

# Young People in Moreland: A Needs and Service Analysis

December 2018



Moreland City Council

# Executive Summary

There are over 24,000 young people living in Moreland. This cohort is diverse in age, ethnicity, sexuality, socioeconomic status and life experiences more generally. As such, their needs, preferences and priorities vary markedly. This report outlines key considerations and thematic areas relating to young people and youth services in Moreland. It will assist Moreland City Council (Council) in strategic planning and decision-making to improve outcomes for young people aged 12 to 25 years. The findings are driven by qualitative insights (from young people and service provider representatives) and quantitative data (at the national and municipality level). Key information and conclusions are captured in the Executive Summary, with further detail available in the body of the report and the appendices.

## Topics, Issues and Cohorts

Young people in Moreland encounter a diverse array of challenges and issues. There are topics and considerations that are relevant to a significant proportion of young people (e.g. mental health) whilst a small proportion of young people face severe challenges and life experiences (e.g. homelessness). In addition, research indicates higher levels of need amongst certain population groups (e.g. LGBTQI, culturally and linguistically diverse). Interviews with service providers also pointed to those living in the northern areas of Moreland as generally facing greater challenges.

## Youth Services

Research and stakeholder engagement has identified that over 20 organisations are running over 80 services, programs and facilities in Moreland specifically for young people or that young people can access. A list of these services and key information relating to them can be found in the document *City of Moreland\_Register of Youth Services\_20181130*. It is important to note that this list is indicative not exhaustive, and services close, open and change on a regular basis. Some services are highly specialised, others are generalist and the rest sit elsewhere along the spectrum. Furthermore, some service providers only operate in and around Moreland whilst others have state-wide or national operations. The majority of youth services in Moreland operate from one fixed location whilst the remaining third run at multiple locations or on an outreach basis. Around 1 in 5 services are at or nearing capacity, nearly half have some capacity to see more young people and the service capacity is unknown for approximately a third of youth services

## Access Barriers

There are an array of barriers that impede young people's access to services in Moreland. These include:

- Changes to and instability of services;
- Lack of awareness and information;
- Geography and transport barriers;
- Waiting lists and limited service hours;
- Social barriers; and
- Financial barriers.

## Opportunities

Young people and representatives of service providers voiced a number of opportunities to improve youth services and outcomes for young people in Moreland, such as:

- Enhance the strategic direction and alignment of youth services;
- Increase collaboration between service providers;
- Improve and increase digital information about youth services;
- Tailor service hours to times that suit young people in and post-school; and
- Provide free or low-cost transport to and from youth services.

## Potential Role of Moreland City Council

Council is already doing great things for its young people, with a range of spaces, programs and information to help individuals navigate challenges and enjoy life. With specific Council priorities around helping young people find employment and increasing community connection, safety and liveability<sup>1</sup>, there is an opportunity to build on this role for even greater positive social impact. From the research and stakeholder engagement to date, it has emerged that Moreland City Council could play a leadership role in the sector by: guiding the strategic direction of youth services in Moreland; encouraging and enabling collaboration; providing high impact services that deliver significant value to young people in Moreland; advocating for young people and youth services; and sharing information with the general public and service providers.

## Other Considerations

It's important to note a number of other considerations which relate to the analysis within this paper:

- Number of services is different to number of places within those services;
- Importance of having the young person at the centre;
- Small number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people living in Moreland;
- Outreach is a key means to reach and service young people; and
- The role of schools in increasing awareness of and access to youth services.

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<sup>1</sup> Moreland City Council, *Council Plan 2017 – 2021*

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# Background

## Introduction

Moreland City Council (Council) are in the process of developing their next youth strategy for young people aged 12 to 25 years. To ensure the formulation of the Council's youth strategy is driven by strong understanding of the needs of Moreland's young people, in conjunction with the services available to them, a needs and service analysis has been undertaken. This report summarises the key findings of that work, which will inform decision-making and strategic planning at Council.

Council have engaged Spark Strategy (Spark) to work in collaboration to develop the youth strategy, including researching and writing this report.

## Methodology/Approach

This report has been written as a result of document review, desk-based research, data review and engagement with young people, service providers, Council staff, representatives of other government agencies and other key stakeholders. As such, this report is the result of compilation and analysis of both quantitative data and qualitative insights.

The key findings are outlined in the following sections whilst detailed notes from the stakeholder engagement and the other project activities can be found in the appendices.

## Topics, Issues and Cohorts

A number of factors impact whether young people in Moreland can live a healthy and happy life. There are topics and considerations that are relevant to a significant proportion of young people, including mental health, education and employment, recreational opportunities, having a voice and healthy relationships. On the other hand, a small proportion of young people face severe challenges and life experiences such as homelessness and being victims of violence. A key strategic question for Council relates to whether the focus is on supporting the most vulnerable, the mainstream or all young people. Key project findings are summarised below; additional detail and references can be found in the appendices.

Topic	National data	Moreland data	Resilience data	Youth focus group	Service provider interviews
<b>Physical health</b>	Young people largely experience good physical health. However, rates of obesity are increasing amongst young people with approximately 1 in 5 young people now classified as overweight or obese.	N/A	A significant proportion of Moreland's young people use their phones and computers late into the night, which adversely effects their sleep. This can have negative impacts on physical health.	N/A	N/A
<b>Mental health</b>	National rates of mental illness and suicide amongst young people are increasing. 1 in 6 Australians aged 18 to 24 report very high rates of psychological distress.	N/A	A significant proportion of Moreland's young people use their phones and computers late into the night, which adversely effects their sleep. This can have negative impacts on mental health.	Mental health was a topic that was discussed frequently. Focus group participants noted that many young people in Moreland face mental health challenges.	General consensus that mental health is an issue that holds relevance for most young people. Service providers noted that mental health conditions are typically diagnosed between 12 to 25 years.

Topic	National data	Moreland data	Resilience data	Youth focus group	Service provider interviews
<b>Education and employment</b>	Young people undergo numerous education and employment transitions, including into secondary school, university or paid employment. There is a trend of increasing un- and under-employment.	Approximately 20% of young people in Moreland are disengaged or partially disengaged from education and employment. Around 22% of those who enrol for Year 12 or a Year 12 equivalent do not complete it in that year.	A positive finding of the survey was that 83% of all female respondents are motivated to learn. This includes primary and secondary students.	Lack of employment opportunities was cited as a key issue for young people. This included work experience (e.g. placements and internships), other capability building opportunities and paid employment.	General consensus that education and employment pathways is an issue that holds relevance for most young people. Questions were posed about how to best reach young people who are disengaged.
<b>Recreation</b>	35% of 15 to 24 year olds participated in a cultural activity in the last 12 months – this is the highest of all age groups. For sports and physical recreation, 60% of all ages participated and the rate was highest amongst 15 to 17 year olds at 74%.	N/A	N/A	Focus group participants were keen to have access to more sports, music, arts and other recreational activities and programs. These are also a key means for young people to find out about other youth services and spaces.	Interviewees noted the importance of recreational activities for young people, including as a prevention and early intervention strategy. They were also considered a key source of information and referrals for other youth services.
<b>Housing and homelessness</b>	2016 census data indicates there are 27,680 people aged 12 to 24 years old experiencing homelessness in Moreland. This is likely to be an underestimate.	2016 census data indicates there are 261 people aged 12 to 24 years old experiencing homelessness in Moreland. This is likely to be an underestimate.	N/A	N/A	A number of service provider representatives emphasised that homelessness is a critical issue for a minority of Moreland's young people.

