

# YOUTH NEEDS ANALYSIS

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2018

LIVINGSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS UNIT





## Table of contents

Foreword	3
Background	4
Rationale	4
Aims	5
Methodology	5
Evaluation	5
Profile of youth in Livingstone Shire	6
Youth assets	10
Service provider survey	13
Direct engagement	14
Other reports	25
Discussion	28
Limitations	29
Conclusions	30
Recommendations	31
Acknowledgements	32
Bibliography	33

## Foreword

Livingstone Shire Council is proud of the contributions young people make to our community and we strive to support them in these endeavours.

We as a Council believe that young people should have access to programmes, activities, and supports that enable them to develop into the people they want to become.

The *2018 Livingstone Youth Needs Analysis* is an update of the *2014 Livingstone Youth Needs Analysis* and combines demographic data, results from local youth engagement, and a range of other relevant reports.

Council's Community Wellbeing section will use the Youth Needs Analysis to guide programming and projects, and all sections of Council will be actively encouraged to utilise the analysis to guide their services. The analysis will also be available for all local youth service providers to assist in decision making.

On behalf of Council we would like to take the opportunity to thank the various organisations and young people who have contributed to the development of the *2018 Livingstone Youth Needs Analysis*. Your suggestions, concerns, hopes, and ideas are important to us and fundamental in helping us deliver high-quality services to you.

Both we and our fellow Councillors look forward to working in partnership with the community to provide opportunities for our young people to flourish and achieve the goals they have.



Deputy Mayor Nigel Hutton



Councillor Pat Eastwood  
(Youth Portfolio – shared)



## Background

Livingstone Shire council de-amalgamated from Rockhampton Regional Council in January 2014. At this time, a Youth Needs Analysis was conducted to assess the needs of young people within our community. Four years on, it is time to reassess our young population: who they are, what they do, and what they want. By looking at the results of the 2016 census and a range of local, state, and national reports, it has been possible to get a snapshot of the young people of Livingstone Shire.

## Rationale

Livingstone Shire Council is dedicated to supporting young people and helping them to become valued and productive members of our community. In accordance with this, Council is continually seeking to improve their programmes, services, budgets, and long-term planning in line with what will best help our young people. The number of young people in Livingstone Shire has increased significantly since 2011, and is expected to

remain at approximately 30% of our total population in 2036. Council's Youth Services has seen a significant increase in funding and staffing since 2014.

Livingstone Shire Council is currently operating under the 2014-2019 Corporate Plan, which includes Strategy C05, stating the Council endeavours to:

*“Facilitate the provision of programmes, activities and facilities which create opportunities for the Shire’s youth to develop skills and pursue endeavours to equip them for life and enable them to make a valued contribution to the community.”*

The Corporate Plan itself is guided by the Local Government Act principles (2009), which are:

- a. Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and*
- b. Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and*

*c. Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and*

*d. Good governance of, and by, local government; and*

*e. Ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and local government employees.*

This report also reflects these Principles by utilising transparent processes to develop programmes and facilities which reflect the needs and wants of young people.

## **Aims**

The aims of this needs analysis are:

- To develop a demographic profile of youth in Livingstone Shire
- To identify services and facilities available to young people
- To combine local, state, and national reports to identify the needs and desires of young people in our community
- To develop tailored strategies and actions to meet the needs of our young people

## **Methodology**

Methods used include:

- Basic statistical analysis
- Utilising Australian Bureau of Statistics data from the 2016 and 2011 census periods
- Using the .id software available to Council officers (including the community profile and social atlas applications)
- Compiling responses from surveys completed by local school students regarding Council's youth services and entertainment options
- Analysing responses from service providers
- Reviewing outcomes of local, state, and national reports and strategies

## **Evaluation**

This needs analysis will be evaluated in three stages:

1. Young people will be invited to provide input through focus group sessions and their feedback will be incorporated;
2. Both the Community Partnerships unit and elected members will be given opportunity to provide input;
3. A biennial review of this needs analysis will be conducted.

## Profile of Youth in Livingstone Shire

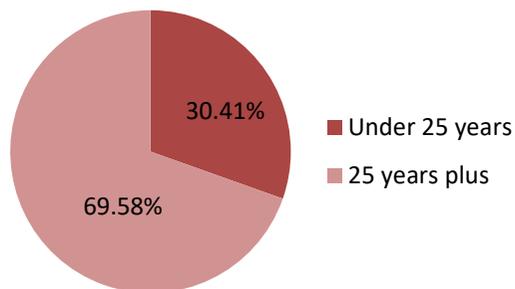
2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

Census.

*Livingstone Shire (LS) population aged under 25:*

AGE GROUP	# IN LS	% OF LS TOTAL POPULATION
0 – 4	2,035	5.6
5 – 9	2,341	6.5
10 – 14	2,478	6.8
15 – 19	2,345	6.5
20 - 24	1,833	5.1

*Population of LS aged under 25 as percentage of general LS population:*



## Culturally and linguistically diverse residents aged under 25

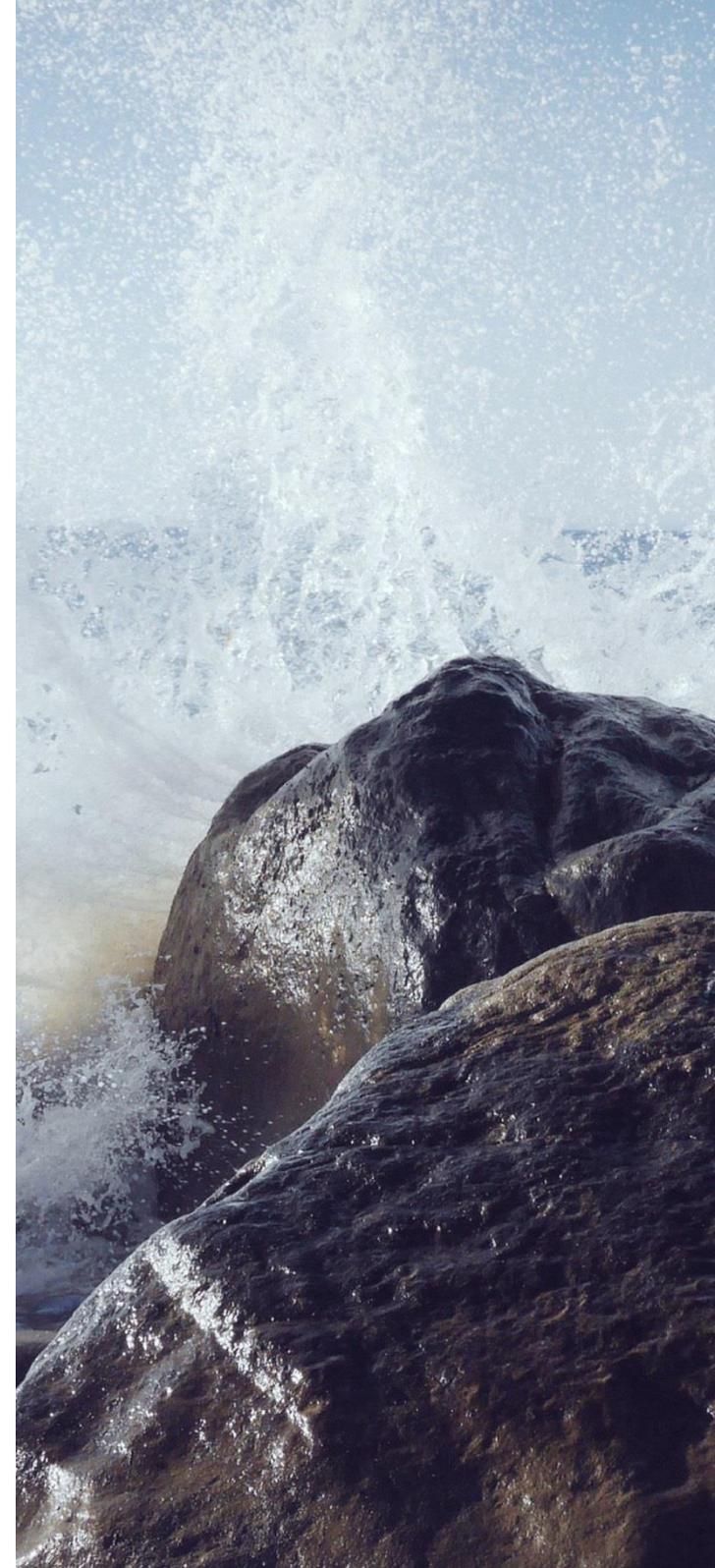
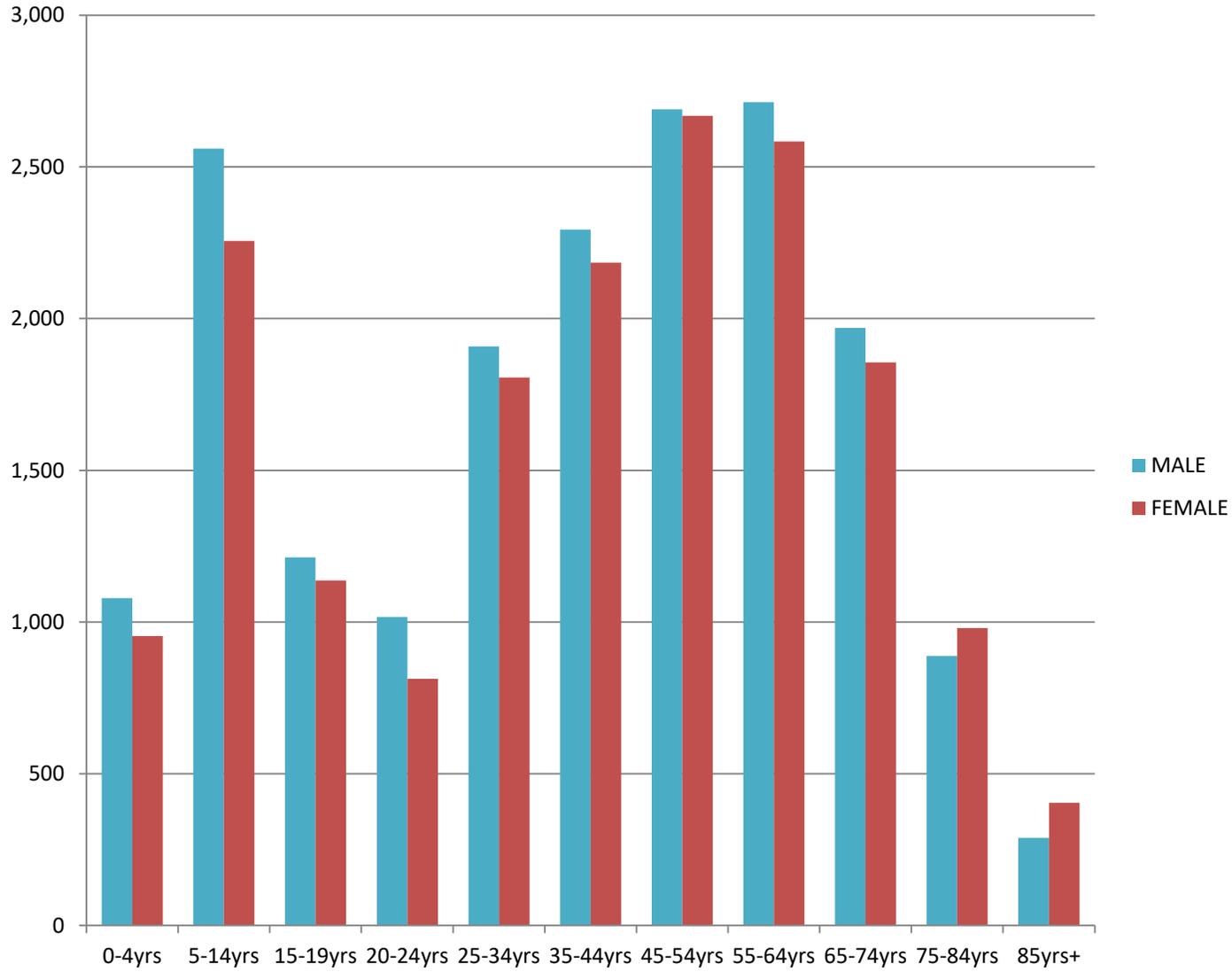
*Residents under 25 born in a non-English speaking country (NESC) or who speak a language other than English (LOTE):*

