



South East Youth Engagement Project Youth Report

April 2024

Report prepared by YNOT and our Project Youth Advisory Group.

The South East Youth
Engagement Project is an
initiative of

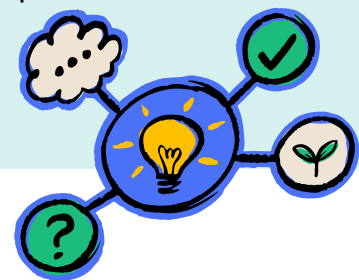


Throughout February and March 2024, young people aged 12-19 years were invited to have their say on what would make the South East a better place for young people in the Sorell, Tasman and Glamorgan-Spring Bay areas.

We heard from **245 young people** through workshops and small group discussions, and received **71 survey responses**.

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) has shared your feedback to Sorell Council and the Tasmanian Community Fund to help inform a new project by and for young people!

This is what you said...



What you like about the South East...

Being close to nature, the environment and amazing beaches.

Your friends, family and the close-knit community.

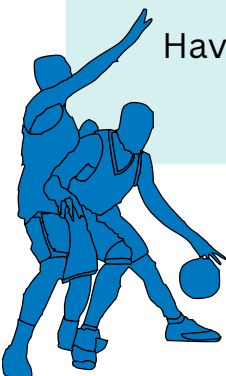
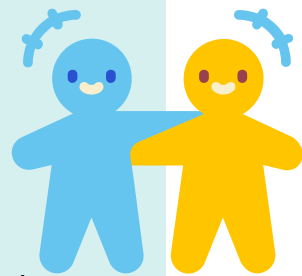
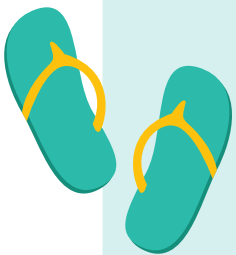
The slower, more relaxed pace of life.

Hanging out with friends at local skate parks, wharfs, parks or at home.

Youth programs like those run by the neighbourhood house in Nubeena, and *Youth Matters* drop in at Sorell.

Local sport clubs and the South East Sporting Complex.

Having fun in the outdoors with friends like mountain bike riding, fishing, swimming, golf, and shooting.



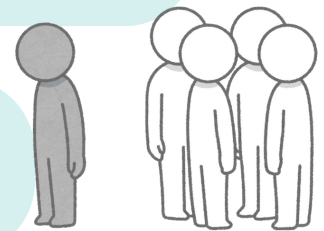
What you don't like about the South East...

It can be really **slow and boring**, and there **isn't much for young people to do in the evenings and on weekends** – especially if you aren't into sports or the outdoors. Many of you thought that boredom can cause some young people to be rowdy and act out.



It's **hard to get about anywhere without a car** or someone to drive you. **Buses simply don't go where you need to go** except for school.

Staying connected with friends is hard outside of school and sporting activities, especially when you don't live nearby.



There aren't many local services, and even fewer youth services, which means you usually have to travel to Hobart or Launceston instead. Issues with transport, the cost to access help and no after hours or weekend services makes it **hard to find and get the right help**.

There **aren't many safe areas for you to hang out** after school or when waiting for the bus. Sometimes you **don't feel safe in public places** due to concerns about harassment, bullying, assaults, drugs and vaping.



You feel young people's voices, opinions and concerns **aren't being heard or listened to** by decision-makers, and are considered less important than adults by community.

Some of your ideas to make the South East a better place for young people...

Better transport: offering low cost public transport that gets you where you need to go: between different towns to visit friends, to Sorell or St Helens for sports and services, and free transport to get you to youth activities, events and programs and back home again.



A Youth Hub in Sorell: a place where you can hang out after school and on weekends, socialise with your friends and meet new people, access youth outreach services, find out about services, supports and opportunities, and get involved in fun youth events and programs.



More 'fun stuff' after school and weekend programs, events and activities that are **just for YOUNG PEOPLE**, and that help you to build confidence and self-esteem, socialise, let off steam, learn new skills and try new things. It needs to be free and have transport provided to so everyone can get involved.



Safe spaces: indoor and outdoor spaces and places where you feel safe to hang out after school and on weekends. They need to have free access, games, food, a place to charge your phone, information about local services, supports and opportunities, and be supervised by a trusted, fun adult.



Repairs and upgrades to the local skate parks and local sports grounds and equipment like basketball hoops, adding new jumps and pump tracks. Outdoor spaces could be made safer in the evenings and during bad weather with more lighting, shelters and positive adult supervision (not security or police!).



A Pool for exercise, socialising and work opportunities.