Topic	National data	Moreland data	Resilience data	Youth focus group	Service provider interviews
<b>Relationships</b>	Family, friends and other close relationships are key in supporting young people through difficult times.	N/A	Bullying was found to be a major issue for young people. Over 80% of secondary school respondents value diversity.	Bullying (including cyber-bullying) was cited as a major issue for young people. There was broader discussion about technology and how that was changing the way young people socialise and interact.	Bullying, health relationships, family violence and the challenges faced by young families were topics that were mentioned on a number of occasions.

**Source:** Spark Strategy interview notes (2018)

In addition, research and stakeholder engagement indicates higher levels of need amongst certain population groups e.g. LGBTQI youth, culturally and linguistically diverse young people, individuals experiencing homelessness, those disengaged from school or work, young people living with disability, those with low socioeconomic status, Year 10 boys, or youth with a dual mental health diagnosis. Interviews with service providers also pointed to those living in the northern areas of Moreland as generally facing greater challenges.

# Youth Services

Research and analysis has been undertaken to list and map the youth services that are currently being provided in the City of Moreland. Please note that this is not necessarily exhaustive and so should be treated as indicative. In addition, services close, open and change on a regular basis. This has uncovered that at least 12 organisations who provide youth services to Moreland's young people have offices in the municipality. Other organisations (i.e. those who do not have Moreland offices) also provide services in the municipality. In combination, approximately 24 organisations run upwards of 84 services, programs and facilities in the Moreland region that young people can access.

## Category of Services

There are an array of youth services in Moreland with their own opportunities and challenges. Some services are highly specialised, others are generalist and the rest sit elsewhere along the spectrum. The research and analysis indicate that there are 25 services, programs and facilities whose primary remit is sports, recreation, arts and culture, making these the most numerous youth services in Moreland.<sup>2</sup> There are also a significant number of Moreland-based services and programs (15) that are oriented towards education and employment pathways. There are a small number of supports and spaces dedicated primarily to LGBTIQ young people and for young people experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness. However, it should be noted that other services (e.g. health, legal, combined etc.) are also available to these groups.

Primary category of service, program or facility	Number
Assorted / Combined	7
Education and employment	15
English language and newly arrived	11
LGBTIQ support	2
Health, medical and counselling	9
Housing	2
Legal and justice	4
Relationship and family support	9
Sports, recreation, arts and culture	25
Total:	84

*Source: Spark Strategy interview notes (2018) and City of Moreland\_Register of Youth Services\_20181130*

## Capacity of Services

Around 1 in 5 services are at or nearing capacity whilst nearly half have some capacity to see more young people. In particular, two services stood out at being at or over capacity – legal and justice, and housing and homelessness. Others services that were at or nearing capacity include some mental health, arts and culture, refugee and newly arrived, employment and education, and relationships and family support. In considering these findings, it is critical to note that the service capacity is unknown for a third of youth services so it is possible that other service categories are at or nearing capacity.

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<sup>2</sup> Please note that this is based on the number of services, programs and facilities rather than the number of places within those services.

## Location of Services

The majority of youth services in Moreland operate from a fixed location, with almost a third of youth services and programs running at multiple locations or on an outreach basis. Numerous young people and service provider representatives noted the importance of bringing services to young people and/or providing transport to connect young people to services.

It is important to note that over a fifth (23%) of youth services are delivered from Brunswick, which is the most southerly suburb of the municipality. This could make these services inaccessible to young people who live in other parts of Moreland, especially in the north. On the other hand, approximately 16% of all of Moreland's young people live in Brunswick so the proportion of services does not differ greatly from the proportion of the population. Coburg, which is a more central suburb in the municipality, has 16% of youth services and 16% of the youth population. There are also a very small number of services and facilities that have their fixed location for service delivery in Oak Park and Pascoe Vale. Brunswick East, Hadfield, Gowanbrae and Pascoe Vale South suburb have no dedicated services or programs being delivered within them. However, there may be outreach services running in these areas or services in neighbouring suburbs, both in the City of Moreland and other municipalities.

Suburb	Number of services, programs and facilities
Brunswick	19
Brunswick West	4
Coburg	14
Coburg North	3
Fawkner	4
Glenroy	10
Oak Park	1
Pascoe Vale	1
Multiple / Outreach	25
Unspecified	3
Total:	84

*Source: Spark Strategy interview notes (2018) and City of Moreland\_Register of Youth Services\_20181130*

