a big role in raising the next generation of local leaders and I know that with the right opportunity the current IYAC group certainly has emerging leaders that the Ipswich community will benefit from.



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. Most notably, this includes the inaugural Flick the 'swich Youth Engagement Series, the IYAC Christmas Hampers Project, and the IYAC Online Biographies Project.

FLICK THE 'SWICH 2020



Flick the 'swich was the inaugural youth-led engagement series designed for and by Ipswich young people. The forum was held on Friday 30 October 2020 and formed part of Ipswich City Council's official launch of its Children, Young People and Families Policy.

Most importantly, Flick the 'swich was designed and delivered in partnership with IYAC. This partnership included various components such as the event format, panel topics, event logistics, marketing and promotions, the selection of questions, and the naming of the event itself, Flick the 'swich. This name was proposed by IYAC member, Zara, and formally endorsed by IYAC via a group vote.

The Flick the 'swich partnership was driven by IYAC Project Leads, Molly and Alexandria, who in addition to their existing commitments within IYAC, nominated themselves to coordinate the project on behalf of IYAC. This role included attendance at weekly working group meetings alongside council officers Myf Jagger (Senior Policy Analyst), Lynn Mathers (Community Engagement Officer), and Cameron Nicholls (Children and Youth Development Officer).

The aim of the Flick the 'swich youth engagement series was to:

- give young people in Ipswich a voice
- engage with young people on issues important to them
- ensure the city's youth perspective is heard.

Planning for Flick the 'swich took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, and aimed to be as flexible as possible to changing social restrictions and COVID-safe event arrangements. As such, Flick the 'swich took the form of a physically-distanced discussion panel hosted at council's North Ipswich Reserve Corporate Centre, and live streamed using Ipswich City Council's YouTube Channel.

Flick the 'swich was live streamed to the public and broadcast directly to six watch parties, collectively engaging more than 100 Ipswich young people. This included the headspace Ipswich Youth Reference Group (YRG), the YMCA Youth Advisory Greater Springfield (YAGS), Redbank Plains State High School, the Redbank Plains Youth Hub, Ipswich State High School, and Bremer State High School. This 'pizza party concept', subsequently promoted as 'watch parties' was a concept originally proposed by IYAC member, Jacinta, as an incentive to encourage more Ipswich young people to join the conversation being led by Ipswich young people, for young people. Panel topics were set by IYAC and coincided with three of the group's priorities for 2019 and 2020.

Flick the 'swich topics included:

1. Mental Health and Wellbeing
2. Ipswich Diversity and Acceptance
3. Employment and Transitions to Independence
4. IYAC Reflections and Recommendations (a wrap up reflections session with IYAC members involving Mayor Teresa Harding and a select number of Councillors).

Approximately 230 questions and comments were submitted by Ipswich young people in advance of Flick the 'swich. This included 38 per cent of questions for mental health and wellbeing, 32 per cent for diversity and acceptance, and 30 per cent for employment and transitions to independence.

Common themes emerging from across all panel conversations for Flick the 'swich included accessibility, inclusion and improving social connection, building awareness around what's available for young people, having some form a central hub for information and a range of inclusive spaces for young people in Ipswich, and recognition of the important role education plays in addressing a number of the issues raised in all panel discussions.

WHAT WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS?

On reflection, the following points were identified as important takeaways:

- Conversations based on the real experiences of young people, inviting community response
- Prioritising inclusion of young people in local activities, events and opportunities, and particularly the inclusion of young people living with disabilities
- Improving access to services and a centralised hub for young people
- Considering the impact of phone and technology addiction on young people and avoiding victim blaming
- Building on suggestions for youth spaces and events:
 - showcasing contemporary and youth art, more street art
 - vintage market pop-ups
 - more music festivals
 - cultural food festivals and opportunities to showcase traditional dance
 - writing workshops
 - camping and FWD events
 - raising awareness of existing program of youth events and spaces, revamping advertising to make these appealing and accessible for young people
 - Improving night life for Ipswich young people, inclusive venues
- Common value among IYAC members placed on the insights shared during the employment and independence conversation including the importance of networking – it's about who you know
- The role of education and capability development in all conversations – in how to encourage positive mental health and wellbeing, foster inclusion, and increase participation in employment and business opportunities
- Valuing the emotional intelligence and generosity of Ipswich young people.

WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE TALKED ABOUT?

- Economic inequality and poverty – some families are just surviving and everybody in the city should be thriving
- Seeing next steps and action come from Flick the 'swich conversations
- Prioritising work experience pathways for young people
- More conversation about how to transition to independence
- Unemployment in marginalised communities and in the context of language barriers
- Supporting refugee and migrant young people who are survivors of trauma.

WHAT'S POSSIBLE IN MAKING IPSWICH A BETTER PLACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

- Being a city that can work together to create better opportunities for young people and families
- Encouraging innovation across the city
- Youth leadership and peer mentorship - sharing skills and understanding
- Celebrating the diversity and talents of Ipswich young people
- Maximising the potential of Ipswich and improving its broader reputation
- Being fiercely proud of and advocating for the city of Ipswich
- Community starts with the individual – we can all embody local community values and give back.

Audience and participant feedback

"Thanks for having me on the panel, I definitely enjoyed being part of the event and I learnt a lot"

"The panel was amazing and really supportive. I didn't expect to feel so comfortable around strangers but everyone made me feel welcome despite our nerves"

Some feedback from watch parties:

"We had a really good discussion in our group around how the young people in the room felt about engaging in support and following their interests."

"Thank you so much for having involving us in this amazing initiative. Big shout out to IYAC and ICC for such a successful event and ensuring the voices of young people are heard. I strongly believe that this will have a huge benefit on the Ipswich community."

INTERVIEW WITH IYAC PROJECT LEAD, MOLLY MACKAY IYAC MEMBER (2018 - CURRENT)

What were the goals and objectives for Flick the 'switch?

To get the ball rolling on improving the lives of the youth in Ipswich. Have young people felt listened to and respected. Making the forum a safe space to be honest and genuine. Ensuring all participants felt comfortable and supported.

Why did you do what you did?

I left home to live independently at 14. I felt as though there wasn't much support through-out my schooling to help with all the stresses of having adult responsibilities as a child. I don't want others out there that have been handed misfortunate upbringings to struggle alone. I want to know how the youth are struggling and what can be put in place to help relief some of the stresses some of these youths are facing.

Throughout my time in IYAC I have so well supported by council Staff that I felt I could really help with this project without feeling like I'm "too young" or "not important enough". Cameron Nicholls, Myf Jagger and Lynn Mathers were such excellent role models and supported me the whole way through.

How was it organized and who was involved?

We held weekly meetings to discuss and plan the project as well as email correspondence. Cameron Nicholls (Children and Youth Development Officer), Myf Jagger (Senior Social Policy Analyst), Lynn Mathers (Community Engagement Officer)

What were the outcomes? How successful has it been?

I think it was highly successful, even just hearing the conversations that were happening off screen was incredible. I'm so appreciative of everyone whom made time and participated on the day along with all the viewers and anyone who submitted questions.

How did it draw on or contribute to IYAC priorities?

Flick the 'switch hit exactly what IYAC is, giving Ipswich's young people a chance to voice themselves on issues they care about.

What worked well, and what could be improved?

In all honesty for the first live streamed youth forum the event went really well. However there were a few things that were less than ideal for example: mowing noise, air-con noise, lighting and not having a good amount of time between panels.

Give Youth a Voice	✓
Build Social Connections	✓
Diversity and Representation	✓
Skills, Empowerment and Ownership	✓

Future plans?

I would love for this forum to be held every 2 years. This would give IYAC some real experiences with what the youth are needing for support. This would show the public that council are listening and wanting to help where they can if we work on issues mentioned in the forum.



Cr Nicole Jonic and IYAC Member, Molly during Flick the 'switch 2020

IYAC CHRISTMAS HAMPERS PROJECT 2020

The IYAC Christmas Hampers Project is an annual project originally developed by IYAC in 2018. The goal of the project is to pack and deliver Christmas Hampers with essential items to Ipswich young people who are in need during the Christmas period. By way of doing so, IYAC aims to assist in alleviating some of the holiday pressures experienced by those in need from marginalised communities

The IYAC Christmas Hampers Project has three main objectives:

1. To provide essentials and gifts to marginalised communities during a period in which they may not be able to purchase those items themselves
2. To create networks and relationships with key organisations to allow a pathway to further projects and collaborations
3. To understand the importance of giving to those less fortunate.

This year saw the IYAC Christmas Hampers Project coordinated by three IYAC Project Leads and supported by the wider IYAC team. This year's project supported three recipients including Hannah's House (24 hour supported crisis accommodation for young women aged 16 to 17, in addition to mobile support for young women aged 16 to 25), Liworaji Aboriginal Corporation, and the Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC).

Here's what IYAC Project Lead, Kacie Heath had to say about the project:

The holiday period can be an extremely stressful and overwhelming time for many marginalized groups due to issues including budget strains and increased DFV. Giving back to those who need it most assists in alleviating some of those pressures, which are often directly related to someone's mental health and wellbeing.

The continuation of this project by IYAC is valuable in creating a safe space for at risk youth, those experiencing DFV, those experiencing financial hardship, and those from minority groups during a stressful, and overwhelming time of year. This project aims to foster an environment in which those in need know their city values their wellbeing, their mental health, and their journey.

This project saw three key organisations supported, headed by an IYAC Project Lead and team. Packs of essential items and gifts were tailored to each organisation and the needs of their clientele. Teams purchased, packed, and delivered items.

With roughly 10,000 children in out-of-home care, 1 in 6 women or 1 in 16 men experiencing DFV, and many people displaced and in financial hardship due to COVID-19 it has never been more important to support those in need during these difficult periods of transition, especially during a time of year in which there is a hyper focus on wealth and family.



IYAC members gather for a packing day as part of the IYAC Christmas Hampers Project 2020.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION CENTRE (DVAC)
REFLECTION FROM IYAC PROJECT LEAD,
CHLOE BOIKE – IYAC MEMBER (2018 – CURRENT)



IYAC Member, Chloe delivering Christmas Hampers to the Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC) on behalf of IYAC.