AGE GROUP	# BORN IN NESC	% OF LS BORN IN NESC
5 – 14	35	0.73
15 - 24	40	0.96
AGE GROUP	# WHO SPEAK LOTE	% OF LS WHO SPEAK LOTE
5 – 14	204	2.9
15 - 24	209	5.1

*Estimated Livingstone Shire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged under 25:*

AGE GROUP	# ATSI 2011	% OF LS ATSI	# ATSI 2016	% OF LS ATSI
0 – 4	84	4.42	146	7.18
5 – 9	121	5.79	146	6.24
10 – 14	174	6.97	220	8.88
15 – 19	163	6.75	215	9.17
20 - 24	96	6.36	151	8.24
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>6.13</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>7.96</b>

*Resident population by age and sex (Livingstone Shire):*



Estimated under 25 population growth rate in Livingstone Shire

Age	2016	2026	2036
0 – 4	2, 035	2, 541	3, 034
5 – 9	4, 815	3, 005	3, 558
10 - 14		3, 297	3, 911
15 – 19	2, 345	3, 092	3, 672
20 – 24	1, 833	2, 236	2, 843

Youth unemployment

Age	Livingstone Shire				Queensland			
	2011 ABS		2016 ABS		2011 ABS		2016 ABS	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
15 - 24 yrs	217	8.7	417	15.6	49, 143	12.8	62, 600	15.8

### ***Families of Livingstone Shire***

**7%** of families with children have both parents unemployed

**14%** of households are one-parent households

### ***Internet connection***

**15.3%** of private dwellings have no internet connection in Livingstone Shire, compared to 15% in other parts of regional Queensland and 13% in all of Queensland.

### ***Migration from Livingstone Shire***

18 – 24 year olds were the only age group demonstrating **negative migration** from Livingstone Shire (i.e. all other age groups had more migration into the area than out of the area).

### ***Youth Disengagement***

**12.1%** of those aged 15 – 24 in Livingstone Shire were considered disengaged (not employed or in education) in 2016 compared to **11.3%** in 2011 (0.8% increase). This is lower than in other parts of regional Queensland (**12.7%**) but slightly higher than Queensland overall (**11.5%**).





*Education status of Livingstone Shire residents aged over 15 years*

	2011				2016			
	LSC		QLD		LSC		QLD	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>University qualification</b>	2,837	10.9	548,802	15.9	3,601	12.2	693,410	18.3
<b>Trade qualification</b>	5,640	21.7	686,998	19.9	7,187	24.4	807,105	21.3
<b>Attending university</b>	703	2.2	173,438	4.0	890	2.5	213,227	4.5
<b>Attending TAFE</b>	491	1.5	79,232	1.8	417	1.1	76,989	1.6
<b>Total NSQ</b>	9,671	29.7	1,488,470	34.4	12,095	33.4	1,790,731	38.0

Youth unemployment in Livingstone Shire increased by **6.9%** between the 2011 and 2016 census periods. This is a significantly higher increase in unemployment than in regional Queensland (**2.9%** increase) or Queensland overall (**3%**). The youth labour force, however, increased significantly more in Livingstone Shire (**6.6%**) compared to regional Queensland (**0.8%**) or Queensland overall (**2.6%**) within this period. This disproportionate population increase likely accounts for some of the difference between youth unemployment in Livingstone compared to other parts of the state (which saw much smaller increases in their youth labour force).

# Youth Assets

## Livingstone Shire Council Youth Services

### *Current staffing*

- one full-time youth worker
- one full-time facilitator (Yeppoon Alternative Learning Space)
- one part-time facilitator (Emu Park Alternative Learning Space) Monday – Thursday

### *Current activities*

>> Case management: the Youth Worker has capacity to case manage young people (aged 12 – 18) in which the needs of young people are assessed and appropriate referrals are made on behalf of the young person.

>> Information, advice, and referrals: the Youth Worker is able to support young people (aged 12 – 18) with information, advice, and referrals as required.

>> Youth movies: two films are shown at the Yeppoon Town Hall each school holiday (one aimed at primary school aged children, the other aimed at high school aged people).

>> Support for two Alternative Learning Spaces (including space and staffing).

>> School holiday activities: creative and technology-based activities are held each school holiday by youth services and library staff.

>> National Youth Week: this annual event is celebrated on the Capricorn Coast and facilitated by Livingstone Shire Council in collaboration with the local Police Citizen's Youth Club (PCYC).

>> Chess club: this event is held monthly and provides young people with an opportunity to socialise while learning new skills in a safe environment.

>> Community engagement and outreach: the Youth in Livingstone Facebook and Instagram accounts are used to promote activities and services provided by Livingstone Shire Council and other local youth-related organisations.

>> The newly opened Lagoon Precinct offers young people in Livingstone a fun, free, place to spend time and enjoy the outdoors.

>> The newly acquired youth trailer will allow Council to provide a range of engagement and entertainment opportunities in Yeppoon and outlying regions.