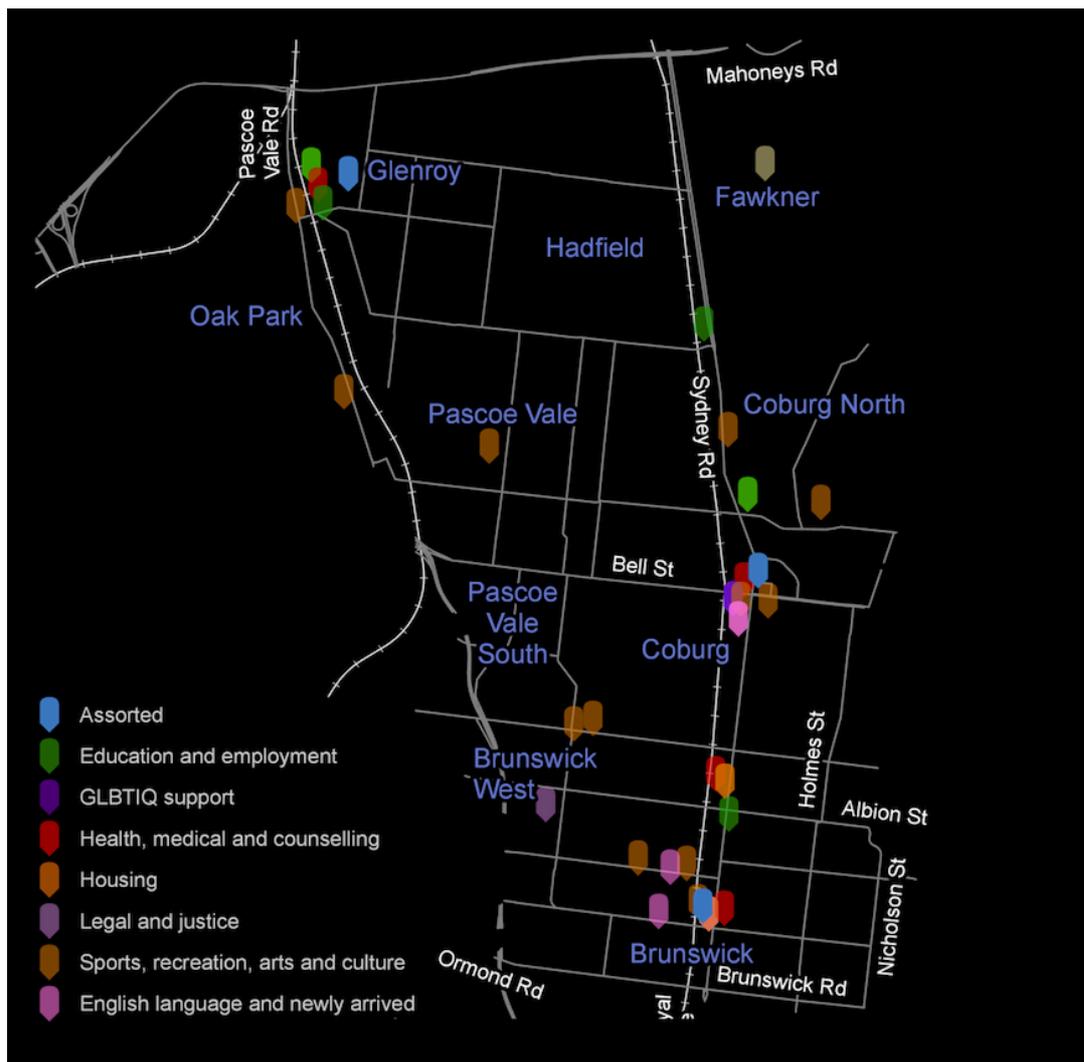
Almost half of all youth services are within 200 metres of public transport (i.e. a bus, train or tram stop), 12% are within 300 metres and only one service is 400 metres away. This distance has not been calculated for outreach or mobile services because they operate at multiple sites. Please refer overleaf for a map of youth services in the City of Moreland.

## Service Gaps

The analysis indicates the following service gaps:

- Services in the northern areas of the municipality; and
- LGBTIQ, legal and homelessness services (of which there are a low number and some are at or nearing capacity).

These findings should be treated as indicative rather than absolute.



**Source:** Spark Strategy interview notes (2018) and City of Moreland\_Register of Youth Services\_20181130

**Note:** A list of youth services and key information (e.g. description, age of cohort, service hours, service capacity, address, phone number etc.) can be found in the document *City of Moreland\_Register of Youth Services\_20181130*. Given services frequently open, close and change in other ways, this document should not be treated as static and should be reviewed and updated at regular intervals.

## Access Barriers

There are an array of barriers that prohibit or limit young people's access to services in Moreland. These include:

- **Changes to and instability of services** – as many services receive grant-based funding, a relatively unreliable funding source, many services cease to operate after the short funding cycle has concluded.
- **Lack of awareness and information** – there are a diverse array of youth services in and around the municipality but young people are not necessarily aware that they exist or key information about what the service entails and how to access it.
- **Geography and transport barriers** – many services are provided at fixed locations, which are not in close proximity to all of Moreland's young people. Transport can be an issue for many young people.
- **Waiting lists and limited service hours** – another primary barrier to access is the opening hours of spaces and services. Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm is when a lot of young people are at school, university or work and therefore cannot access these supports.
- **Social barriers** – particularly in relation to accessing mental health support, it was noted that there is still a level of stigma associated with seeking help. In terms of going to youth spaces, it was a common theme that if a young person does not know anyone already going there, it's daunting to approach the spaces alone.
- **Financial barriers** – cost to access services was also a common theme, particularly in relation to recreational offerings such as sports, arts and music.

It is critical for Council, service providers and other key stakeholders to consider these access barriers in the design of new services and the implementation of existing ones.

## Opportunities

Young people and representatives of service providers voiced a number of opportunities to improve youth services and outcomes for young people in Moreland, such as:

- **Enhance the strategic direction and alignment of youth services** across the municipality to ensure they are meeting the key needs of young people;
- **Increase collaboration between service providers** to share resources and information, improve referral pathways and avoid duplication;
- **Improve and increase digital information about youth services** e.g. social media, websites, apps;
- **Tailor service hours** to times that suit young people in and post-school; and
- **Provide free or low cost transport** for young people to and from youth services.

These opportunities will be explored further during the development of Council's strategy for young people, which will also keep in mind Council priorities around helping young people find employment and increasing community connection, safety and liveability<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Moreland City Council, *Council Plan 2017 – 2021*

# Potential Role of Moreland City Council

Council currently provides a number of services, has a number of spaces and shares assorted information to help Moreland's young people navigate challenges and enjoy life. For example, Council has built and continues to run the Oxygen Youth Centre. This is a safe space for young people to spend time, socialise, engage in sports and music activities, access technology and develop skills. Council also coordinates the Moreland Youth Commitment network, which brings together key stakeholders to improve outcomes for young people. Building on these success, it has emerged that Council could play a leadership role across youth services by:

- **Guiding the strategic direction of youth services in Moreland** – conducting research to understand the needs and priorities of young people and sharing this with service providers to improve the quality and relevance of support and spaces;
- **Encouraging and enabling collaboration** – convening coalitions and partnerships to leverage insight, expertise and resources as well as minimise duplication;
- **Providing high impact services** – delivering high value services for Moreland's youth;
- **Advocating for young people and youth services** – communicating with other local government agencies (in Moreland and beyond) as well as at the state level; and
- **Sharing information with the general public and service providers** – providing information about services, programs and facilities to young people, other community members and service providers to increase awareness, referrals and ultimately access.

## Other Considerations

It's important to note a number of other considerations which relate to the analysis within this paper:

- **Number of services is different to number of places within those services** – in this research, we have used number of services as an indicator for our capacity analysis. We acknowledge that this is imperfect and that 'capacity for individual instances' would be more accurate, however this was unattainable for all services.
- **Importance of having the young person at the centre** – while there has been extensive engagement with service provider representatives, we have ensured that young people in Moreland remain front and centre in this analysis. This is a driving design principle and the reason the analysis included a youth focus group. We suggest this design principle be carried through to the strategy proper, and that it could be incredibly compelling to design a strategy with the young person at the centre.
- **Small number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (192)** – we wish to acknowledge that research was conducted into this area. As there are a small proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people living in Moreland, minimal information has been unearth on this group and the services available to them.
- **Outreach is a key means to reach and service young people** – as outreach locations are varied and rapidly changing, the lack of clarity of where they operate from may provide a skewed view of where young people are able to access services.
- **Schools**
  - **How to provide services or information through schools without overwhelming them?** Schools were cited as a common referral channel to both services and spaces. How to optimise the relationship with schools should be considered in the upcoming strategy. Over-reliance on schools raises the following questions:
    - **How to reach young people who are disengaged from schools?**
    - **How to reach young people who have left school and university?**