The Christmas Hampers project was originally developed by former IYAC member Kori Besgrove in 2018 for Hannah's House to give those who struggle during the Christmas period some joy and comfort. Over the past two years, IYAC has been able to expand the project to other organisations across Ipswich. This year, IYAC was able to make Christmas hampers for Hannah's House, the Liworaji Aboriginal Corporation and the Domestic Violence Action Centre. As we were organising hampers for three organisations, we needed three project leads. Kacie Heath organised hampers for Hannah's House, Chloe Cullen organised hampers for the Liworaji Aboriginal Corporation and I organised hampers for DVAC.

Goals and objectives:

Christmas can be a stressful time for people, especially for those who are escaping domestic violence. DVAC has been committed to working with the community towards the prevention and elimination of domestic violence since 1966. This means that DVAC is actively involved in supporting women and young children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic or family violence as well as supporting men who are actively committed to changing their behaviour and providing information and education to the community at large. The Christmas Hampers project had the goal to provide some financial relief to women and children who may be struggling during the holiday season. We wanted to create hampers that provided both food and gifts for both women and children. We also wanted to have the hampers organised early enough so DVAC had plenty of time to distribute the hampers before Christmas.

What did you do? When did it happen?

We made Christmas hampers to give to domestic violence victims during the Christmas period.

Why did you do what you did?

COVID has made 2020 a really difficult year for a lot of people and having to suffer domestic or family violence as well just makes it that much harder. IYAC wanted to show that even though the year has been tough, we still care about the community and wanted to take the opportunity to show some Christmas spirit.

How was it organised and who was involved?

After the project was approved at an IYAC committee meeting, a post was made on the IYAC Facebook page to ask all IYAC members if they wished to be involved in the project as not everyone was present at the meeting. Then I organised a group chat to ask members their availability for shopping and packing up the hampers. I then organised a shopping day on Dec 1st where we bought items from Coles and Kmart. I was assisted by Sally and Blake with the purchasing of items. These items included: long life milk, cookies, noodles, pasta sauce, spreads, shampoo, conditioner, soap, bath bombs, nail polish, dolls, hot wheels, colouring books etc. We bought a mix of different items so we could create hampers for single women as well as women with children. I then scheduled a packing day for Dec 4th and Seth came to help me out for the day. Blake also came by to drop off items donated by Wesbro Services. Thanks to the generous donation by Wesbro Services, we were able to double the number of hampers donated to DVAC. After the items were sorted into hampers, I transported them to DVAC and the organisation was very appreciative. Overall, we were able to give 20 hampers to women and families in need.

What resources did you need?

The entire project had a budget of \$2000 which meant we had \$666 per organisation. Some IYAC members donated some of their own money so we had an even budget of \$700. We had a plan to split the budget so to spend \$400 on food and \$300 on gifts. Wesbro Services' donation matched our budget allowing us to double our hampers.

What were the outcomes? How successful has it been?

The Christmas Hampers Project was extremely successful with the amount of items and hampers IYAC were able to donate. We were very careful when looking at items to purchase to make sure we did not go over budget. We looked what quality and

quantity and in the cases of food, we chose cheaper items in order to build up quantity but when it came to purchasing gifts, we looked at the quality of them and chose items that were a bit more costly. We were able to donate 20 hampers for DVAC.

How did it draw on or contribute to IYAC priorities?

It is a priority of IYAC that we build social connections with the community. By donating these hampers to DVAC, we have started a connection with the organisation which could lead to working together in other projects in the future.

Key learnings:

It was easy to organise days to go shopping and pack hampers as I asked for everybody's availability several weeks before and I chose dates that IYAC members told me they were available for. Having other members help with the shopping was great as we were able to discuss prices and make decisions as a team. One thing I learned is that you can sometimes be deceived in stores with certain discount tags. I think we fell victim to a couple of these deceptions as we went a little over budget. I think that if I were to organise a project like this again, I would look at possibly online shopping in order to better track the spending so we do not go over budget.

Future plans:

It is my hope that we are able to organise Christmas hampers in 2021 so we can continue the tradition created by Kori in 2018 and that we can keep the connection with DVAC. It might also be possible that we can organise IYAC to participate in a domestic violence training course which DVAC have created – this was discussed earlier in the year.

Build Social Connections ✓

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR LIWORAJI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION REFLECTION FROM IYAC PROJECT LEAD, CHLOE CULLEN IYAC MEMBER (2020 – CURRENT)

I chose to provide Christmas hampers for Liworaji Corporation. Liworaji is an indigenous corporation that are a platform for struggling indigenous and Torres Strait islander people and families to use for support and help. They also hold groups and other activities for people to be a part of. Doing the Christmas Hampers was a way to give back to the community that has given so much. Providing families who don't have as much with hampers to make their Christmas a little easier and less stressful. Putting a smile on someone's face for the Christmas season brought me happiness. Knowing I was going to help a few families this Christmas makes me more grateful for what I have and am able to access easily.

During this project my team came up with different ideas and products to buy for the families.

- **December 11th** was packing day. Packing all the Hampers, making sure numbers and gifts were right. Gifts were supplied by Wesbro Services.
- **December 13th** was Pro Drive shopping day. Pro Drive Driving School supplied a few extra hampers for Liworaji.
- **December 21st** was delivery day. I was most excited for this day, seeing the smile on everyone's face was priceless. They were so incredibly grateful, they could not thank IYAC, Wesbro services and pro drive enough.

Being new to IYAC as of 2020 I was quite nervous in stepping up for a Project Lead position. All sorts of things ran through my head such as: "Should I do this", "Can I do this being so new". I come from a very giving family so doing this project, pushing through those fears and obviously the incredible help from the entire IYAC group I believe gave me the confidence to do the project.

The resources included Coles (IYAC Donated Hampers), Woolworths (Pro drive donated Hampers), Kmart (Wesbro Services Gifted Items). I believe it has been an extremely successful project. We were able to help families that don't have as much as other people for Christmas and make their Christmas that little bit less stressful. Lastly I would like to give a huge thanks to not only the IYAC team but also Blake and Wesbro Services and Pro Drive Driving School.



IYAC member, Chloe delivering Christmas Hampers to Aunty Lilly Davidson from Liworaji Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of IYAC.

ONLINE BIOGRAPHIES

REFLECTION FROM IYAC PROJECT LEAD, KACIE HEATH – IYAC MEMBER (2018 – CURRENT)

The IYAC Online Biographies Project (IYAC Bios) captures a brief overview of each IYAC member, including their name, age, and most importantly, their passions and connections to the city.

This project has one key objectives – 1. Increase the visibility of the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council. The flow on from this objective, however, has a broad reach into other actions and future projects for members. The importance of this objective is reflected by today's youth. The online world is a key player in children and young people's lives. Members saw this as an opportunity to be leveraged. Being visible to a significant stakeholder not only assists with the Advisory Council's continued development, but also puts real people and faces to the name 'IYAC'. It breaks down barriers and perceptions of being a faceless committee. It is real Ipswich young people, from all walks of life.

This project began during the initial iteration of the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council, in 2019, and has continued through to the second iteration with the intake of new members in 2020. This project aims to be a continual project that will reflect the current makeup of the Advisory Council. There is the ability for the IYAC Bios to broaden in scope, and is an element of this project members explore periodically.

With an eye on reflection, a key learning from this project from both the 2019 and 2020 phases centres on the collection of information contained within the biographies. Moving forward, the data collection method needs to be re-evaluated and tailored further to ensure a more streamlined approach. Overall, however, the IYAC Bios has, and continues to be, a successful project.

For complete member biographies visit ipswich.qld.gov.au/iyac

GIVE YOUTH A VOICE

A key role of IYAC is to provide a youth perspective via direct input and feedback into Ipswich City Council programs, policies, strategies and initiatives which impact and matter to Ipswich youth.

2020 saw IYAC provide direct youth input into a total of 6 key projects. This included the Children, Young People and Families Policy, the Ipswich City Council iFuture Corporate Plan (2021–2025), the Ipswich Children's Voices project, the Flick the 'swich youth engagement series, council's Sustainability Policy, and the Ipswich Australia Day Awards 2021. This section of the report aims to provide an overview of these collaborations from the perspectives of IYAC members themselves, in addition to key project partners.

IPSWICH CHILDREN'S VOICES

APOLINA BALEGANGA – IPSWICH YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (IYAC)



IYAC Member, Apolina representing IYAC as a panelist for Ipswich Children's Voices

Summary

Ipswich children's voices hosted by Ipswich City Council in partnership with Mission Australia was an event aimed at improving the development, health, and wellbeing of children. I represented IYAC as a young community leader to provide perspective on how children's needs can be addressed through IYAC. The event consisted of an opening address from the Ipswich City Council's Mayor Teresa Harding and Mission Australia's CEO James Toomey. Most importantly the event flowed into a discussion with questions constructed and delivered by children to panel members (community leaders). Overall, the event was a great experience for myself as I was able to learn how to be more active in the community and made aware of what matters to children in Ipswich. This is important as it is to be considered when IYAC is developing projects.

Goals and Objectives

As an IYAC member, the aim of my participation was to contribute to how IYAC can contribute to improving the development, health, and wellbeing of children through community participation.

The Ipswich children's voice was held on 26th of October 2020. I was a panellist at the event, representing IYAC. I gave my perspective on the following questions:

1. How as a young person would I ensure people and children are included and can participate in the services provided to young people.
2. How I would help our community become more connected with each other.
3. What are the things IYAC could do to help children thrive at school and have a perfect day?

Why did you do what you did?

I did what I did because children's voices matter to IYAC. Also, IYAC as a community organisation consists of young people with children, thus listening to what matters to children is beneficial in helping young people in IYAC with families. This ensures inclusiveness and community participation within IYAC.

How was it organised and who was involved?

The project partners include Ipswich City Council and Mission Australia.

What were the outcomes? How successful has it been?

The event was successful in initiating a conversation that was beneficial for service providers. It was a learning experience for the community representatives because they were able to take information that can be used to improve services for families and improve the community at a broader scale.

How did it draw on or contribute to IYAC priorities?

The Ipswich children's voice linked with IYAC's Flick the 'Swich', a forum aimed capturing young people's concerns. It drew on IYAC's projects focused on families, especially young families.

Key learnings?