## Alternative Learning Spaces

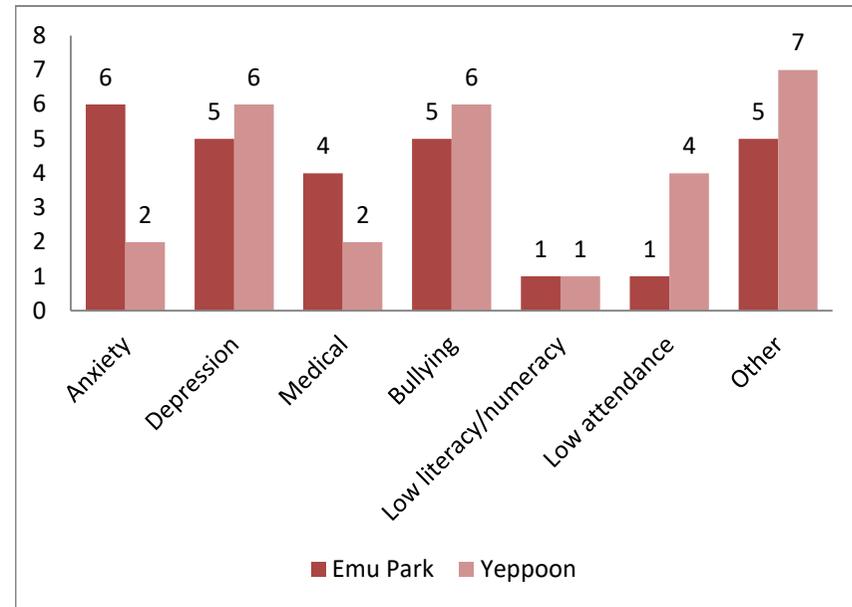
The Alternative Learning Spaces operate, as a partnership between Livingstone Shire Council and the Capricornia School of Distance Education, in Yeppoon (at the Community Centre) and Emu Park (at the Lion's Club Shack).

The programme offers students the opportunity to complete units in literacy and numeracy, which allow students to enter further education or return to main stream schooling. The programme incorporates elements of real-world learning, including resume development and interviewing skills.

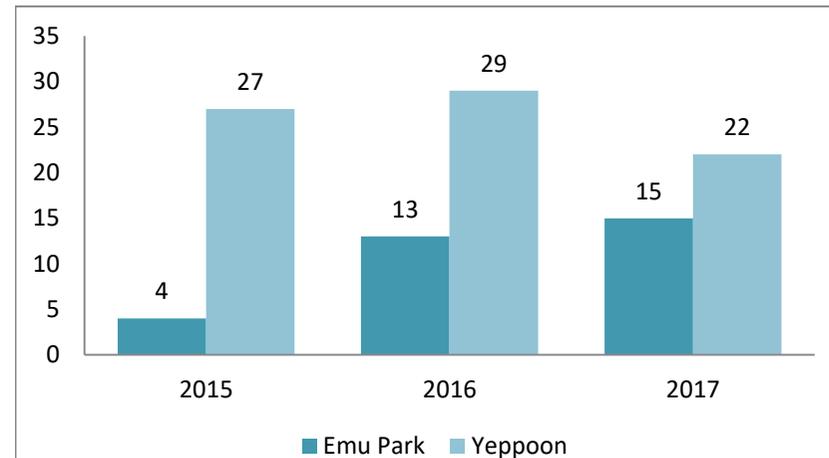
The programme has also recently expanded to allow students to undertake certain TAFE certifications. Staff at the Capricornia School of Distance Education are also in the process of developing new units of study, including art, history, and science.

Additional special-interest courses are run throughout the year, including visual art and mechanics. There was an engagement rate of 84% in 2017 (i.e. 84% students enrolled were attending on all nominated days/times and keeping up to date with work).

*Reasons for disengagement from mainstream schooling:*



*Enrolments (2015 – 2017):*



## Service Provider Survey

A variety of organisations who work with young people were questioned to gain a broader understanding of issues facing young people within Livingstone Shire. Certain themes were common in their answers:

### *Mental health*

Anxiety, depression, and self-harm were issues commonly seen by other service providers. These issues are compounded by a lack of knowledge about available services. Social issues, particularly problems within friendship groups, were also a common presenting issue.

### *Drug use*

Alcohol, smoking, and drug use were commonly reported by young people. It was noted that social/peer pressure plays a role in normalising this unhealthy behaviour among young people.

### *Parenting issues*

All service providers noted concerns with parents of young people: a lack of knowledge, relationship breakdowns, drug use,

role-modelling unhealthy behaviours, and unemployment among parents were all listed as common and serious concerns by service providers.

### *Lack of recreational activities*

All service providers reported a lack of recreational activities as an issue among young people. Affordable entertainment or sporting opportunities are limited, and a youth drop-in centre does not exist in Livingstone Shire.

### *Barriers to accessing services*

Service providers reported that stigma, transport, costs, and lack of awareness/understanding of available services all impacted young people's ability to access services.

### *Other*

Other issues service providers commonly saw in clients were sexual health concerns, lack of concern for physical health, bullying, school exclusion, family financial stress, difficulty finding work, and the lack of a youth refuge.

## ***Organisations servicing young people in Livingstone Shire***

- Livingstone Shire Council Youth Support Services
- Strengthening Family Connections
- Women's Health Services
- Child and Youth Mental Health Services
- Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Services
- Capricorn Coast Hospital and Health Services
- Headspace
- Darumbal Youth Services
- Rockhampton Police Citizen's Youth Club (PCYC)
- Youth Justice
- The Umbrella Network
- Central Queensland Youth Connect
- Centacare CQ
- Anglicare
- Uniting Care
- St Vincent De Paul
- Salvation Army
- Roseberry Community Services
- Relationships Australia
- Central Queensland Indigenous Development
- Carinity Youth on Track
- Various private (fee-for-service) practitioners

# Direct Engagement

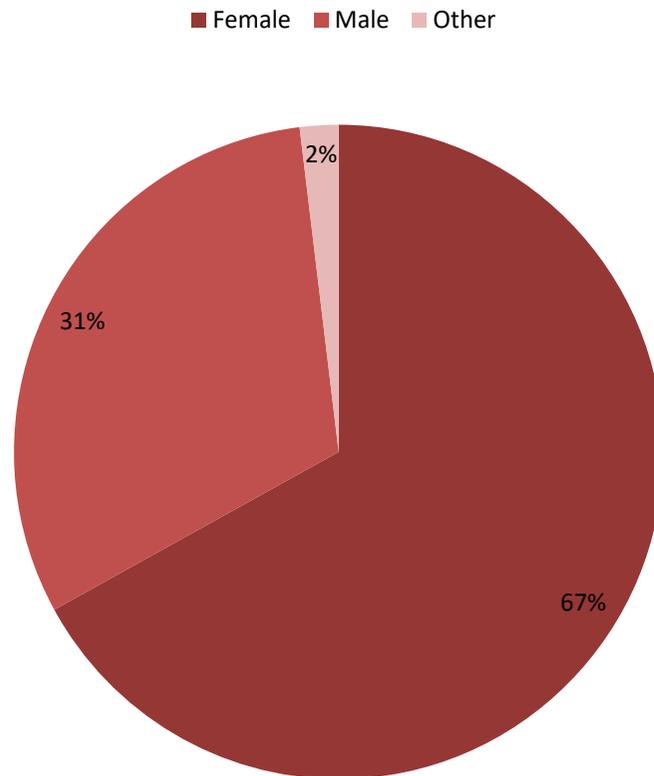
## Livingstone Shire Council youth services survey results (2017)

The following data was gathered using an online survey distributed to local schools. 312 young people responded.