# Appendix One: Data on Young People in Australia

There are approximately **4 million young people aged 12 to 24 years old** in Australia, which represents 17% of the total Australian population.<sup>4</sup> In absolute terms, the number of young Australians is increasing (0.6-0.7% per annum); however, the growth rate of the youth population is less than that of the total Australian population (1.7% per annum). Forecasts indicate that there will be approximately 5.6 million young people living in Australia by 2049.<sup>5</sup>

## Physical and Mental Health

Although **the majority of young people experience largely good health**, there a number of statistics and trends that are of concern. For example, only 3.3% of 15 to 24 year olds eat enough fruit and vegetables and 22% of this cohort are either overweight or obese.<sup>6</sup> On the other hand, rates of substance abuse and smoking are falling for 12 to 24 year olds<sup>7</sup>; 11% of young people smoked daily in 2013, compared to 21% a decade earlier.<sup>8</sup>

**Mental illness and suicide rates continue to increase** amongst Australia's young people. High or very high psychological distress is reported by 15.4% of Australians aged 18-24 years.<sup>9</sup> Youth suicide rates increased to 12.7 per 100,000 population in 2016.<sup>10</sup>

## Education and Employment

Australia's education system is generally well-regarded and year 12 retention rates are on the up, increasing to 84.8% in 2017.<sup>11</sup> However, **“remote and disadvantaged communities face significant access and quality gaps.”**<sup>12</sup> In addition, **long-term youth unemployment is at 5.9%** and is demonstrating an upward trend.<sup>13</sup>

**Academic ability, financial difficulty and mental health are the three most prevalent limiting factors** that prevent young people from achieving their study or work goals after school.<sup>14</sup> 7% of 24 year old men across Australia are not in the labour force, with the most at risk coming from low-income families. Of those that are employed, around 40% are not working in their chosen field.<sup>15</sup>

## Disadvantage and Socioeconomic Status

Youth disadvantage continues to maintain and grow its prevalence in Australian society. Many wellbeing areas have continued to degrade, due to a myriad of factors that cannot be addressed in isolation. **Indigenous young people continue to experience greater disadvantage** across the board than Australia's broader youth population.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>[http://analytics.aihw.gov.au/Viewer/VisualAnalyticsViewer\\_guest.jsp?reportPath=%2FAIHW%2FReleasedPublic%2FYouth%2FReports&reportName=YTH2015\\_demographics&appSwitcherDisabled=true](http://analytics.aihw.gov.au/Viewer/VisualAnalyticsViewer_guest.jsp?reportPath=%2FAIHW%2FReleasedPublic%2FYouth%2FReports&reportName=YTH2015_demographics&appSwitcherDisabled=true)

<sup>5</sup>[http://analytics.aihw.gov.au/Viewer/VisualAnalyticsViewer\\_guest.jsp?reportPath=%2FAIHW%2FReleasedPublic%2FYouth%2FReports&reportName=YTH2015\\_demographics&appSwitcherDisabled=true](http://analytics.aihw.gov.au/Viewer/VisualAnalyticsViewer_guest.jsp?reportPath=%2FAIHW%2FReleasedPublic%2FYouth%2FReports&reportName=YTH2015_demographics&appSwitcherDisabled=true)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/population-groups/children-youth/overview>

<sup>7</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/population-groups/children-youth/overview>

<sup>9</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>10</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>11</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.sdgtransformingaustralia.com/#/1245/1331/>

<sup>13</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>14</sup> Mission Australia, *Youth Survey Report 2017* (2017)

<sup>15</sup> Brotherhood of St Laurence, *Life Chances Study wave 11* (2018)

<sup>16</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

Many families survive on less than half the national median income – in 2014, 17% of Australian children up to the age of 14 fell into this category. The statistics are more startling for indigenous families – 32% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children lived in homes that ran out of money for living expenses in the past year.<sup>17</sup>

**One in six Australians aged 15-24 are living in poverty**, and young people who grow up in poverty are more likely to experience homelessness. Those who first experience homelessness at a young age are more likely to experience persistent homelessness in adulthood.<sup>18</sup>

## Family, Friends and Community

Young people reach out to the people close to them for support when times are tough. Friends, parents, wider family and family friends play a critical role in supporting young people through difficult situations.<sup>19</sup> **Youth experiencing the greatest hardship are often those lacking the support networks they need.**

Some other key statistics are:

- 20% of 15-19 years olds were very or extremely concerned about family violence. This is higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people at 26.4%.<sup>20</sup>
- 15% of 15-19 year olds are very or extremely concerned about bullying.<sup>21</sup>
- The proportion of 10-17 year olds in detention continues to trend downwards (currently 0.3 per 1,000) whilst the proportion of 18-24 year olds is increasing (2.7 per 1,000). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are 25 times and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are 15 times more likely to be in detention.<sup>22</sup>
- Out-of-home-care is on an upward trajectory, currently reported at 8.6 children per 1,000.<sup>23</sup>
- Only 5.4% of Australians 15-24 years old participated in civic and political groups in the past year. Youth participation is decreasing – in 2006, it was 11.1%.<sup>24</sup>

## Diversity and Identity

Australia is a **diverse nation in terms of the age, ethnicity and country of birth, sexuality, gender and socioeconomic status**. A number of pertinent points are captured below:

- 11.1% of 15-19 year olds reported that discrimination is a personal concern.<sup>25</sup>
- 72.3% of LGBTIQI said they had experienced abuse because of their sexuality or gender identity.<sup>26</sup>
- 21.1% of young Australians were born overseas (2016 statistics).<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>18</sup> Homelessness Australia, *Homelessness and Young People* (2016)

<sup>19</sup> Mission Australia, *Youth Survey Report 2017* (2017)

<sup>20</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>21</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>22</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>23</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>24</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>25</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>26</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

<sup>27</sup> ARACY, *Report Card 2018: The Wellbeing of young Australians* (2018)

## Housing and Homelessness

The 2016 Census estimated that 116,427 Australians were experiencing homelessness, of which 27,680 are young people (12 to 24 years).<sup>28</sup> This number includes: people living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out; people in supported accommodation for the homeless; people staying temporarily with other households; people living in boarding houses or other temporary lodgings; and people living in severely crowded dwellings.