The setting (Studio 188) worked well despite the barriers caused by COVID-19. The children and panellists were well prepared.

Future plans:

The future is to further implement the information gathered in IYAC projects.

Build Social Connections ✓

**SUSTAINABILITY IN IPSWICH
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
VADA HOGER – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
OFFICER, IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL**

Summary

This project was completed to gain feedback from the community on two topics relating to sustainability in Ipswich, an overarching Sustainability Policy to provide strategic direction for council and a public awareness and activation campaign around sustainable living.

Goals and Objectives:

Feedback from the community to draft council's Sustainability Policy.

Feedback from the community on how sustainable the community is currently, what the community thinks about living sustainably, what may assist them to become more sustainable and what types of activities they would like to see in council's community sustainability campaign.



IYAC members participate in a consultation as part of the Sustainability in Ipswich community engagement in March 2020

What did you do? When did it happen?

January – February 2020.

We talked with the community through a number of methods including online, in shopping centres, visually at the Environmental Education Centre and via meetings including the IYAC meeting (March 2020)

Why did you do what you did?

We wanted to speak with as many people as possible in Ipswich to find out their views on council's Sustainability Policy and living sustainably within the Ipswich community. This information from the community helped us formulate a policy that will assist council focus on sustainability for the community and to also identify what council can do to help the community live more sustainably.

What resources did you need?

Stakeholders time, marketing resources, access to the community through a variety of ways including online portals and face to face such as in shopping centres and at meetings.

What were the outcomes? How successful has it been?

The Sustainability Policy has been adopted by council and now in place.

The feedback on living sustainably has been used to direct the Sustainability in the Suburbs campaign in 2020 which incorporated recognising some of Ipswich's local sustainable heroes and providing free educational workshops and programs for the community.

How did it draw on or contribute to IYAC priorities?

IYAC provided us with dedicated time to discuss their thoughts and the thoughts of youth on the topic of sustainability. It was evident through the consultation with IYAC that sustainability is a priority for youth in Ipswich.

Key learnings?

The variety of engagement with the community worked well and the variety of community representatives was across the board.

It would have been good to have more people within the community provide their feedback on the topic.

Future plans?

The policy and sustainable living community campaigns will be reviewed after the 2020 events to ensure community feedback is continued to be received and that the programs are relevant to the community.

**IFUTURE: 20 YEAR COMMUNITY VISION AND
NEW CORPORATE PLAN**
**MELANIE RIPPON – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
OFFICER, IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL**

A major decision of the new council was to develop a new 20 year community vision to accompany the new corporate plan. The directive from the elected representatives and ELT was clear – meaningful and representative community-wide engagement needed to underpin the vision and plan. Throughout the second half of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, the project team and working group embarked upon a city-wide engagement effort to deliver on the brief.

The engagement challenges of the project were its short timeframes, topic area (engagement on policy and strategy is often considered ‘dry’), context (COVID pandemic) and ensuring a representative portion of the local community were engaged. This included unearthing and listening to the voices of Ipswich’s young population. IYAC was identified as one of seven key community reference groups who were engaged with early and throughout all stages of iFuture’s development.

A mix of methods were adopted for IYAC, based on the engagement preferences of members. This included:

- *face-to-face information sessions*
- *online futures visioning workshop using live polling*
- *social media (IYAC’s closed Facebook group)*
- *study circles for futures visioning (IYAC members facilitated community conversations)*
- *face-to-face workshops using a mix of methods (briefing, dotmocracy, rapid focus groups and live polling)*

IYAC members engaged with 77 community members through the study circles in 2020. It is expected this number will be boosted throughout February 2021. Out of all of council’s reference groups, IYAC were the most active in facilitating the study circles, and engaging with individuals representing culturally diverse communities. Data from the many conversations were aggregated, analysed and formed the foundations of the draft plan.

iFuture has shown us that, with member-led planning, use of appropriate methods and concentrated effort it is possible to engage authentically with the so called ‘hard-to-reach’ cohorts.

The engagement effort has further highlighted the need for a dedicated youth engagement strategy at council, which has been socialised with the elected representatives and ELT (Executive Leadership Team). The iFuture project team is looking forward to partnering with IYAC throughout February 2021, with a view to finalising iFuture.



IPSWICH AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS PANEL 2021

INTERVIEW WITH IYAC PANEL REPRESENTATIVE, CHLOE BOIKE – IYAC MEMBER (2018 – CURRENT)

Summary

The Australia Day Awards Panel was a chance to get together with a group of Ipswich citizens, all from different walks of life and review the submissions for the 2021 Australia Day Awards. It was a chance to discuss relevant criteria of each submission and vote collectively as a group who should receive the awards.

Goals and objectives:

To review all the submitted nominations and decide as a collective group who should receive the awards for 2021.

What did you do? When did it happen?

On Wednesday 2 December 2020, the panel got together at the Ipswich Civic Centre. Before the meeting, everyone on the panel was emailed the nominations in advance so they could be reviewed in depth before the meeting as there was a lot of criteria to consider. On the day of the panel meeting, there was time to go through the nominations again and then everyone on the panel got a chance to speak their minds and give their opinion about the nominations. Then it went to a vote and everyone gave their preferences as to who should get the awards. Everyone's vote was then discussed as a collective group and the recipient of the award was unanimously decided by the group.

How was it organised and who was involved?

The panel was organized by Lee-Anne Oberholzer, the Events and Engagement Officer of the Marketing and Promotion Branch of the Ipswich City Council.

What resources did you need?

Smart Sheet was used to access the nomination forms ahead of the meeting.

What were the outcomes?

The panel was able to successfully choose the recipients for the 2021 Australia Day Awards.

How did it draw on or contribute to IYAC priorities?

The experience was a chance to get together with other members of the Ipswich community and help spread some positivity during this uncertain time. It was also a chance to promote IYAC to the panel, as no one on the panel had heard about IYAC before.

Key learnings:

My career aspirations is to work in the field of Human Resources. In order to work in this field, I am hoping to gain more experience with human resources. By working with more of the Ipswich City Council employees and participating in experience like the Australia Day Panel, it will help establish more business connections I can use to get a foot in the door to try and get experience in the Human Resources department of the council.

Everyone on the panel worked really well together and listened to everyone else's thoughts and opinions. It was also nice to learn about all the good deeds the people of Ipswich do and how many people think of others over themselves.

Future plans:

It would be great to be a part of the panel again for the 2022 Australia Day Awards. It would be good to maybe have a couple of other IYAC members on the panel as well.

Give Youth a Voice ✓

Engage Youth in Decision-Making ✓

Build Social Connections ✓

COVID-19

COVID-19 impacted a number of IYAC projects and activities in 2020. In particular, this included the planned involvement of IYAC in two key community projects; Harmony Day 2020, and the Ipswich Relay for Life 2020. Additionally, IYAC postponed a planned visit to the Queensland State Parliament in March 2020. This trip was to include a guided tour of State Parliament, an observation of parliamentary sitting, in addition to a morning tea with Ipswich Members of Parliament. It is hoped that all three initiatives can be delivered in 2021.

Important to note is that the program's annual member survey was conducted six months into the COVID-19 pandemic. Comparability with previous survey results is therefore also limited. Whilst continuing members (12 and 24 months into their IYAC experience) were asked to reflect on the 'the past 12 months', it is anticipated that adjustments made to program activities in line with public safety restrictions are likely to have had an influence on how the program was experienced, by comparison to previous years. Of the 10, one and two year members who responded to the survey, 90 per cent indicated that COVID-19 had affected their engagement with the IYAC program. Members conveyed that:

"Meetings haven't been able to go ahead and have stopped us from planning anything."
– (IYAC Member commenced 2018)

"It was hard to meet online as I had work during the day. I feel more engaged when face to face, so it was hard to be productive through online platforms."
– (IYAC Member commenced 2019)

"COVID impacted my work-life heavily. I was working even more, so was unable to attend meetings and commit fully for some time to IYAC."
– (IYAC Member commenced 2018)

"I think COVID affected my mentality quite a bit, as suddenly many community engagement ideas seemed impossible or much less feasible due to social distancing requirements."
– (IYAC Member commenced 2018)

"I was unable to put on events that I wanted to ... However, I feel that we have been able to adapt to these changes."
– (IYAC Member commenced 2018)

Here is what current IYAC member, Chloe Boike, had to share about her IYAC experience during COVID-19:

When COVID-19 hit Australia, everything just stopped. People had to stay home and all non-essential gatherings had to cease. IYAC is used to getting together at least once a month with our meetings and when we had to stop them, it was quite upsetting. I felt very sad that I could not continue to meet up with this amazing group of like-minded people. It was then, Cameron came up with the idea for group check-ins over Go-to-Meetings so we could keep social and up to date on how everyone was coping. We had a total of 6 check ins over the course of the year - mostly when COVID was at its worst. We were able to vote on the Facebook page regarding our availability and the check ins could go for a long or as short as we wanted. It was a great way to keep connected with other members of IYAC during the uncertain times. It also meant that when we converted to online IYAC meetings, the progression was made easier as a few of us had gotten used to the online program through our check ins.



UPCOMING INITIATIVES

In 2021 IYAC plans to develop community development projects in response to its two priorities:

EDUCATION	ENGAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give information and guidance to equip Ipswich young people with the necessary skills to be successful in life ▪ Presentations ▪ Workshops ▪ Youth Mental Health First Aid Training ▪ Other training such as Domestic and Family Violence Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council needs to create greater awareness ▪ Council could create their own app to consolidate all the events coming up. Also, directories for facilities or education about council ▪ Investing in targeted social media for young people ▪ Multicultural week – adding more events that are youth specific

In addition to the aforementioned priorities, 2021 will see IYAC work towards the development of the following concepts:

1. Establishment of the Ipswich Youth Collective (working title)

Consultation with IYAC and community sector partners about the establishment of an Ipswich Youth Collective (working title). The collective aims to increase collaboration and synergies between the various Ipswich youth advisories; current and emerging. This includes a vision for a quarterly gathering of the Ipswich Youth Collective, in addition to increased skills development opportunities (not just limited to IYAC) and collaborative projects.