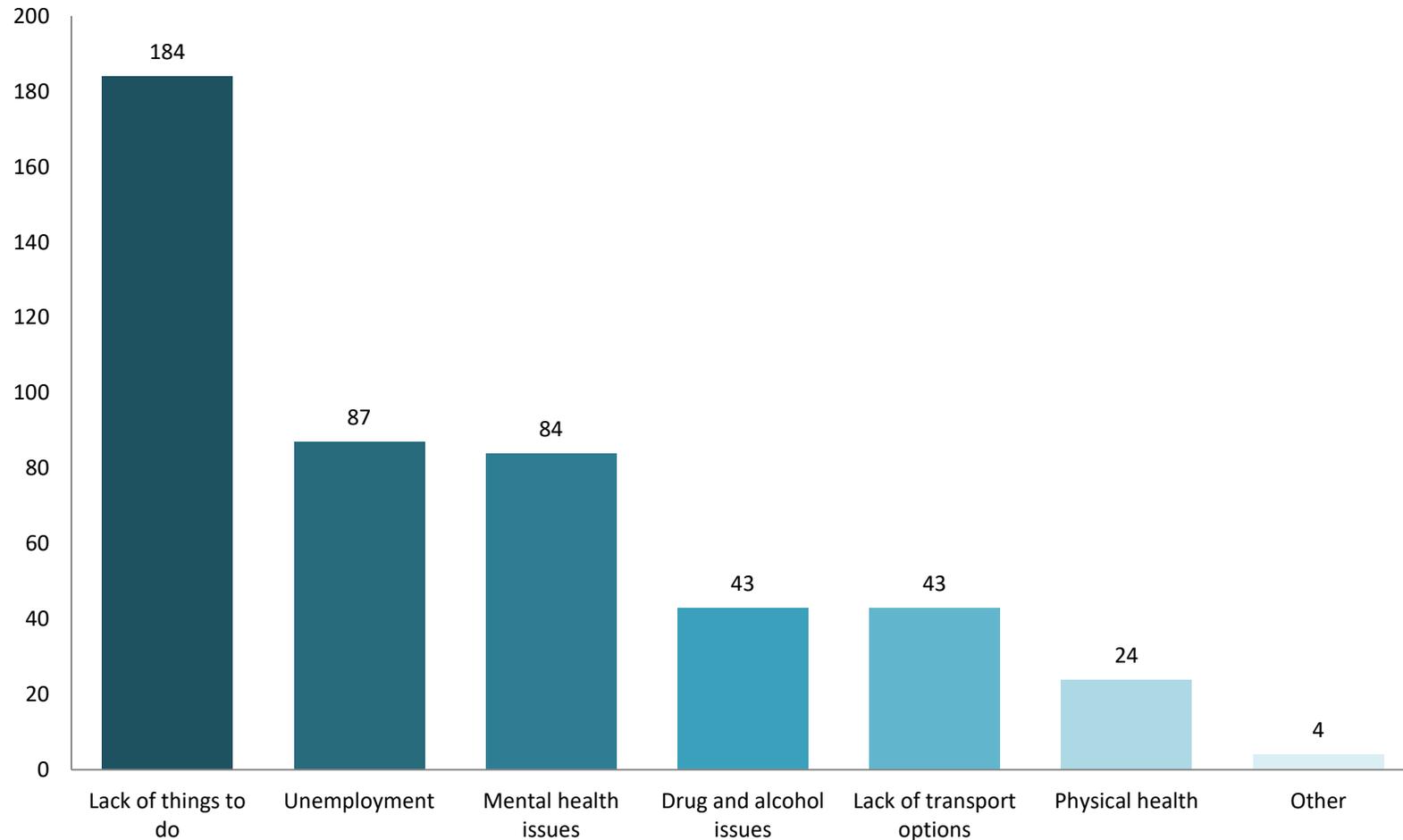
*\*Please note St Brendan's College did not participate in this survey.*

*\*\*Please note multiple responses were permitted on questions 2 – 5.*

*Gender of participants:*



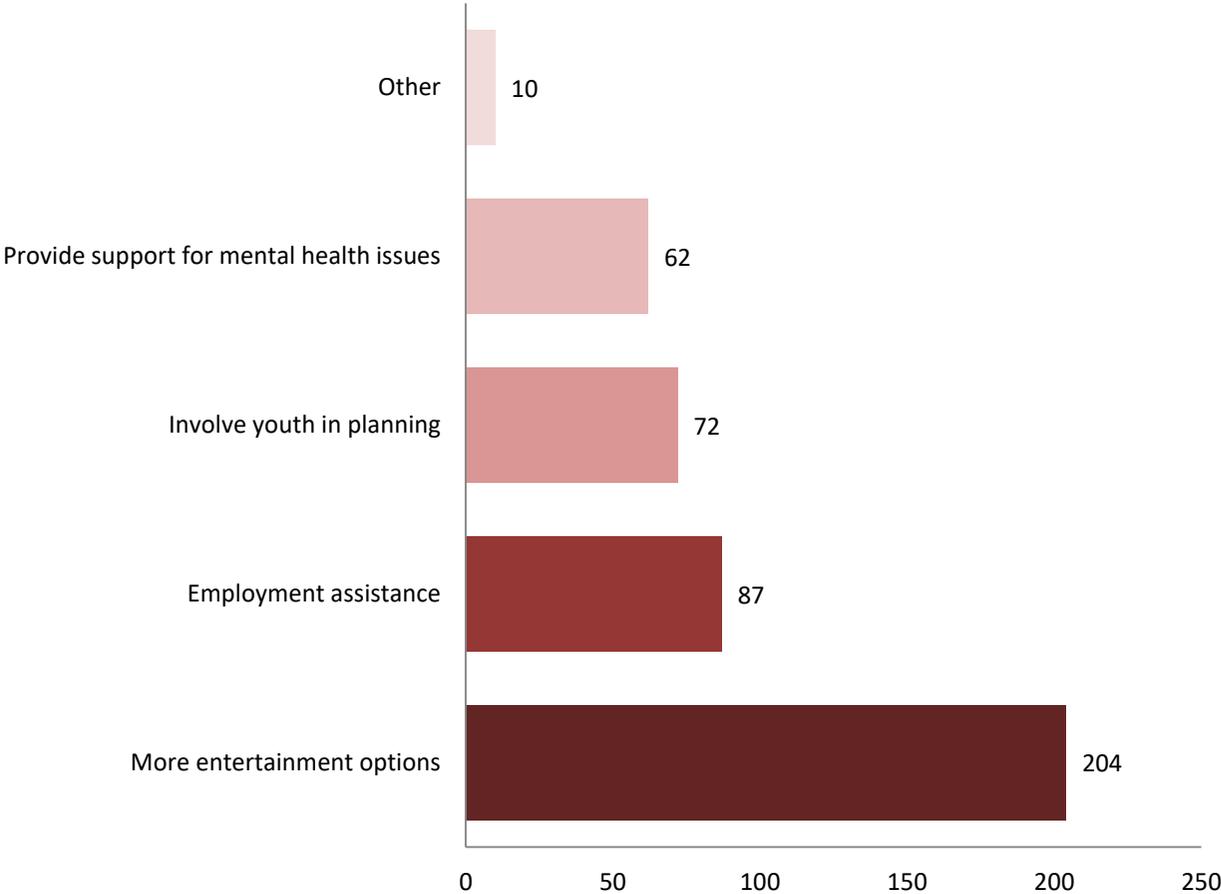
Responses to the question: *What is the biggest issue facing youth in Livingstone Shire?*



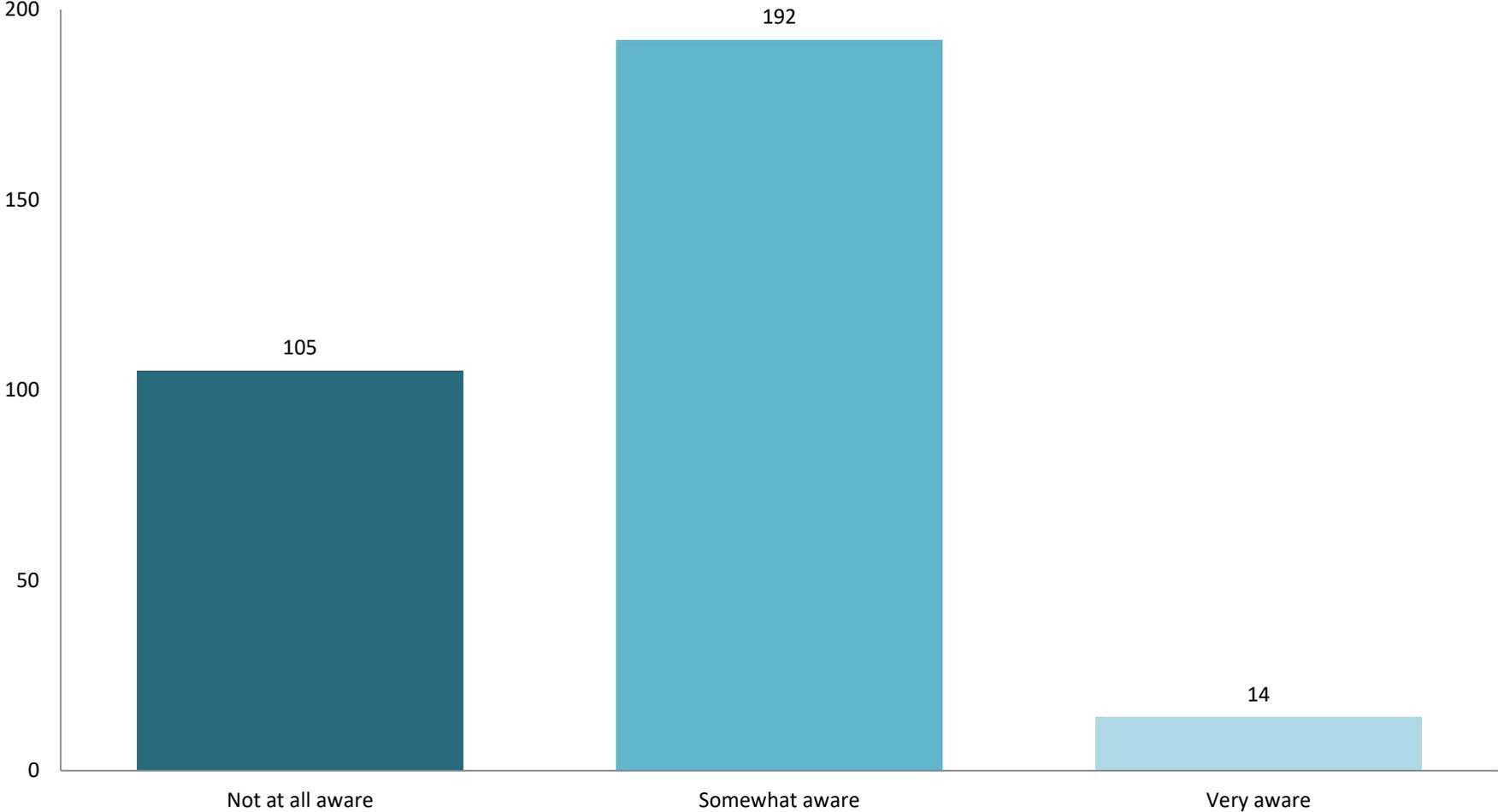
Since this survey was conducted in 2017, a variety of new entertainment options have become available to young people in Livingstone Shire. These include the Lagoon Precinct, the upgraded Yeppoon Skate Park, the upgrades happening at the Emu Park Foreshore, and the youth activities trailer.