## Sports, Music and Arts

Approximately 60% of Australian adults (15 years and older) reported participating in sport and physical recreation at least once during the prior year, with participation generally decreasing as people get older. Australians aged 15–17 years reported the highest participation rate in sport and physical recreation (74%), with male and female participation rates similar across most age brackets.<sup>29</sup>

In terms of cultural activities, more than a quarter (27%) of people aged 15 years and older living in Australia reported at least one participation during the prior 12 months. Young people aged 15–24 years reported the highest participation rate (35%). Furthermore, women had a higher participation rate (30%) than men (24%).<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016*

<sup>29</sup><http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyTopic/9FD67668EE42A738CA2568A9001393AC?OpenDocument>

<sup>30</sup><http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyTopic/2B132A3A46B4C604CA2579AA000F2E08?OpenDocument>

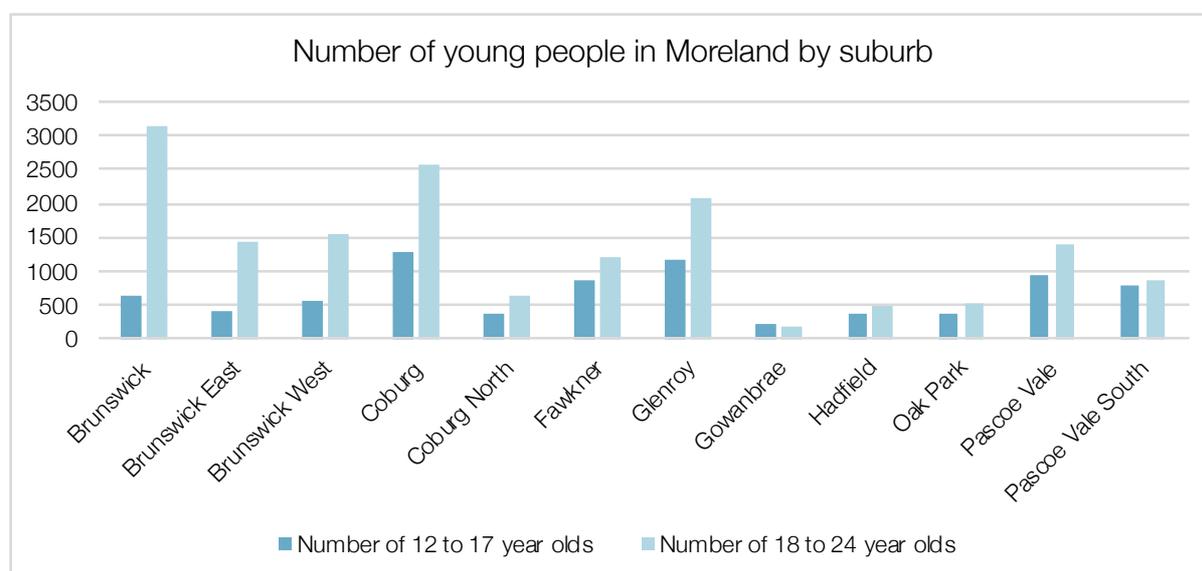
# Appendix Two: Data on Young People in Moreland

## Moreland Census Data (2016)<sup>31,32,33</sup>

The 2016 Australian Census of Population and Housing (Census) is run by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It captured an array of data about Australian residents, including those living in Moreland. Please note that Moreland City Council defines young people as those aged 12 to 25 years old whilst the Census data can be grouped into the 12 to 24 year cohort. Key findings from the 2016 Census that are relevant to this report are summarised below.

### Numbers of Young People

In 2016, there were **24,078 young people aged 12 to 24 years living in Moreland**, representing 14.8% of the total population of the municipality. The number of young people in Moreland increased by 5% from 2011 to 2016. This growth is forecast to increase, with estimates indicating there will be **35,238 young people aged 12 to 24 living in Moreland by 2036**.



Source: 2016 Census

The suburbs in Moreland with the greatest number of young people are summarised in the table below.

12 to 17 year olds	18 to 24 year olds	12 to 24 year olds
Coburg - 1,295	Brunswick - 3,150	Coburg - 3,850
Glenroy - 1,173	Coburg - 2,555	Brunswick - 3,802
Pascoe Vale - 923	Glenroy - 2,064	Glenroy - 3,237
Fawkner - 878	Brunswick West - 1,561	Pascoe Vale - 2,322
Pascoe Vale South - 776	Brunswick East - 1,436	Brunswick West - 2,116

Source: 2016 Census

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/2016>

<sup>32</sup> <https://profile.id.com.au/moreland>

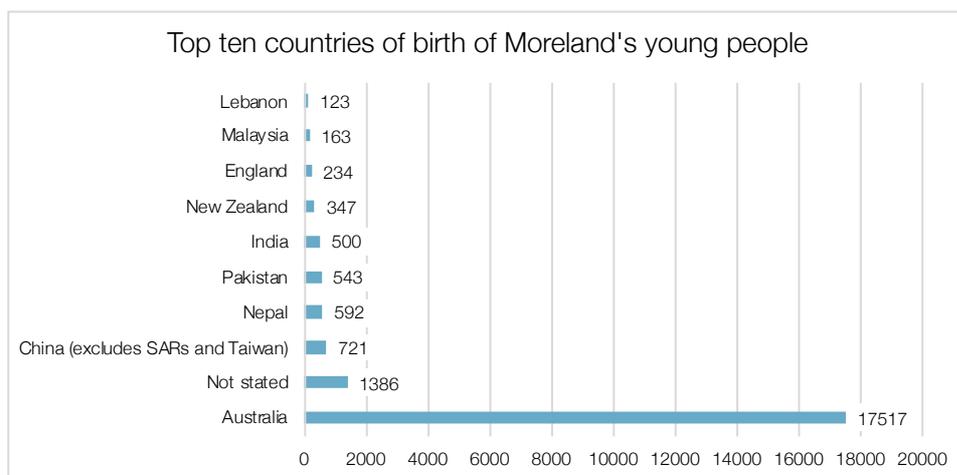
<sup>33</sup> <http://abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/historicaldata2011>

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People

There were **192 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 12 to 24 year olds** living in Moreland in **2016**, which equated to 0.8% of all young people. This percentage is higher than for the entire population of Moreland as 0.5% of all Moreland's residents identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

### Cultural and Linguistic Diversity of Young People

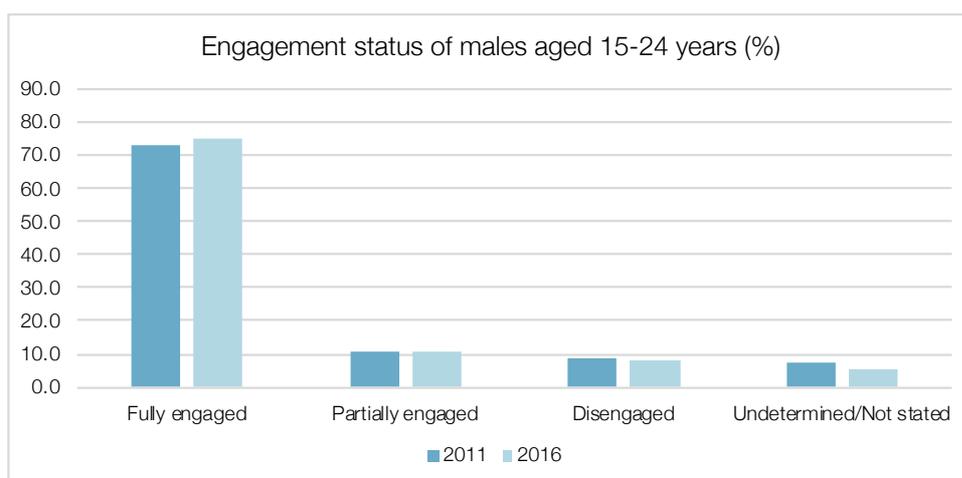
**Over 70% of Moreland's young people were born in Australia**, with a significant proportion from a range of Asian countries (China – 3%, Nepal – 2.5%, Pakistan – 2.3%, India – 2.1%, Malaysia – 0.7% etc). Country of birth is unknown for 5.8% of 12 to 24 year olds in Moreland. In addition, **almost one in six (16.7%) of Moreland's young people arrived in Australia within the preceding decade.**