2. IYAC Buddying Program

The IYAC Buddying Program is a structured mentoring program which aims to connect IYAC members with subject matter experts across Ipswich City Council, and to increase mentoring and professional development opportunities for IYAC members within council. A proposal has been written for this particular IYAC initiative. At this point the concept is only based on our own independent research and literature review; consultation with internal stakeholders to gauge interest/feasibility has not yet occurred.

3. IYAC Budget Re-Structure

The proposed IYAC budget restructure aims to modify the way funds are allocated to IYAC-led projects, to allow for greater ownership and accountability across membership. As part of this proposal, the current method of IYAC members applying for two levels of funding from the IYAC budget will transition to a new model which allocates the same amount of project funding (proportionate to IYAC budget) to IYAC members on an individual basis. Consequently, IYAC members may wish to

develop projects with their individual project budget, or collaborate with other IYAC members to scale their projects.

4. Integration of 12 Monthly Cycle

A concept originally floated by IYAC, the 12 month cycle would include workshops occurring at 12 month intervals. Separate to the monthly meetings, these half-day workshops will bring together IYAC (and a youth co-facilitator) to discuss the main issues, identify priorities, and establish goals and actions in terms of IYAC's response. IYAC will then measure itself against this 12 month program cycle based on actual performance against identified goals and actions.

5. IYAC Contact Form

In response to feedback provided by current and departed IYAC members in 2020 regarding an increased number of engagements with IYAC, the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council opted to create an online contact form embedded via its council webpage. The purpose of this form was to create a centralised contact form for all stakeholders seeking to engage with IYAC. As part of this new streamlined process, all correspondence is presented to the group as part of a standing agenda item at its monthly meetings. By way of doing so, IYAC members re-gained more control of their agenda, and as a group, can now determine how they would like to proceed with correspondence. With an increased number of enquiries in 2020, 2021 will see IYAC review the contact form in an attempt to improve the form itself and streamline the overall process of engaging with IYAC.

CONCLUSIONS

The last 12 months has seen IYAC continue its development as an important part of council's Community Development portfolio. IYAC members have taken part in a number of Ipswich City Council projects, and continued to launch their own youth-led initiatives. Many members have developed confidence and connections. However, there is ongoing space for growth in key indicators.

In spite of various challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, IYAC achieved many positive outcomes for Ipswich young people. Most notably, this includes the inaugural Flick the 'swich youth engagement series and the IYAC Christmas Hampers Project.

IYAC also contributed its voice to a total of 6 projects including the Children, Young People and Families Policy, the Ipswich City Council iFuture Corporate Plan (2020-2025), Ipswich Children's Voices, Flick the 'swich, the Environment and Sustainability Strategy, and the Ipswich Australia Day Awards.

IYAC members have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to the program; a statement which is evidenced with a meeting attendance of 73 per cent and an overall attendance of 70 per cent attendance between July and December 2020.

Annual survey results indicate that members who had participated in IYAC for two years, from 2018, reported an increase in their ability to have a say on issues and are recognised as having been influential in setting the program's agenda for giving young Ipswich people a voice. These members also reported an increase in their ability to organise events and initiatives during their time with the program. Survey results also highlighted areas for further development.

Ipswich City Council will continue to learn from the direct input and feedback provided by IYAC members regarding the program. In particular, this information will be used to inform a tailored training program for the group based on the identified areas of 'confidence', 'community and presentation skills', 'relationships and networking skills', 'planning and problem solving skills', 'leadership and advocacy skills', and 'developing an increased knowledge about local issues and the working of Local Government'.

NEXT STEPS

The Economic and Community Development Branch of Ipswich City Council produce annual reports with IYAC. These reports will be presented to the Mayor and Councillors, in addition to the general public, to coincide with Queensland Youth Week. These reports also form part of ongoing research and development

of the program and its initiatives with IYAC members. Reports will showcase IYAC's yearly accomplishments and learnings, and include results from annual member surveys.

IYAC ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Full name: Caragh Bradbery

Current age: 28

Current suburb: Deebling Heights

When were you a member of IYAC?

July 2018 - June 2020

Tell us about your experience with IYAC.

I had a really positive experience during my time with IYAC, I enjoyed meeting other likeminded people and have gained friendships and community connections as part of the process. I enjoyed being able to talk about topics that are important to youth and have the opportunity to advocate for events, programs, services that are all so meaningful in our community.

What skills or lessons did you learn from IYAC?

IYAC was pivotal in helping me grow my personal skills and experience with the local community and council. Being among other emerging leaders in our city helped shape my perspective on what was possible and taught me the systems and processes to move projects and ideas into reality. I was supported in my skillsets and encouraged by the council to find ways to help the local community in ways I couldn't have imagined as an individual.

What are you up to nowadays? If applicable, did IYAC play any part in shaping your path?

I am a small business owner of a local Business called Triangle House, a Mother to a 5yo and 3yo, Chair/ Founder of a local NFP called Creative Ipswich, on the Regional Arts Development Fund RADF Committee. IYAC helped me gain industry contacts, understand opportunities available to influence and support the creative industry and gave me the confidence to start Creative Ipswich. I've made friendships with likeminded people and have had the privilege of gaining experience in areas that have increased my capacity as a leader in the local community.



Full name: Wyatt Cook-Revell

Current age: 21

Current suburb: Red Hill

When were you a member of IYAC?

2014-2015

Tell us about your experience with IYAC.

My experience with the Ipswich Indigenous Youth Advisory Council highlighted that diversity and inclusiveness are essential qualities for the Ipswich community. In particular, the community's role in overcoming the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders. I am grateful for the opportunity to play a small part in promoting a fairer community where everybody has the right to contribute and where we celebrate our differences rather than fear them.

What skills or lessons did you learn from IYAC?

Through my involvement in the Ipswich Indigenous Youth Advisory Council, I gained experience and developed skills that have enabled me to make a difference in my community. The Ipswich Indigenous Youth Advisory Council helped demonstrate the potential Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders can have. It, too, inspires other Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders to come forward, be proud of their heritage and play a part in their communities.

What are you up to nowadays? If applicable, did IYAC play any part in shaping your path?

I have recently graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the Queensland University of Technology. I am working as an Associate to a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland. In 2022, I will commence as a Law Graduate at Ashurst.

IYAC ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Full name: Kori Besgrove

Current age: 21

Current suburb: Woolloongabba

When were you a member of IYAC?

2014-2015 and 2018-2020

Tell us about your experience with IYAC.

I first joined IYAC when I was a high school student (Rosewood State High). Due to personal circumstances in my life, I began to disengage from my community and IYAC became a way for me to become involved with other young people. During my first membership with IYAC, I participated and assisted in local events. This is where I found a passion for assisting youth and reintegrating other young people back into the community.

I re-joined IYAC again in 2018 when I was in my second year at the Queensland University of Technology. I enjoyed this experience, and I was given the opportunity to expand my arts practice. Similarly, I found that, because I was older, I had confidence in my ability to facilitate youth events and more autonomy over my contribution to my community. I had the amazing opportunity to complete a placement in the Ipswich City Council Event Management Team and, along with IYAC member Caragh Bradbery, co-created and facilitated the Youth Arena at Ipswich Show.

What skills or lessons did you learn from IYAC?

IYAC taught me necessary networking and public speaking skills for both the workplace and presentations. These skills have followed me into my professional career. Most recently, I was asked to participate in the Creators of Ipswich Summit, where I spoke on a panel about issues surrounding artists in Ipswich. Similarly, I have spoken on behalf of my university on Indigenous issues (National Indigenous Students Conference, Canberra along with IYAC Alumni Wyatt Cook-Revell) and throughout my international study at the University of Stirling (Scotland, UK).

Likewise, the IYAC facilitated placement gave me the essential tools to breach the arts sector within the Ipswich community. I was taught the basic frameworks of event management, facilitation, and the fundamentals of grant writing.



Through both my membership period at IYAC, I have met some wonderful young people who are doing amazing things to shape our community. I still communicate and collaborate with many IYAC members, and I am so thankful for the opportunity to meet such incredible young people.

What are you up to nowadays? If applicable, did IYAC play any part in shaping your path?

The placement in Ipswich City Council's Event Management Team shifted my desired career path, and I moved into the field of at-risk youth programming. I graduated university with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and got my first full time position working as an Indigenous Outreach Worker in Brisbane City, assisting at risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. I have since then returned to Ipswich working as Youth Worker at Ipswich Flexible Learning Centre, assisting at risk and marginalised young people with their own education journey.

Full name: Natalie Blacklock

Current age: 29

Current suburb: Forest Lake

When were you a member of IYAC?

2007 - Participant

2008 - Participant

2009 - Mentor

2010 - Mentor

Tell us about your experience with IYAC.

As a 'foundation' participant of the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council, the experience was definitely an eye-opening and unforgettable one. As a team, we worked closely with council and other organisations across the city to develop facilitate the creation of events and infrastructure for the young people in Ipswich including; the Ipswich Youth Markets, the creation of dedicated Ipswich Youth website www.theswich.com and campaigned for the availability of free internet for youth and library members of all ages at the then 3 Ipswich City Council libraries. In addition, as members of IYAC, we were involved with many council events including Ipswich Festival, the Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols and special events like the 20th Anniversary of the Ipswich Mall in 2007, which I co-hosted.

During my time as an IYAC Mentor, I participated in intense mentor training sessions, attended meetings and events alongside Youth Advisory Council Members and supported council staff with the planning and delivery of a range of events. In addition, we were also instrumental in organising, promoting and running the inaugural Ipswich Youth Conference in 2009.

What skills or lessons did you learn from IYAC?

As an IYAC participant and mentor, I learnt a plethora of skills that have continued to grow with me. The program allowed me to engage more deeply with the political process at a local and state level and saw me further engage with the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament and pursue my career as a Teacher. Engaging with the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council also allowed me to create valuable relationships with other young people, service providers and members of the community, which opened doors to further passions including writing for Ipswich News' Loop Magazine and now Good Call Live. On top of this, through the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council's engagement with the wider community at events and functions, I built my confidence and skills in public speaking, which has been invaluable as I moved through University and into my working life.

What are you up to nowadays? If applicable, did IYAC play any part in shaping your path?