Responses to the question: *What would you like to see Livingstone Shire Council do for youth?*

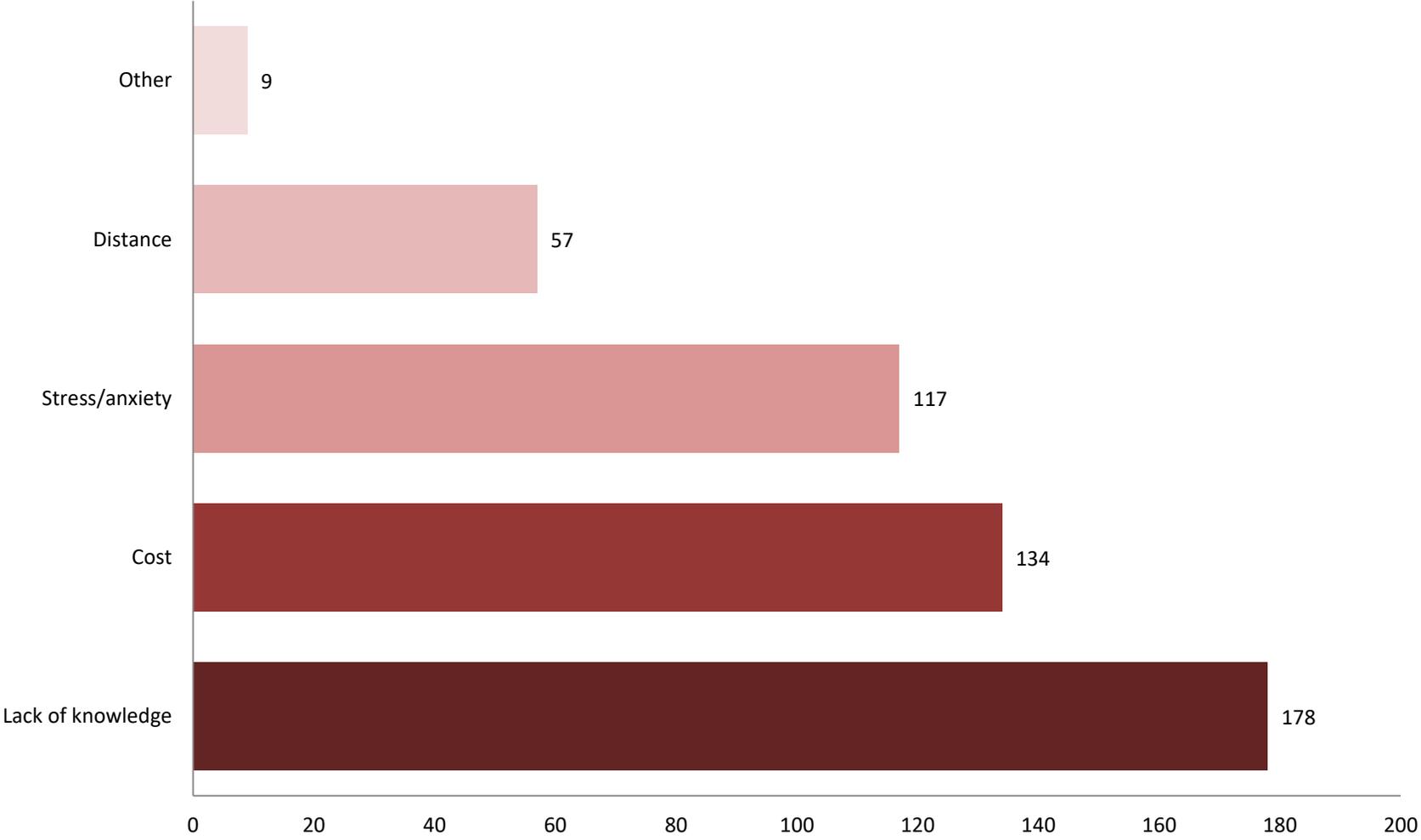


Responses to the question: *How aware are you of supports available to young people in Livingstone Shire?*





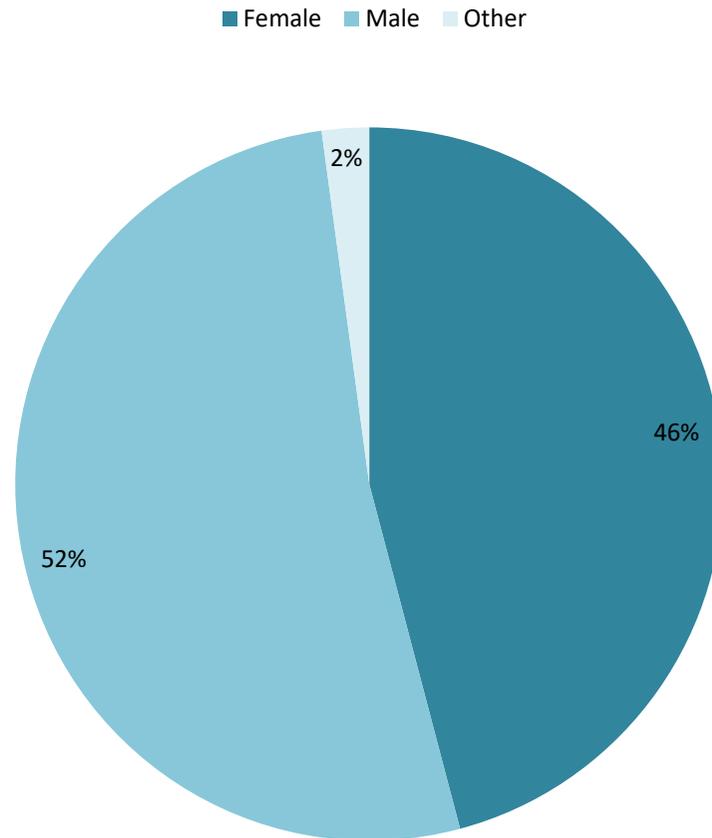
Responses to the question: *What do you think the biggest barrier/s is/are which stop young people accessing available supports?*