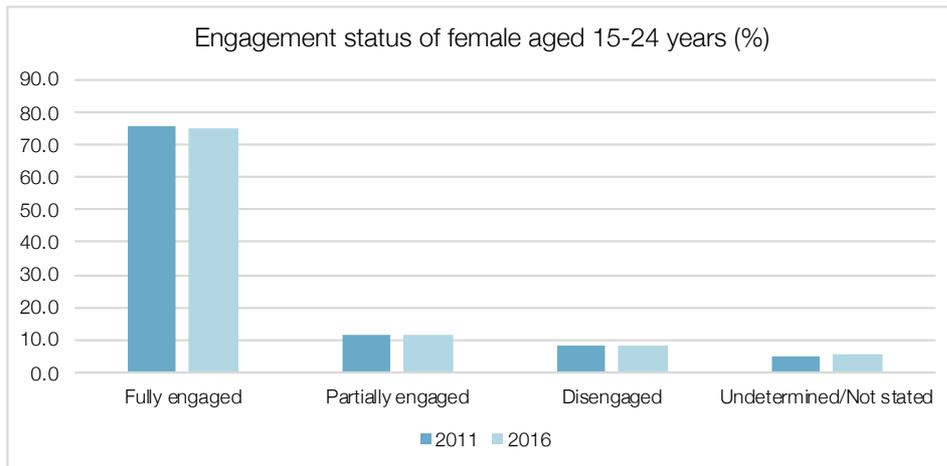
Source: 2016 Census

### Disengagement of Young People

Disengagement is determined by whether people are studying and/or working. The 2016 Census indicates that **1,904 (19.1%) of boys and men and 1,986 (19.8%) of girls and women aged 15 to 24 in Moreland were either disengaged or partially engaged.**



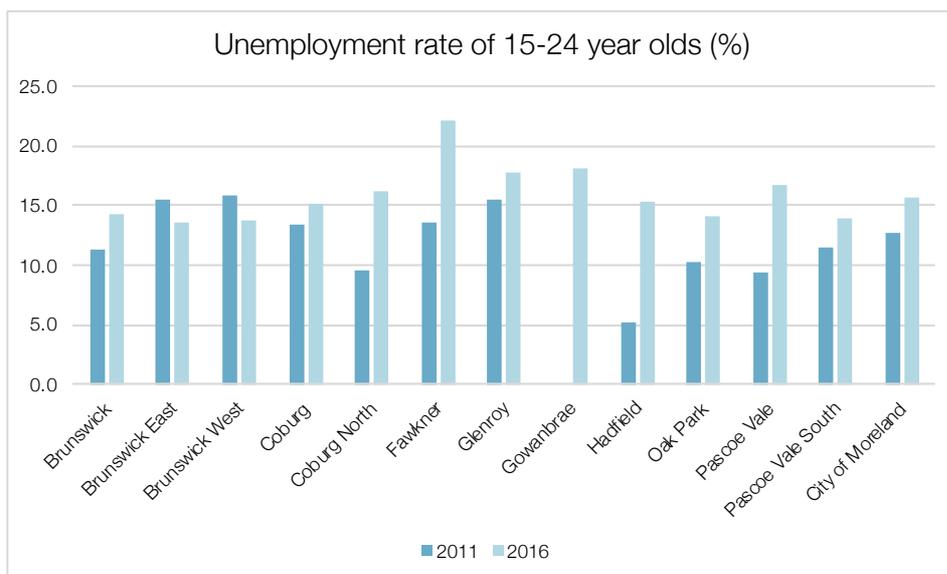
Source: 2016 Census



Source: 2016 Census

### Unemployment of Young People

In 2016, the Moreland labour force aged 15 to 24 years totalled 12,238 young people, of whom 1,913 (15.6%) were unemployed. Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy were the suburbs with the highest numbers of unemployed young people at 327, 294 and 273 respectively. Fawkner, Gowanbrae and Glenroy were the suburbs with the highest proportion of unemployed young people at 22.1%, 18% and 17.7% respectively.



Source: 2016 Census

### Young People Experiencing Homelessness

The 2016 Census estimated that 261 young people (12 to 24 years) in Moreland were experiencing homelessness.<sup>34</sup> This number includes: people living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out; people in supported accommodation for the homeless; people staying temporarily with other households; people living in boarding houses or other temporary lodgings; and people living in severely crowded dwellings. Service providers noted that this is likely to be an underestimate.

<sup>34</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016*

## On Track Survey (2017)<sup>35</sup>

The purpose of the *On Track Survey* is to find out year 12 completion rates and post-school destinations of school leavers, who are contacted within six months of leaving school. It is run by the Social Research Centre on behalf of the Department of Education and Training.

In 2017, 639 students completed a Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) in the City of Moreland. Of the 639 “completers”, 310 (87 males and 223 females) participated in the 2017 *On Track Survey*.

Post-school destination	Number of completers	Percentage of completers
In further education and training	254	81.9%
- Bachelor degree	- 181	- 58.4%
- Certificates/Diplomas	- 56	- 18.1%
- Certificate I to III	- 13	- 4.2%
- Certificate IV +	- 43	- 13.9%
- Apprentice/Trainee	- 17	- 5.5%
- Apprenticeship	- 10	- 3.2%
- Traineeship	- 7	- 2.3%
Not continuing in further education and training	56	18.1%
Employed	35	11.3%
- Employed full-time	- 12	- 3.9%
- Employed part-time	- 23	- 7.4%
Looking for work	19	6.1%
Total respondents	310	100%

**Source:** 2017 *On Track Survey*

**Note:** Respondents were able to select multiple answers so the sum of the responses does not sum to the total number of respondents.

For the 56 completers who were not continuing further education or training in 2018, 71.7% of them noted they wanted to start working and earning their own money whilst 65.8% reported needing a break from study.

Post-school destination	Percentage of female completers	Percentage of male completers
Bachelor degree	66.8%	36.8%
Certificates/Diploma	17.9%	18.4%
Apprentice/Trainee	1.3%	16.1%
Employed	9.9%	14.9%
Looking for work	3.1%	13.8%

**Source:** 2017 *On Track Survey*

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/research/Pages/ontrack.aspx>

177 students registered to participate in a year 12 program (e.g. IB, VCE, VCAL) and left school without completing, which represents 22% of all young people who registered to participate in a year 12 program. Of the 177 "non-completers", 27 (16 males and 11 females) participated in the 2017 *On Track Survey*. As this is a small number of respondents, these findings may not be representative of all non-completers in Moreland and should be treated with caution.