I am currently beginning my 8th year of Secondary School teaching with Education Queensland and I love it! I've continued to follow my passion for Law, Governance and the political process and teach Legal Studies alongside Tourism, Humanities and English. As well as this, I have continued my engagement with educational policy through my appointment to the Queensland Parliament's Teacher Advisory Group.

In addition, I also am an editor, writer and reviewer for Good Call Live, a South-East Queensland independent music website. I have the opportunity to review live music and interview a bunch of interesting and inspiring local and international musicians. We also regularly work with bands / artists to put together charity concerts and fundraise through our platforms for organisations like Support Act.

In both of these pursuits, my involvement with the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council played a role in shaping my path and equipping me with the tools to engage to with my community in positive and productive ways, to advocate for change in the face of adversity and most importantly, to give people a voice for change!



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A. Flanagan and B. D. Christens (Eds.), *Youth civic development: Work at the cutting edge*. New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development, 134, 43–57.

For more information and full list of appendices visit [Ipswich.qld.gov.au/IYAC](https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/IYAC)

FURTHER READING: PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION



FURTHER READING: PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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 and 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, signaling 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 per cent of survey respondents believe they have ownership of Program of Work as they have been consulted and involved in its development

METHODOLOGY

Ongoing monitoring aims to track IYAC outcomes that feed back into continuous development of the program and help evaluate its broader impact. Key data collection methods include:

- a baseline survey for new members (see Appendix A)
- a 12-month survey for members who have been with the program one and two years (see Appendix B)

- a project summary and reflection template for member and stakeholder reporting of aims, objectives and outcomes of IYAC initiatives (see Appendix C).

Additionally, members who depart from the program ahead of completing their two-year term are invited to provide feedback on their IYAC experience and to register as an Alumni member for ongoing communications.

SURVEY RESULTS

The following section presents overall results from baseline and twelve month surveys conducted with program participants who were commencing or continuing as IYAC members during the report period. This year’s annual survey achieved a 90 per cent response rate from IYAC members. A rolling annual membership, whilst of benefit to experience and knowledge transfer amongst members, and offering a way to counter program attrition and make the program more regularly available to participate in, may also obscure participant outcomes. Whilst outcomes are monitored individually, this report is limited to changes reported by members who commenced with IYAC in 2018 when the program was revitalised, and tracks only those seven young people still engaged with the program after two years. For percentage data throughout the report, small numbers have been excluded to ensure privacy.

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 per cent 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. These were decided 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

Annually members are asked to indicate key issues that are affecting youth in Ipswich. Most recent survey responses have been clustered into key themes in the table below, including number of instances and indicative quotes. Across the issues identified, survey respondents advocated for “inclusion” and “acceptance of diversity” along with safe, positive and supportive environments for Ipswich young people. The key issues identified across survey responses during the report period included:

- youth unemployment
- mental health
- drug and alcohol use
- poverty and financial hardship
- community cohesion and engagement
- education.

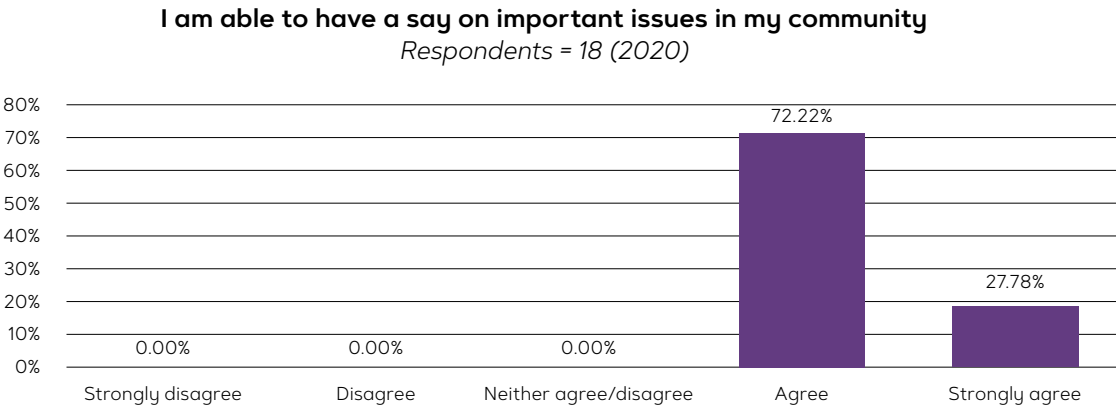
The above themes also correspond somewhat with results of liveability research commissioned by council around the same time in which younger Ipswich residents (between 18 and 34 years of age) rated the state of their mental health as lower than the average Ipswich resident. Younger residents also rated their current personal financial circumstances as being in worse condition relative to the average Ipswich resident (id Living in Ipswich, 2020).



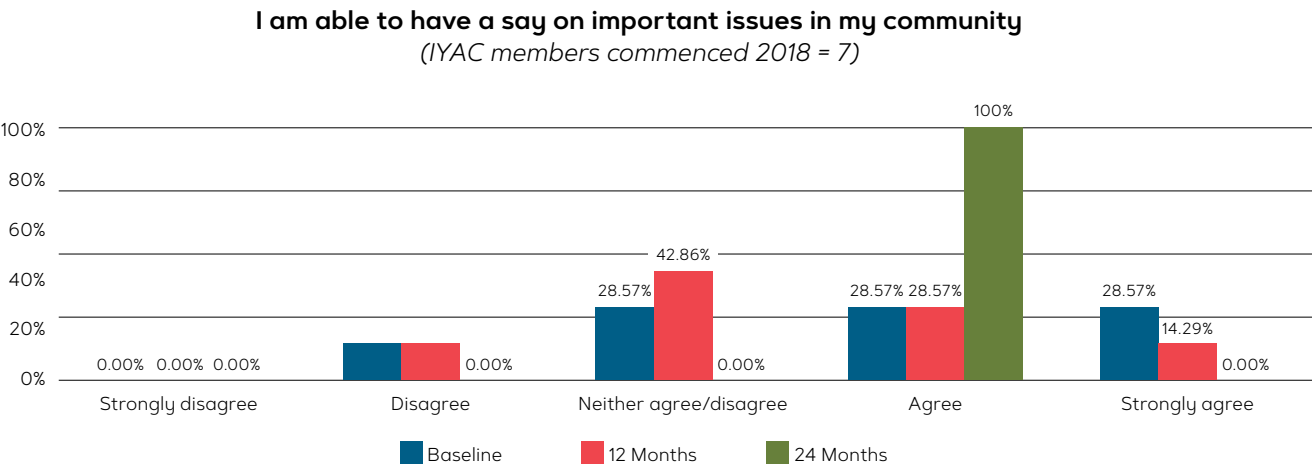
THEME	NO. OF RESPONSES	QUOTES
Youth unemployment	11	<i>"Youth unemployment and difficulty finding financial independence", "Job availability"</i>
Mental health	10	<i>"Mental illness stigma, youth feeling like no one understands, cares about, or is there to listen to their mental health struggles"</i>
Drug and alcohol use	7	<i>"Addiction and drug related issues"</i>
Poverty and financial hardship	6	<i>"Poverty (resources)", "Job insecurity"</i>
Community cohesion and engagement	4	<i>"Lack of community involvement", "Having support from the community"</i>
Education	4	<i>"Disengagement from education - with nothing else to do", "Access to higher education (universities and Tafe)"</i>
Crime	3	<i>"Crimes such as theft and aggravated assault"</i>
Interpersonal conflict	3	<i>"Violence"</i>
Lack of access to services	3	<i>"Having accessible services"</i>
Lack of youth spaces, activities and entertainment	3	<i>"Not enough stuff to do"</i>
Lack of support for people with disabilities	2	<i>"How to support or comfort a person living with a disability"</i>
Personal development	2	<i>"Learning different things", "Lack of knowledge on how to be independent"</i>
Physical health	2	<i>"Physical well-being", "Public health"</i>
Political engagement	2	<i>"Lack of knowledge regarding government elections"</i>
Domestic violence	1	<i>"Domestic violence and displacement"</i>
Family support	1	<i>"Bad parenting"</i>
LGBTQIA+ issues	1	<i>"Lack of support for the LGBTQ+ community"</i>
Impacts of social Media	1	<i>"Social network"</i>
Indigenous disadvantage	1	<i>"Indigenous experiences of colonization (incarceration, sovereignty, wellbeing)"</i>
Racism	1	<i>"Racism"</i>
Support for multicultural communities	1	<i>"For traditions - community group showing different culture"</i>

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. All survey respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to have a say on important issues.

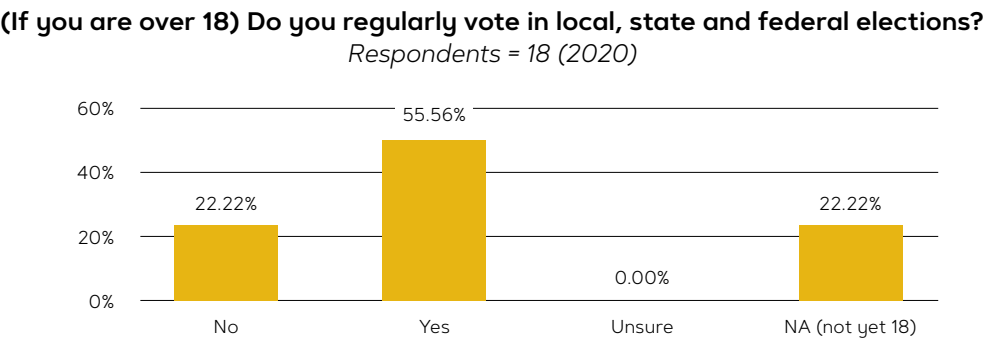


Although no commencing or continuing respondents (18) indicated ambivalence or disagreement about their ability to have a say on important issues during this report period, comparison between baseline and 12 monthly interval responses by two-year members (7) suggests an increase in their ability to have a say on key issues during their time with IYAC.