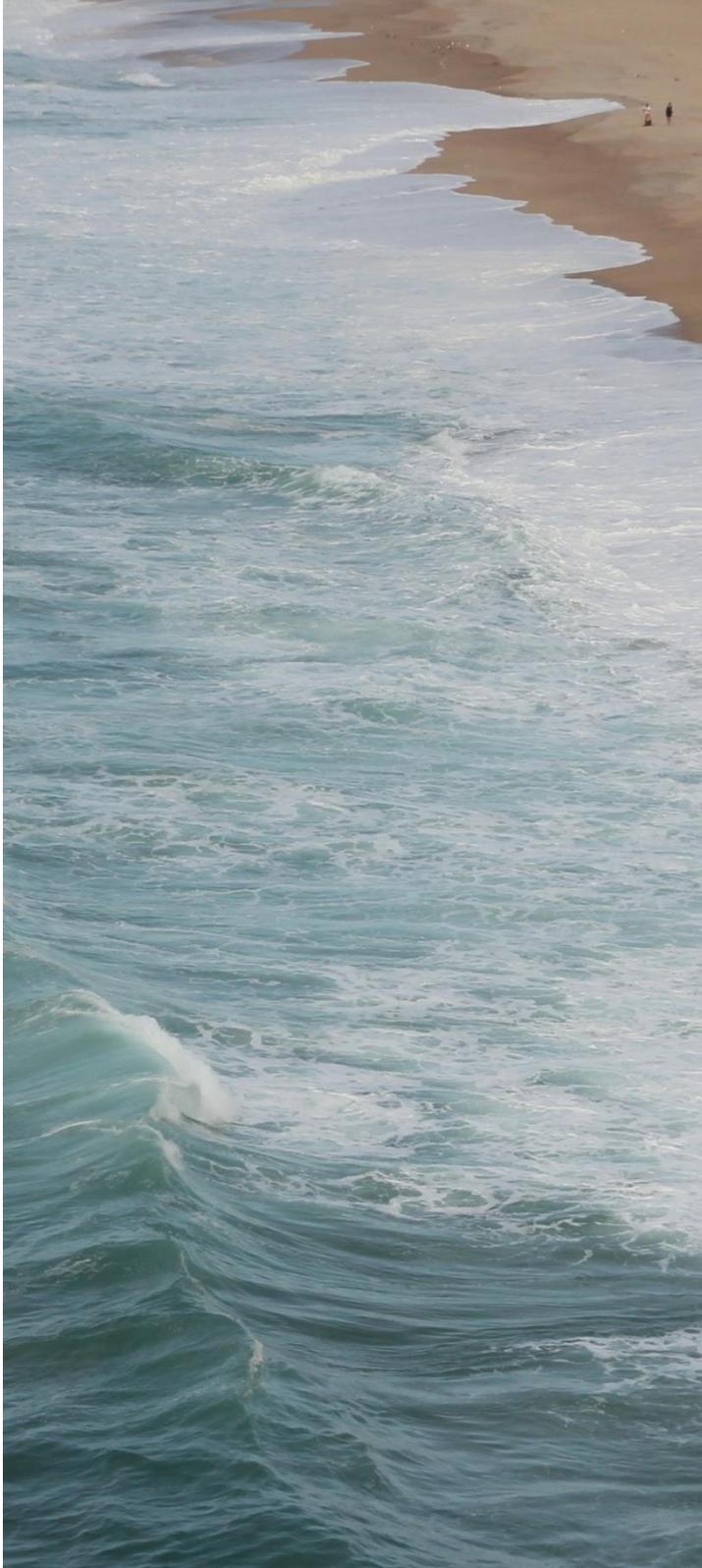
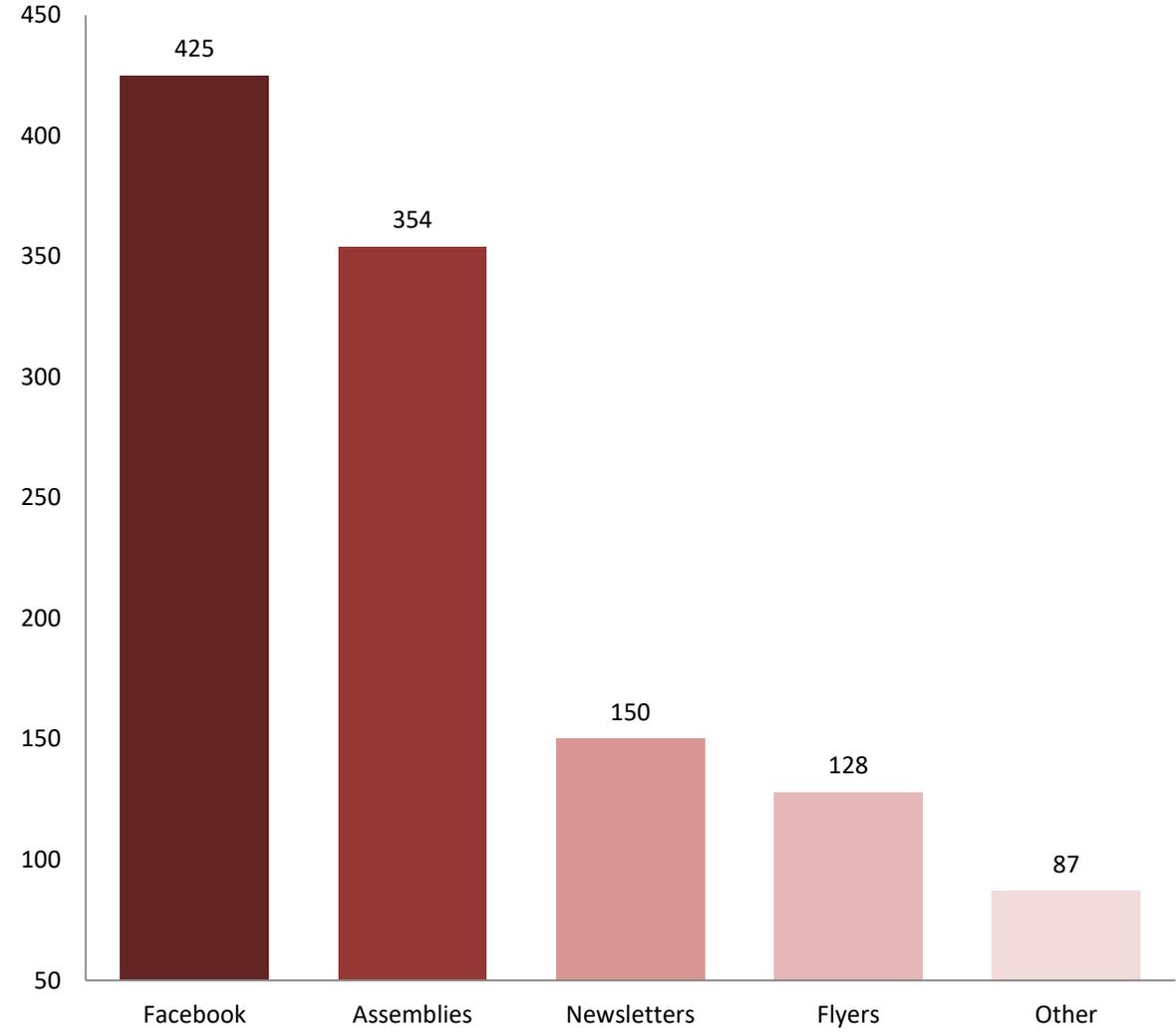
## ***Livingstone Shire Council entertainment options survey (2016)***

The following data was gathered using a survey distributed to local schools. 837 young people responded.