Post-school destination	Number of non-completers	Percentage of non-completers
In further education and training	14	51.9%
Not continuing in further education and training	12	44.4%
Employed	5	18.5%
Looking for work	5	18.5%
Total respondents	27	100%

**Source:** 2017 *On Track Survey*

**Note:** Respondents were able to select multiple answers so the sum of the responses does not sum to the total number of respondents.

For the 12 non-completers who were not continuing further education or training in 2018, 90.9% of them noted they wanted to start working and earning their own money whilst 63.6% reported needing a break from study.

## Moreland Resilience Data (2018)<sup>36</sup>

Moreland City Council has partnered with Resilience Youth Australia to deliver the Moreland Youth Survey Project. The purpose of this project is to identify the developmental, health and wellbeing service needs of Moreland's young people on an annual basis from 2018 to 2020.

At the time of writing, the 2018 survey had been completed by 1,882 individuals from 15 primary and secondary schools across Moreland. Each participating school receives a comprehensive school report for their students, whilst Council receives an aggregated report representing all data.

The key data findings for the 2018 survey are:

- **Female students are motivated to learn** – 83% of female survey participants indicated they are motivated to learn;
- **Respondents value diversity** – across all secondary school year groups, at least 80% of all survey respondents indicated that they value diversity;
- **Bullying has an adverse impact on resilience** - students who reported never being bullied had a resilient mindset of 73% whilst students who reported been bullied more than three times in a year had a resilient mindset of 47%;
- **Young people are texting late at night** – two thirds of boys and 82% of girls in secondary schools are texting between 10pm and 6am; and
- **Year 10/11 male respondents are facing challenges across a number of domains** including lack of adult role models, unhealthy attitudes to violence, not feeling good about their future etc.

The data is helpful to understand the experiences of Moreland's young people and the challenges they are facing. However, there are limitations to the resilience data, including:

- The **sample size for some year groups is very small** and sometimes comes from one or two schools e.g. 13 male students in year 12 completed the survey and they all attend the same school. As such, the survey findings may not be an accurate representation of young people across the Moreland municipality.
- The **survey utilises three scientifically validated instruments** – the Development Assets Profile (DAP), the Children's Hope Scale (CHS) and the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ12), of which the latter is not typically used to assess children. In addition, it is unclear how the instruments are used in combination and whether their integration impacts the validity and reliability of the results.

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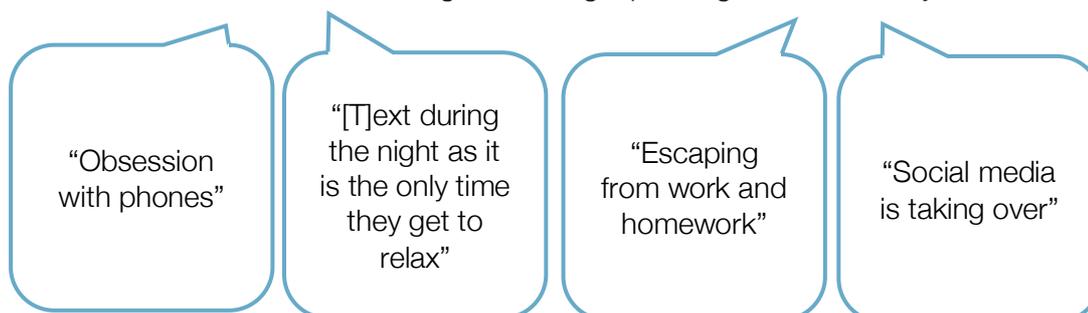
<sup>36</sup> <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/community-care/moreland-youth/youth-survey-project/>

# Appendix Three: Detailed Stakeholder Engagement Findings

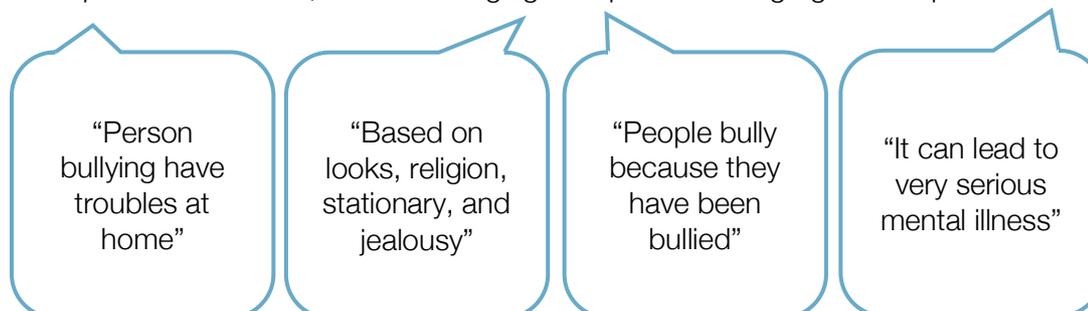
## Youth Summit (2018)<sup>37</sup>

On 14 June 2018, Moreland City Council ran the Moreland Youth Summit. This was an opportunity for young people to discuss key themes and work with Council and other key stakeholders to develop a youth-led response. Schools were invited to send a delegation of students from multiple year levels to attend. The secondary school students discussed a number of topics including:

- **Texting and sleep** – a group of seven young people discussed young people’s texting behaviour and how it impacted on their sleep. In general, they did not consider texting late at night to be an issue; to them, texting after 10pm was a normal part of their lives. Some young people noted that gaming could adversely impact their sleep, social connection and levels of focus. There was interest amongst the participating young people in education about the importance of sleep and how to improve it, including a suggestion that parents could also be involved. Other potential solutions included: learning about time management techniques; using apps to limit phone use; taking part in after-school and fun activities e.g. exercising, spending time with family etc.



- **Bullying** – a group of 17 young people discussed bullying in secondary schools, acknowledging this is a major issue in Moreland and that new solutions are required to try to address the problem. One participant suggested that each school receives a presentation about the findings of the Moreland Youth Survey Project, and the prevalence and impact of bullying. Other potential solutions included: having a councillor at school; running an inclusion club; punishing discrimination; bring *headspace* into schools; and encouraging acceptance through gratitude practice.



<sup>37</sup> Moreland City Council, *Analytics Report – Moreland Youth Summit (2018)*

## Youth Focus Group (2018)

In November 2018, Spark and Council ran a focus group in which 22 young people participated. This session was an opportunity to explore the needs of young people, how they were finding out about services, barriers to accessing services and a chance to share what they thought could make services and spaces better. The group participated in a rapid innovation activity ('World Café') in which they rotated between topics, with a table host that shared and captured information. The key points that emerged during these conversations are captured below.