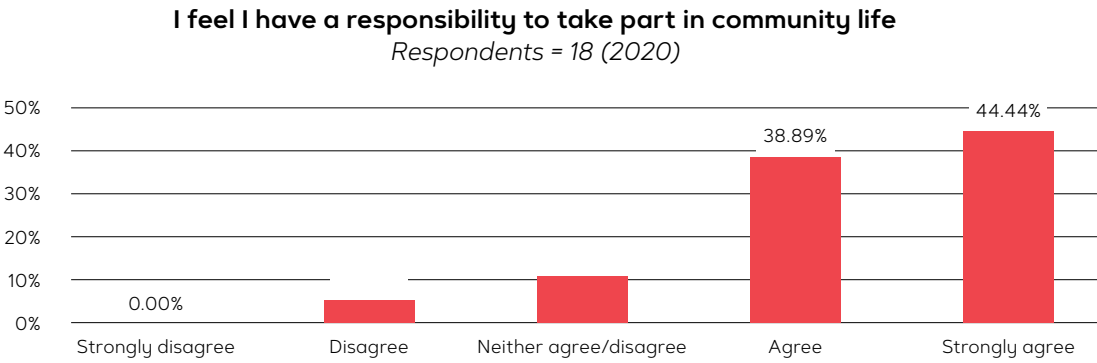
BUILD VALUES AROUND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A key indicator being tracked is civic engagement among young people, including attitudes, opinions and participation in democratic process, knowledge and engagement with broader community topics. For those respondents over 18 years of age, most were taking part in local, state and federal elections.



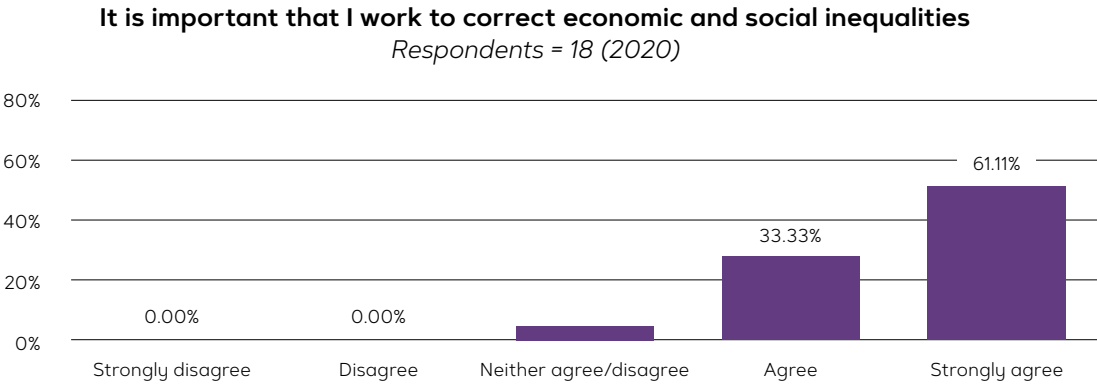
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY LIFE

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. The majority of respondents (83.33%) indicated they ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ they had a responsibility to take part in community life.



ADDRESSING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

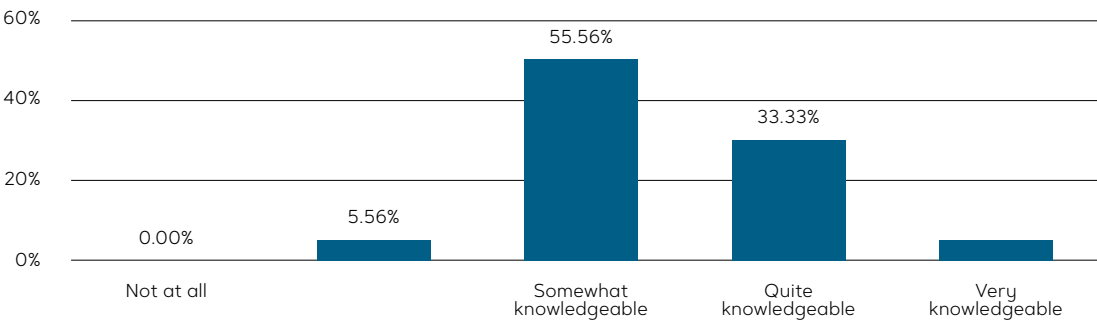
In order to further gauge and track critical consciousness, members were asked to indicate whether they feel they should be working to address economic and social inequalities. Nearly all respondents (94.44%) felt strongly about the importance of their work to correct economic and social inequalities.



KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WORK IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

As a further measure of civic engagement, members were asked to consider their current level of knowledge regarding the work of council. More than half of survey respondents indicated they had some or not much knowledge of council work. Comparison with previous reporting (Ipswich City Council, 2019) suggests this continues as an area for further development.

How knowledgeable do you feel you are about what work Ipswich City Council is responsible for?
Respondents = 18 (2020)



Respondents indicated the following key pieces of work that council engages in:

THEME	NO. OF RESPONSES	QUOTES
Roads, infrastructure and maintenance	13	"Looking after roads/road signage", "Maintain infrastructure"
Parks and public spaces	8	"Creating and maintaining public spaces, parks, libraries, and bushland", "Ensure all parks are clean and safe"
Planning and development	6	"Town development plans", "Land allocation", "New building approvals", "Monitoring the future of Ipswich development"
Waste	5	"Rubbish collection", "Waste services", "Waste/illegal dumping management"
Environmental protection	5	"Environmental issues", "Look after the local environment", "Nature reserves"
Local regulations	4	"Development permits", "Enforcing laws and regulations"
Championing ipswich and advocacy	4	".. a voice for Ipswich citizens", "Ensure the issues impacting Ipswich are being addressed", "Work with state government"
Community awareness on key issues	4	"Providing information"
Community development	4	"Community services", "Community development", "[supporting] a diverse community"
Economic development	3	"Supporting local business", "Local jobs growth and employment"
Representation	3	"Represent the needs and thoughts of the different electorates in Ipswich"
Safety	3	"Public safety"
Supporting vulnerable community members	3	"[Providing] support to those who need it"
Community engagement	2	"Listen to local people"
Funding and supporting community initiatives	2	"Community grants"
Libraries	2	"Libraries"
NEW policy development	2	"Implement policies to help the community"
NEW public health	2	"Public health"
Transport	2	"Public transport"
Data collection and research	1	"Gather and collate key data about our city"
Events	1	"Community events and engagement"
NEW strategic direction	1	"Develop and design plans for the future of Ipswich"
Resource allocation	1	"...providing spaces for community groups to meet safely"
Tourism	1	"Local tourism"

ENGAGE YOUTH IN DECISION-MAKING

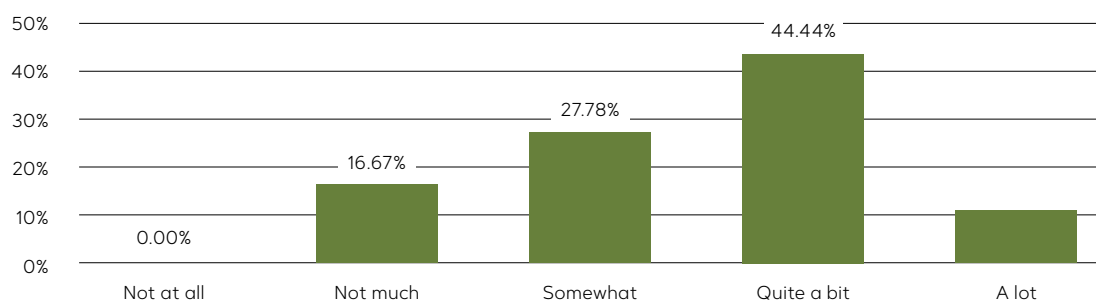
Engagement of youth in decision-making is a key indicator being tracked and takes into account members' perceptions about their capacity to influence change and engage with decision-makers.

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. Responses from 44.45 per cent of respondents suggested the extent of their ability to influence was either 'not much' or 'somewhat'. In contrast, 44.44 per cent of respondents indicated they could influence change 'quite a bit'.

How much do you currently feel you are able to influence change on key issues?

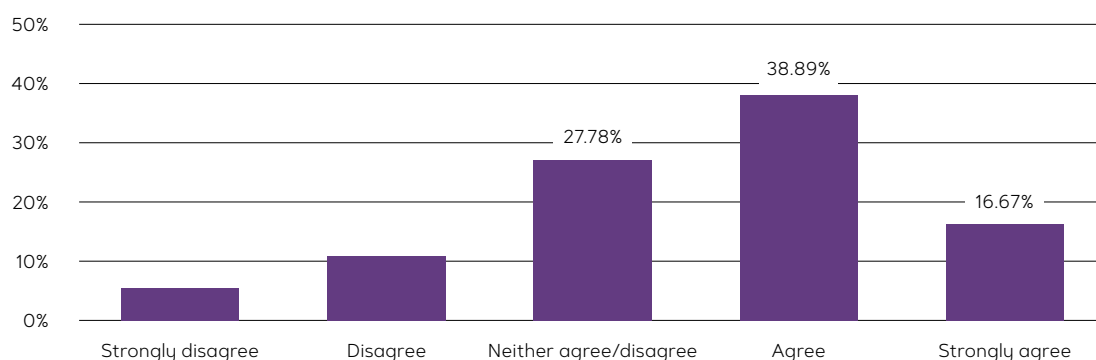
Respondents = 18 (2020)



Slightly more than one in two (55.56%) respondents indicated they were able to communicate with elected representatives about important community issues. By rough comparison with previous reporting (Ipswich City Council, 2019) this result suggests there may have been some general improvement on this indicator. On the other hand, with 44.44 per cent of respondents indicating less confidence with the statement, this may be an area for further development.

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

Respondents = 18 (2020)



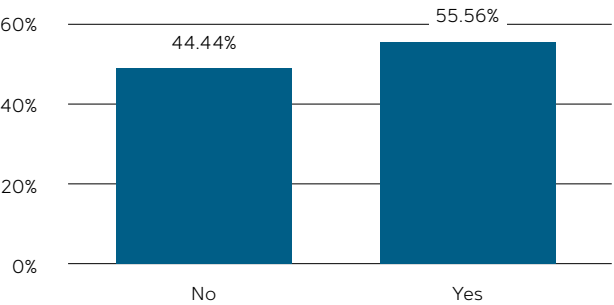
BUILD SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

An overarching impact being measured is the building of social connections among young people, as a key part of strong communities.

ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY GROUPS

In order to gauge levels of civic engagement, social connections and initiative, members were asked if they are a member of any community groups. Just over half (55.56%) of respondents indicated they were a member of a community group/s.