*\*Please note multiple responses were permitted on questions 2 – 6.*

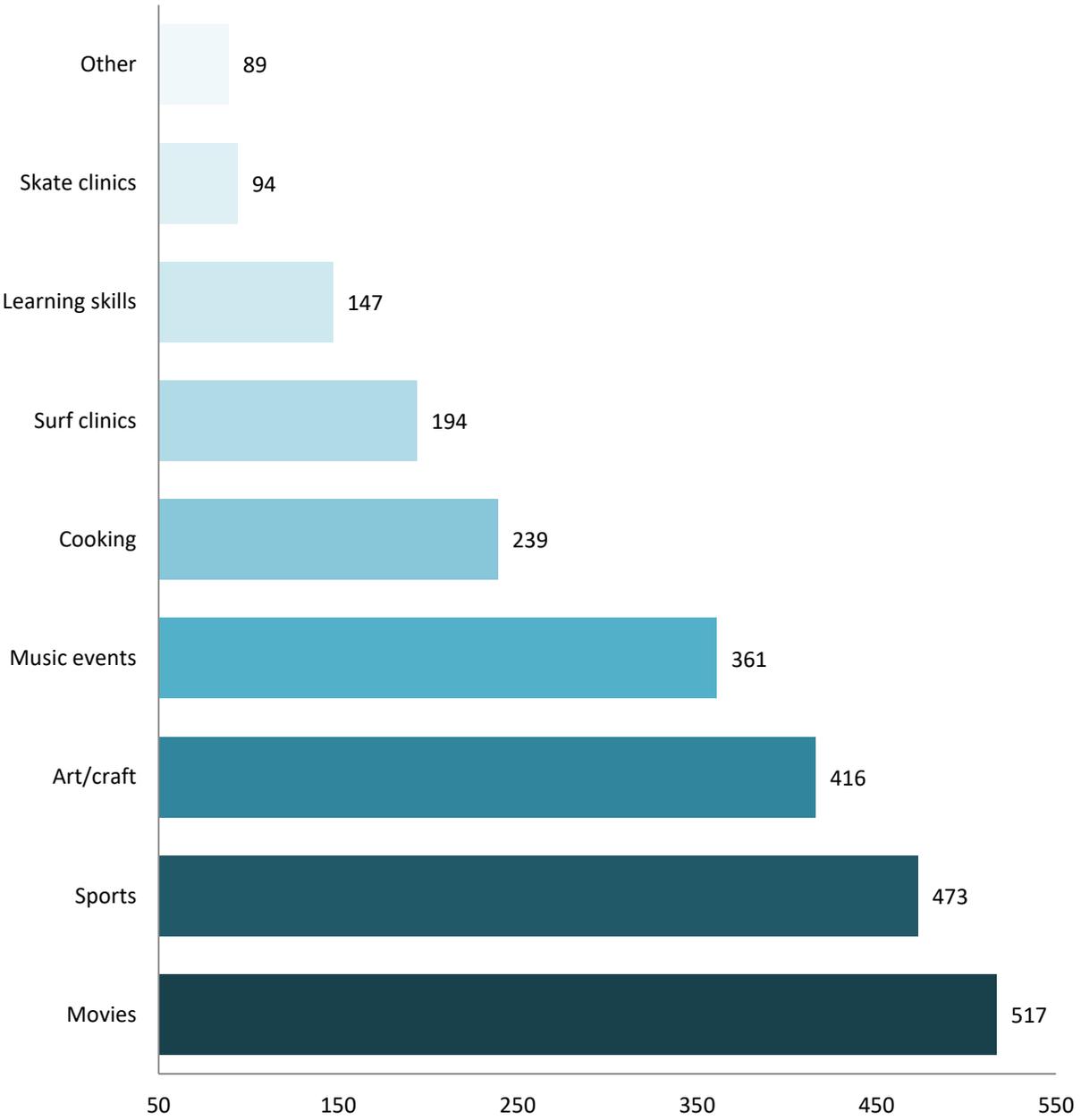


Responses to the question: *How can we best reach you?*

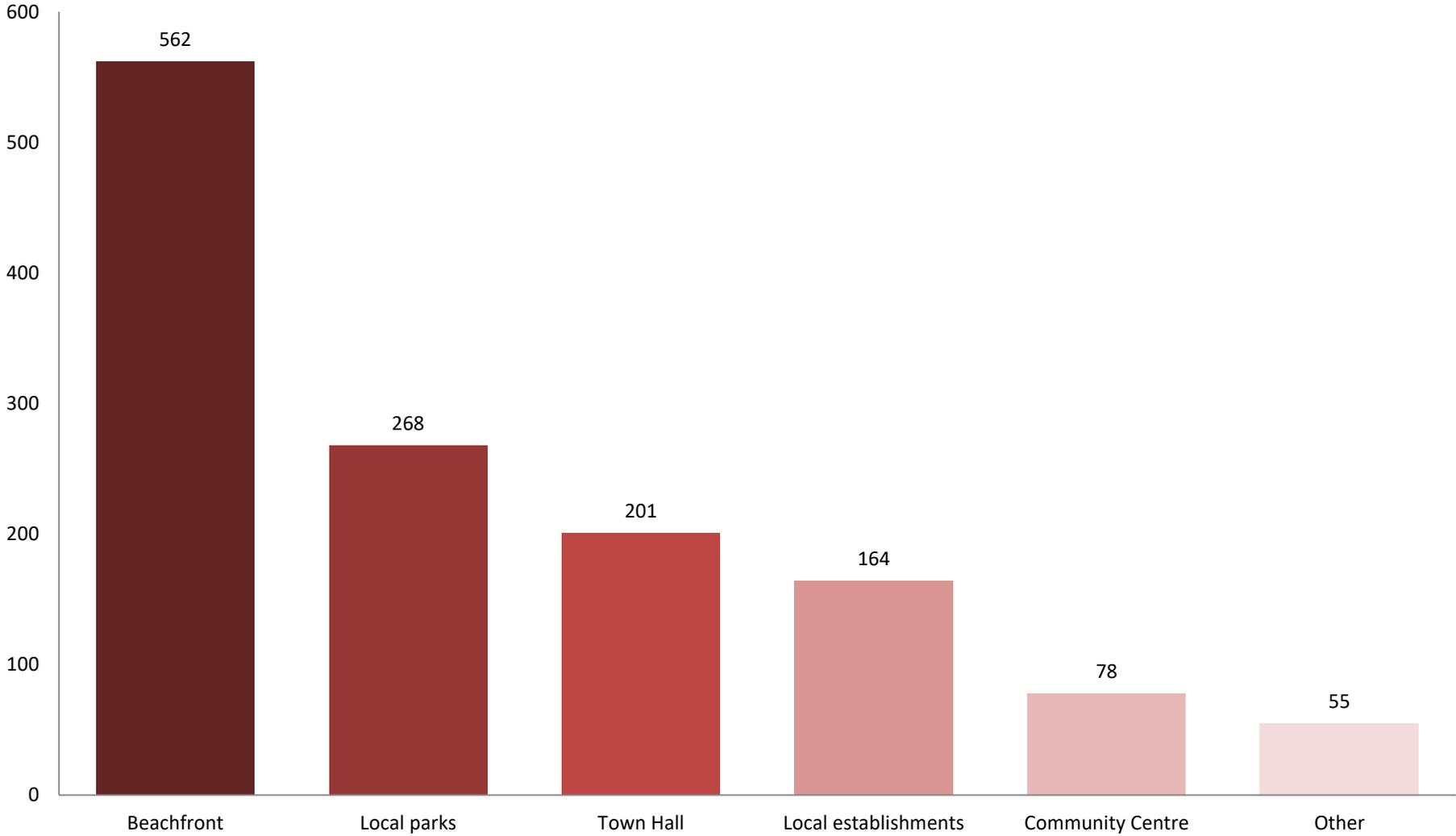




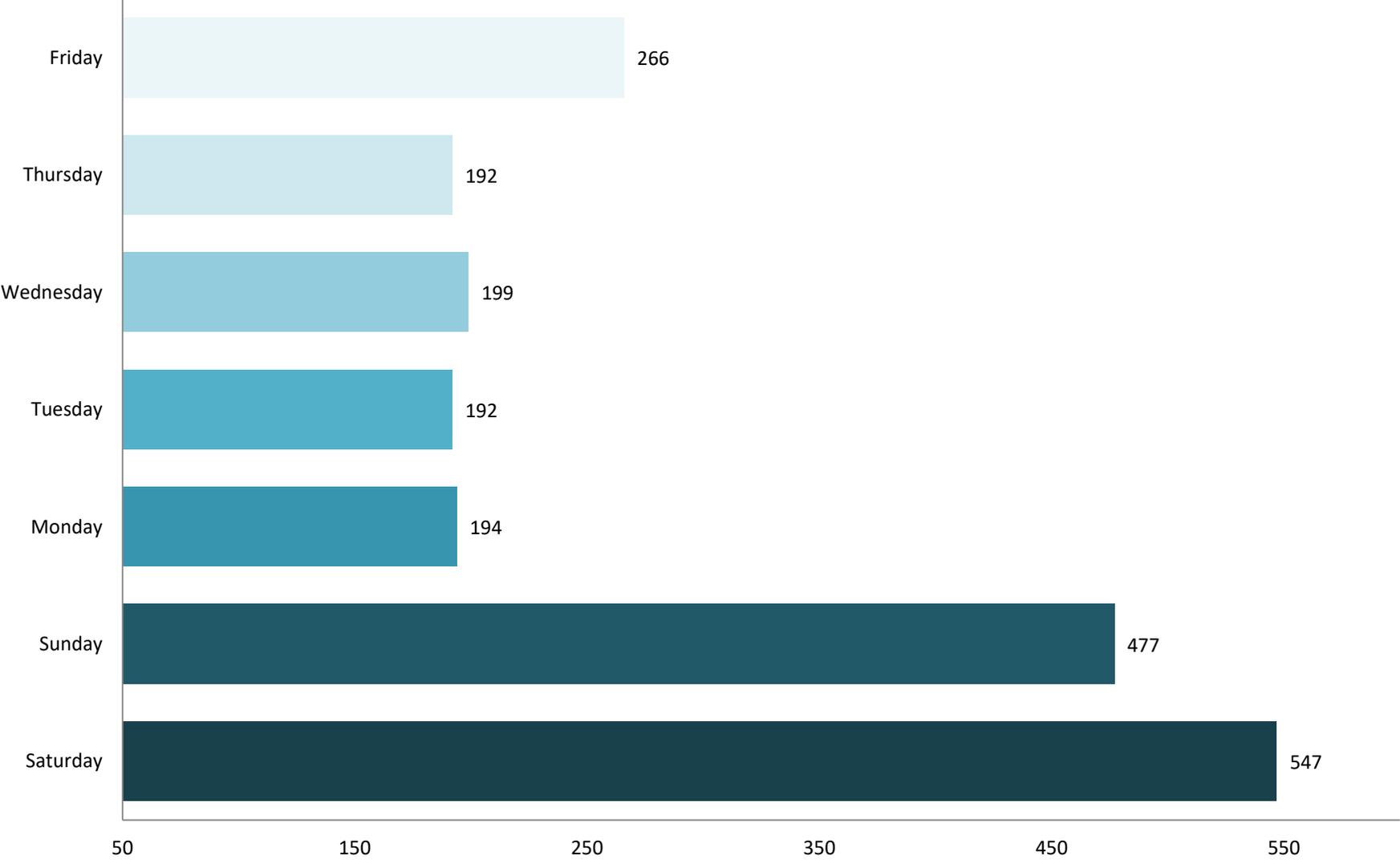
Responses to the question: *What kind of entertainment would you like to participate in?*