### 1. The challenges that young people in Moreland face are numerous and diverse

Focus group participants noted an array of challenges facing young people in Moreland. Challenges comprised topics and issues they face as well as barriers to accessing services.

These included transport challenges, issues with educational and employment pathways, lack of quantity of services, social and financial barriers to participating in sport and other recreational pursuits, bullying and cyberbullying, phone and gaming addiction wait lists for mental health services, and service hours limiting young people's access to them. This list does not cover every topic discussed at the focus group but is a sample of some of the points that were mentioned repeatedly.

"People take a lot longer to wind down because they are staring at their

"A lot of employers want you to have experience but no one wants to give inexperienced people experience"

### 2. There are key sources that young people use to find out about services, activities and spaces for young people

The young people in attendance at the focus group noted four key sources to learn about youth services: peers, schools, other services and online information.

"I found out from my mate"

"[S]aw the Facebook page"

### 3. There are key barriers that hinder or prevent young people from accessing and using youth services, activities and spaces

Focus group participants noted five key barriers to accessing and using youth services:

- Using gaming, phones and social media
- Travel time and/or lack of transport options
- Service opening hours and wait lists
- Social barriers e.g. not knowing anyone that works at or uses the service, stigma surrounding services
- Not knowing that a service exists

"Kids are on games all day"

"Not everyone can travel from home"

"Knowing about the services and events – that's a key one"

### 4. There are a range of ways that services, activities and spaces for young people could be improved

Attendees at the focus group voiced a number of ideas to improve youth services in Moreland. One suggestion was the development and sharing of an app that has information about all of the youth services in the municipality. Other ideas were: extending hours for centres and services; promoting and enabling internships and work experience in Moreland; running skills and capability building workshops; providing more sports and recreational activities.

"Having businesses in Moreland provide internships"

"An app that has all youth services and events"

## Service Provider Interviews (2018)

In November 2018, Spark conducted 21 interviews with representatives of entities providing youth services in and around the Moreland municipality. Interviews were held with a mix of Moreland service providers, ranging from healthcare providers to music and arts organisations to entities delivering crisis services.

### Needs Of Young People

Interviewees raised an array of topics and considerations that are relevant to a significant proportion of young people, including mental health, education and employment, recreational opportunities, having a voice and healthy relationships. They also noted that a small proportion of young people face severe challenges and life experiences such as homelessness and being victims of violence.

# of interviewees who mentioned	Issue relevant to a majority of young people	Issue relevant to a minority or group of young people
> 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mental health</li> <li>o Education and employment pathways</li> <li>o Recreation – sports, music and arts</li> <li>o Healthy and respectful relationships, including bullying</li> <li>o Technology, social media and gaming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Housing and homelessness</li> <li>o English language and cultural diversity</li> </ul>
1 > 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Having a voice</li> <li>o Access to spaces e.g. facilities and centres</li> <li>o Physical health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Violence</li> <li>o Gender and sexuality</li> <li>o Employment</li> <li>o Drug and alcohol abuse</li> </ul>
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o CentreLink</li> <li>o Marriage and young families</li> <li>o Dental health</li> </ul>

Source: Spark Strategy interview notes (2018)

### Young People with High Needs

In discussion, service provider representatives noted that young people living in northern areas of Moreland (e.g. Gowanbrae, Glenroy, Hadfield, Fakwner) generally experience greater disadvantage and face greater challenges. When asked about specific cohorts with higher levels of need, service providers mentioned LGBTQI youth, culturally and linguistically diverse young people, individuals experiencing homelessness, those disengaged from school or work, young people living with disability, those with low socioeconomic status, and youth with a dual mental health diagnosis.

### Awareness and Understanding of Youth Services

The majority of interviewees noted that there was fairly good awareness amongst young people that their service existed but that there was always room to improve this. Representatives of youth service providers noted that schools and teachers, parents, other agencies, peers and digital sources (e.g. social media, website, apps) were key means to share information and increase awareness. For a small number of services, it is not necessary (or even beneficial) to have high levels of public awareness as they can only offer services to people who have been referred in through formal pathways.

### **Access of and Demand for Youth Services**

During the interviews, most people noted there was **generally good utilisation of their services, activities and spaces**. Around 1 in 5 services are at or nearing capacity whilst nearly half commented they had some capacity to see more young people. In particular, **two services stood out at being at or over capacity – legal and justice, and housing and homelessness**. Others services that were at or nearing capacity include some mental health, arts and culture, refugee and newly arrived, employment and education, and relationships and family support. In considering these findings, it is critical to note that the **service capacity is unknown for a third of youth services** so it is possible that other service categories are at or nearing capacity.

### **Youth Networks**

Across the board, interviewees noted **the importance of collaboration between community agencies, government, schools and other key stakeholders**. In conversation about coalitions, 60% of interviewees were aware of and involved with the Moreland Youth Commitment network. Those who were engaged with this network spoke to it being a good platform to meet other service providers and to learn about the activities and priorities of others. A number of respondents spoke to the potential to improve the Moreland Youth Commitment network e.g. creating sub-groups with specific focus areas (e.g. education, employment, health, housing and homelessness etc.) and reorienting the network to operate at a more strategic level.

### **Other Considerations**

A number of other points were raised throughout the interviews, such as:

- **Changes to and instability of services** – as many services receive grant-based funding, a relatively unreliable funding source, many services cease to operate after the short funding cycle has concluded.
- **Schools as a key channel to reach young people** - schools were cited as a common referral channel to both services and spaces. However, a number of interviewees noted that some schools had a huge number of community partners and this could put pressure on or even overwhelm them.
- **Questions around how to access young people who are disengaged from school or who have left school** – interviewees noted that it could be difficult to locate and communicate with young people who have left school (i.e. 18 years and older) or are disengaged from school. This was a question that was largely unanswered.

### **Service Provider interviewees**

To inform this analysis, Spark spoke to representatives of the following organisations that are delivering youth services in Moreland. Two interviews were held with two Anglicare representatives to understand the different services on offer.

- Anglicare Victoria
- Arabic Welfare
- Brunswick English Language Centre
- Don Bosco Youth Centre
- Foundation House
- Girls Rock!
- Headspace/Orygen
- Hope Street
- INLLEN
- Merri Community Health
- Northern Community Legal Centre
- Outer Urban Projects
- The Push
- Victoria Police
- VICSEG New Futures
- Victorian Department of Education
- Vincent Care
- Workways
- YMCA Victoria
- Youth Projects

# Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Census	Australian Census of Population and Housing
CHS	Children's Hope Scale
Council	Moreland City Council
DAP	Development Assets Profile
GHQ12	General Health Questionnaire
IB	International Baccalaureate
INLLEN	Inner North Local Learning and Employment Network
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex
Spark	Spark Strategy
VCAL	Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning
VCE	Victorian Certificate of Education
VICSEG	Victorian Cooperative on Children's Services for Ethnic Groups (VICSEG Programs for Families, Children & Young People)

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