Are you a member of any community groups?
Respondents = 18 (2020)



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

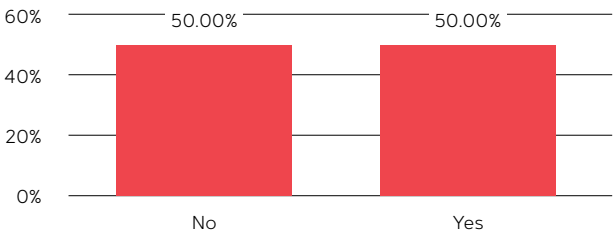
- Access Youth
- church groups
- cultural groups and organisations
- Crime Stoppers Ipswich
- Headspace Ipswich Youth Reference Group
- Ipswich Community Youth Service
- Ipswich Musical Theatre Company
- Ipswich Orpheus Chorale
- sporting groups
- Springfield and Ipswich Chamber of Commerce.

ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Members were also asked if they had taken part in community meetings, a further measure of engagement in the community. One in two (50%) of respondents indicated they had taken part in community meetings. For those IYAC members who have taken part in community meetings, these include:

- Brisbane’s Liveability: Intergenerational Planning Forum
- Chamber of Commerce meetings
- Crime Stoppers meetings
- crisis debrief meeting
- Ipswich Musical Theatre Committee meetings
- local suburb community meetings
- youth Reference Group meetings.

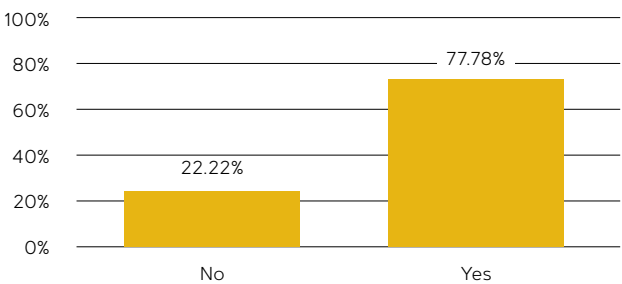
Have you taken part in any community meetings?
Respondents = 18 (2020)



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, the majority of respondents (77.78%) had volunteered with community groups or events outside of IYAC.

Have you volunteered in the community or assisted with community groups/events?
Respondents = 18 (2020)

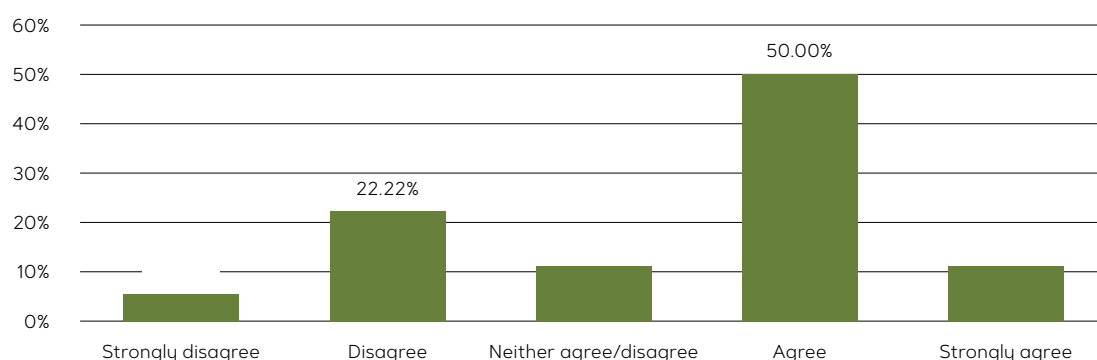


For those IYAC members who have volunteered, volunteering activities include:

- Access Virtual Forum
- Africa Youth Council of Queensland
- Bunnings BBQ's
- church events
- community events
- Crime Stoppers
- Fresh Futures Markets
- Ipswich Community Youth Services Youth Homelessness fundraising
- Ipswich Film Festival for Youth
- Ipswich Musical Theatre Company Juniors
- Ipswich West Moreton Auto Club Practice Days
- Ipswich Youth Festival Youth Arena
- Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council
- NAIDOC Day
- PCYC Breaking the Cycle program
- Queensland Times' Adopt a Family Appeal
- Refugee Day
- Relay for Life
- small local businesses
- sporting events
- vintage car charity events

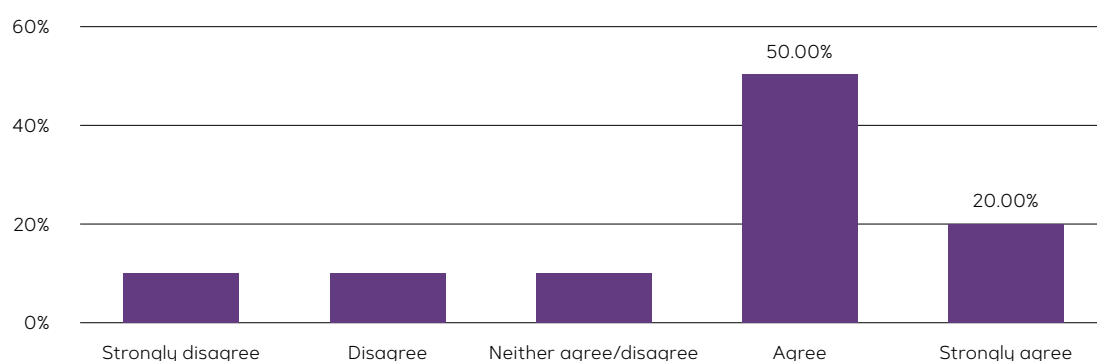
More than half (61.11%) of survey respondents reported they felt connected to other young people in Ipswich. On the other hand, 38.89 per cent of respondents indicated they felt limited in their connections to other young people. As with previous reporting (Ipswich City Council, 2019), this result suggests there may be scope for further work to support network-building.

I feel connected to other like-minded young people in Ipswich
Respondents = 18 (2020)



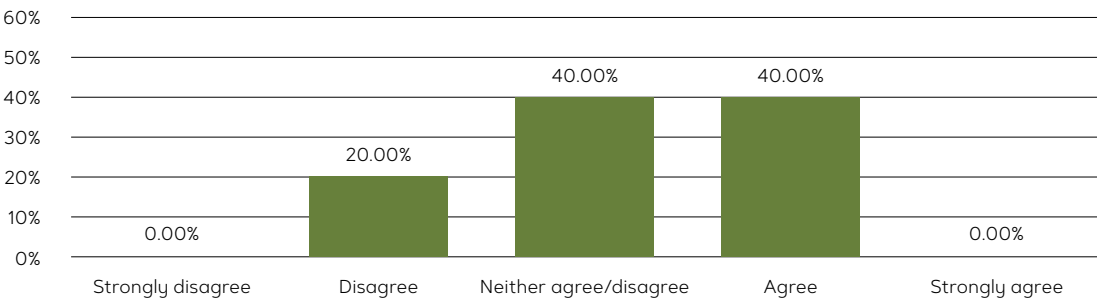
Members were also asked to reflect on whether they felt they had built connections with IYAC members, or new connections in the broader Ipswich community. Most respondents (70%) indicated strong networking with their fellow IYAC members.

I have built strong networks with other IYAC members over the past 12 months
Respondents = 10 (2020)



However, networks in the broader community, were less strong. Similar to outcomes in previous reporting (Ipswich City Council, 2019) this result may suggest future work could include connecting IYAC members with relevant organisations, institutions and individuals in the broader Ipswich community.

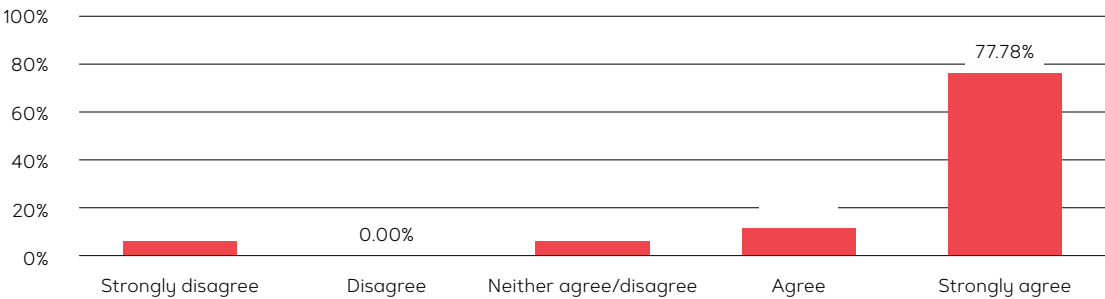
I have built strong networks with organisations, institutions and individuals in the broader Ipswich community over the past 12 months
Respondents = 10 (2020)



DIVERSITY AND REPRESENTATION

IYAC aims to represent the diversity of young people in Ipswich. In line with this aim, the majority (88.89%) of survey respondents either ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that cultural diversity is a positive for the local community.

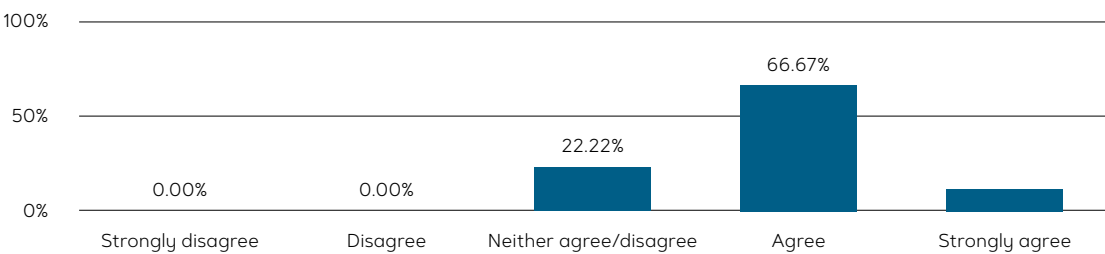
It is a good thing for our community to be made up of people from different cultures
Respondents = 18 (2020)



SKILLS, EMPOWERMENT AND OWNERSHIP

Two key indicators being tracked are to ‘empower youth to take ownership of initiatives’ (see sections; ‘Give Youth a Voice’ and ‘Engage Youth in Decision-Making’) and ‘build skills to take initiative’. Approximately two-thirds (66.67%) of respondents agreed they had the skills to influence change on youth issues in Ipswich.

I have the skills to influence change on issues impacting youth in Ipswich
Respondents = 18 (2020)



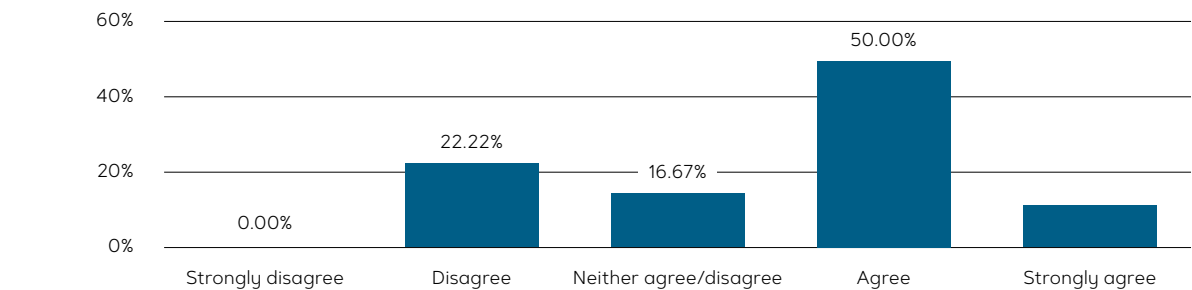
When IYAC members commence with the program they are asked what skills, experiences and outcomes they hope to achieve during their time with the program. A review of members' responses across commencement years since 2018 conveys consistent aspirations when starting with the program, for personal and professional skills development, growing knowledge about local issues and the workings of local government, along with a desire to make a positive difference in the local community (see 'outcome themes' in the table below). Subsequent annual surveys revisit this question with members.

The following table reflects reports by (10) respondents, with one and two years IYAC experience, about the personal and group outcomes they observed during the report period. More generally, respondents described the program as offering a hands-on or, as one respondent put it, "real world experience" that supported their development. A few respondents also reflected on the year's wider challenges as an opportunity to learn "how to adapt to extreme changes because of COVID".

What key skills and experiences do you feel you have gained over the past year on IYAC? (10 respondents, commenced 2018 and 2019)		
OUTCOME THEMES		INDICATIVE QUOTES
Confidence		"More confidence", "to speak up for ideas and question than usual"
Communication and presentation skills		"Experience in professional meeting environments", "How to engage with the community effectively", "Insight into marketing processes", "Listening/being attentive"
Relationships and networking skills		"Work together cohesively on projects", "Working with the group", "Supporting one another", "Learning to debate and develop ideas as a team", "Connection to councillors - ability to reach them"
Planning and problem solving skills		"Ability to plan events", "How to develop an idea and fill out a project template", "Insight into events management"
Leadership and advocacy skills		"Becoming a good leader", "Being a model for the community"
Develop knowledge about local issues, and the workings of local government		Received "training in Multicultural Awareness" and "Youth Mental Health", "A deeper understanding of the issues impacting Ipswich youth", "Attendance at council meeting", "Learning how policy is developed in ICC", "Gaining knowledge on council procedures"
What key outcomes do you feel IYAC has achieved collectively over the past year? (10 respondents, commenced 2018 and 2019)		
OUTCOME THEMES	SPHERE	INDICATIVE QUOTES
Engage with and make a positive difference in the community	IYAC	"Established a cohesive group with clear intent within the community", "Connecting members to each other", "Developed and familiarised members with their enduring project proposal document", "Upskilling members", "Developing Buddy Program"
	Council	"Having council actually listen to young people", "Identified key youth issues and communicated them to council", "Built a foundation for underpinning ICC projects with a youth focus", "Built a relation with the council", "Connecting members to new councillors", "Discussed and had a say on council initiatives that are important to us",
	Community	"Raised the portfolio of youth issues in Ipswich", "Created strong connections with the local community", "collaborating with different communities", "Put on events that celebrated the community (pre COVID)", "Helped develop IFFY and created community awareness about IYAC on the event day", "Giving to those less fortunate", "Have expressed issues that mattered to young people", "Flick The 'switch"

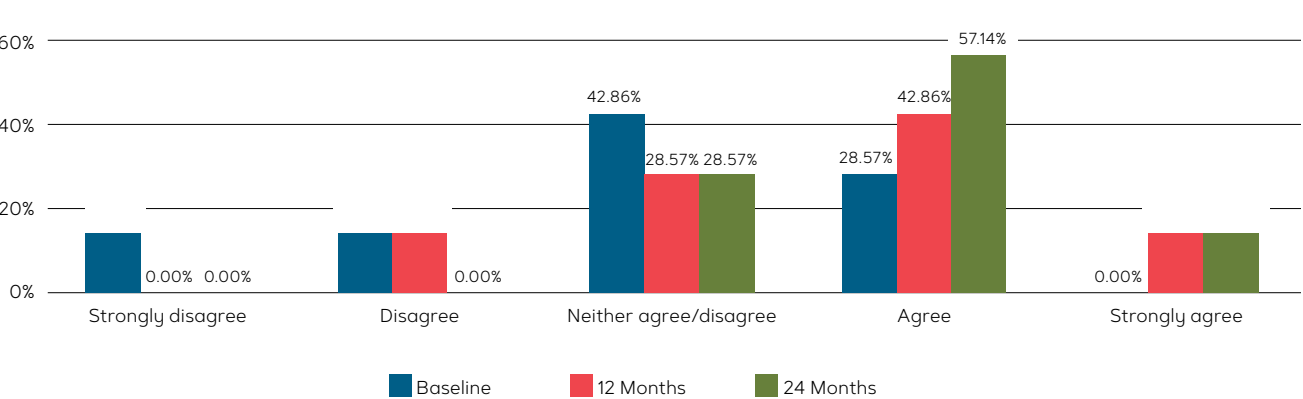
Additionally, 61.11 per cent of survey respondents indicated confidence in their ability to organize events and initiatives to address important community issues. Similar to previous reporting (Ipswich City Council, 2019) another 38.89 per cent of respondents suggested there was opportunity for growth in these capabilities.

Currently, I am able to organise events and initiatives to address important issues in my community
Respondents = 18 (2020)



IYAC members engaged in the program since 2018 have reported an increase in their ability to organise events and initiatives during their time with the program.

Currently, I am able to organise events and initiatives to address important issues in my community
(IYAC members commenced 2018 = 7)



FEEDBACK FROM EARLY-EXITS

Of the three respondents who completed the early-exit survey in 2018, all three commenced their membership with IYAC in 2018. These members identified their reason for exiting as ‘personal’ (change in circumstances, to pursue a new opportunity). All three members were either satisfied, or very satisfied with their experience, with most (two in three) suggesting they would recommend the program to others.

All three respondents either agree, or strongly agree, that they have built strong networks with IYAC members. This response is slightly less so when it came to building strong networks with organisations

and the broader community. This is an identified area for improvement in 2021.

One member suggested:

“Meetings got long at the end of my IYAC experience because other council departments would come and ask for our opinion. Made me feel like a box to tick, but I do understand (we were an easily accessible group, so council departments could say that they asked young people for their opinion). More decision making in who comes to IYAC to present (departments send email or letter and asks for our opinion, IYAC accepts or declines - more autonomy).”

Outcomes across all three respondents:

IYAC's key outcome since 2018: Development of IYAC

Of the three responses, all respondents felt that IYAC was effective in, "creating a safe, welcoming space for Ipswich youth to speak on behalf of the 'voiceless' youth of Ipswich." Survey respondents also identified that IYAC was effective in, "engaging with stakeholders and getting IYAC's name out in the community", and, "capacity building IYAC members for leadership."

Individual outcomes: consistent with above outcomes table

When asked 'do you have any other feedback on the IYAC program?' two respondents acknowledged council's project lead: "Cam is an incredible facilitator and leader of the project, his ability to hold space for the youth to have their voice is such a powerful reason why this program works. He helps capacity build the members of the program while accepting the limitations of their experience and maturity in a way that empowers and encourages people to feel able to stand up and take ownership of the youth issues in the city."



APPENDIX A: 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, Danni Jansen, at Danni.Jansen@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 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: 12 AND 24-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, Danni Jansen, at Danni.Jansen@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.

APPENDIX C: PROJECT SUMMARY / REFLECTION TEMPLATE

NOTES FOR COMPLETION:

- This text may be used to form part of the IYAC Annual Report
- Where possible send a photo or illustration (that is approved for public release) to accompany your project summary or reflection
- As a suggestion, you may wish to write IYAC summaries in the third person
- It is recognised that not all sections will be relevant – this template is designed to offer consistency across a range project summaries

Name of your project or experience

Please include a name of your project or experience

Summary (Max 100 words)

Please provide a summary of your project or experience.

Goals and objectives

Describe what you were trying to achieve.

What did you do? When did it happen?

Describe what you did. In addition, when did this project or experience happen i.e. date of your project or experience

Why did you do what you did?

Key drivers for the project or experience. Please include relevant background or context

How was it organised and who was involved?

Please identify your project partners. This includes internal (IYAC, Ipswich City Council etc.), as well as external (community partners or services)

What resources did you need?

Please describe what resources you needed as part of this project or experience.

What were the outcomes? How successful has it been?

How did it draw on or contribute to IYAC priorities?

Key learnings

What worked well, and what could be done differently?

Future plans

Report Headings (tick any that apply to your project summary or experience)

Give Youth a Voice ☐

IYAC Project: Christmas Hampers for Hannah's House ☐

Build Values around Civic Engagement ☐

IYAC Project: _____ ☐

Engage Youth in Decision-Making ☐

IYAC Project: _____ ☐

Build Social Connections ☐

IYAC Goal: Improving Youth Mental Health ☐

Diversity and Representation ☐

IYAC Goal: Building Diversity and Acceptance ☐

Skills, Empowerment and Ownership ☐

Key Issue Facing Youth in Ipswich: _____ ☐

Contact Details

Author/s:

Contact Name:

Email Address:

Links: Please add links to any relevant pages/ documents/references

Email your summary or reflection to:
Cameron.Nicholls@ipswich.qld.gov.au





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