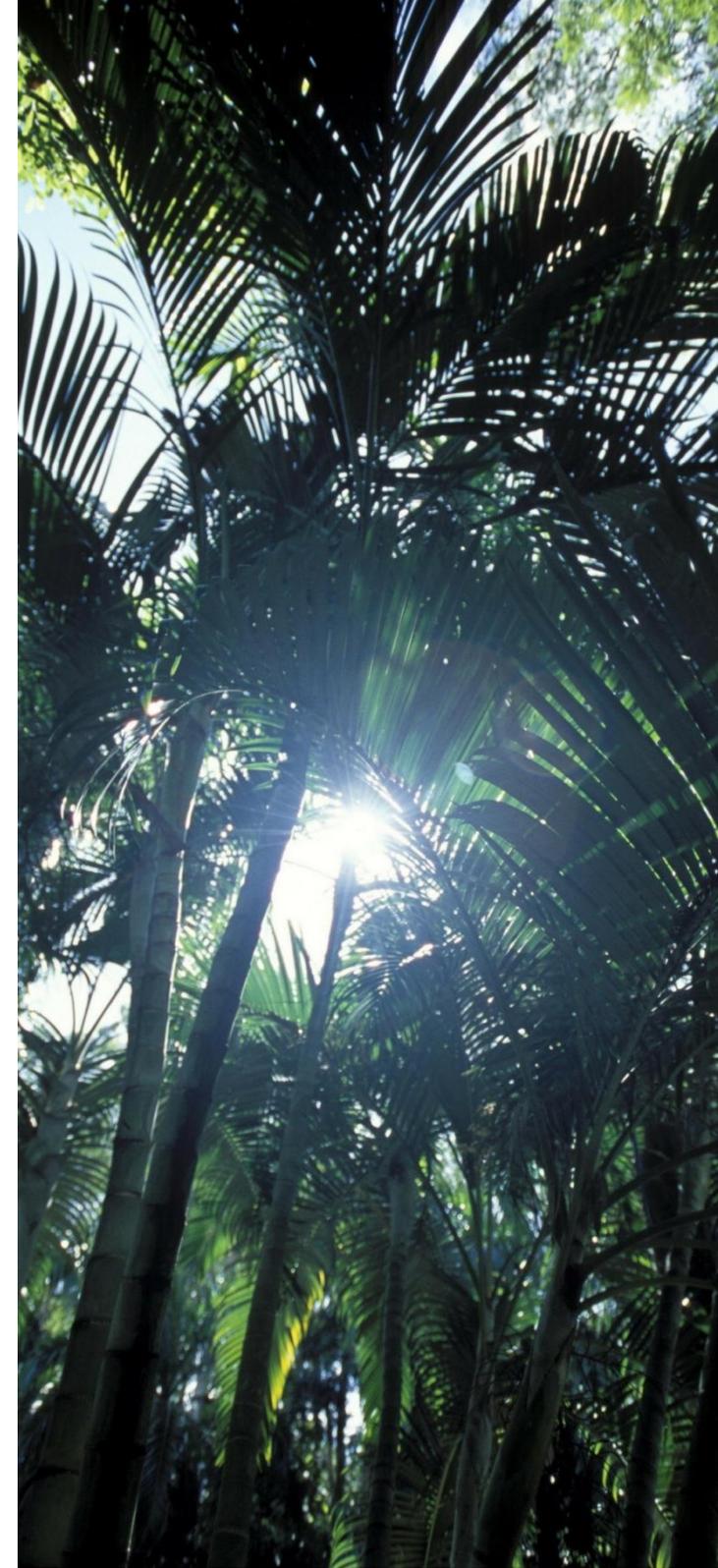
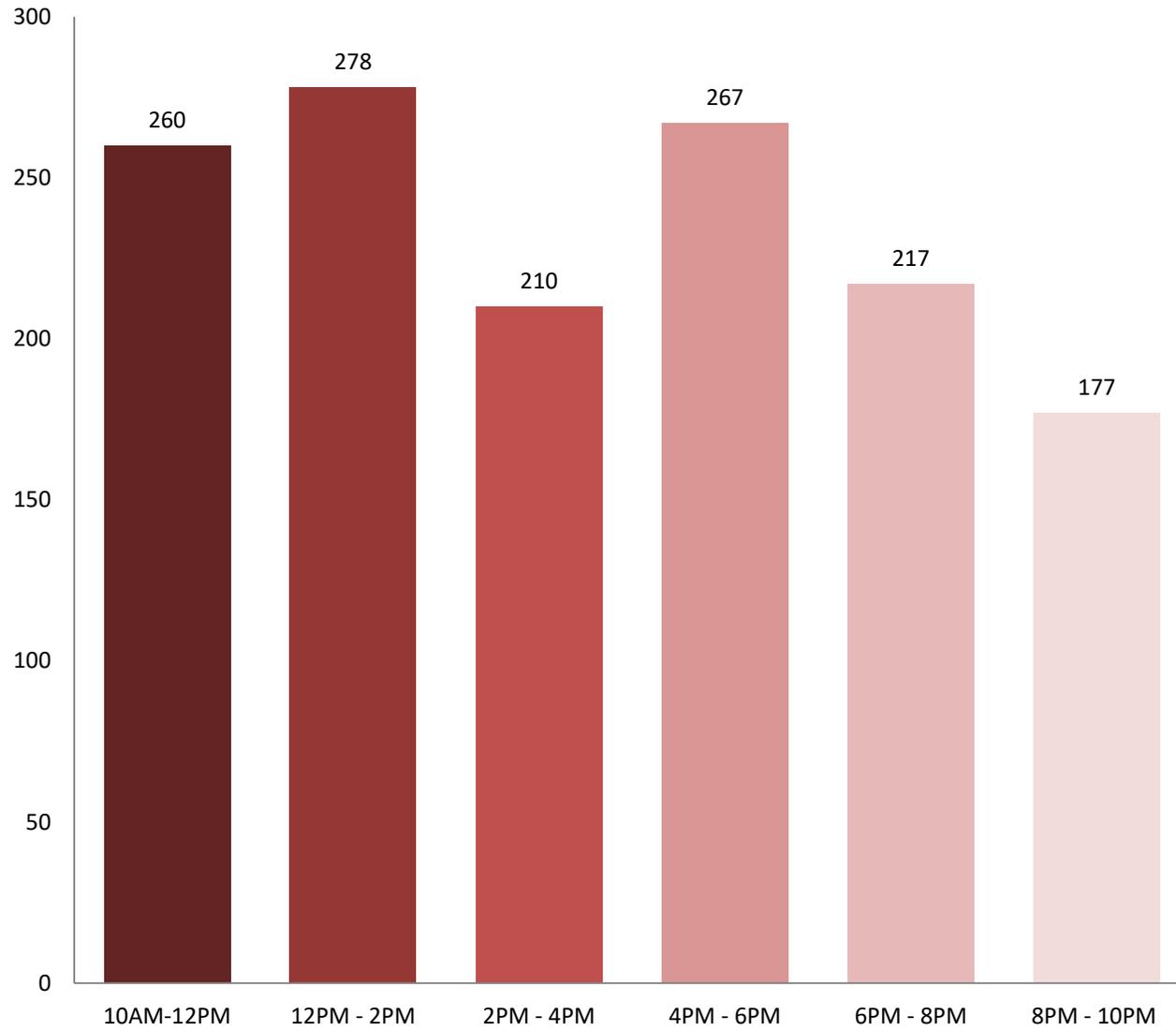
Responses to the question: *Where should activities be held?*

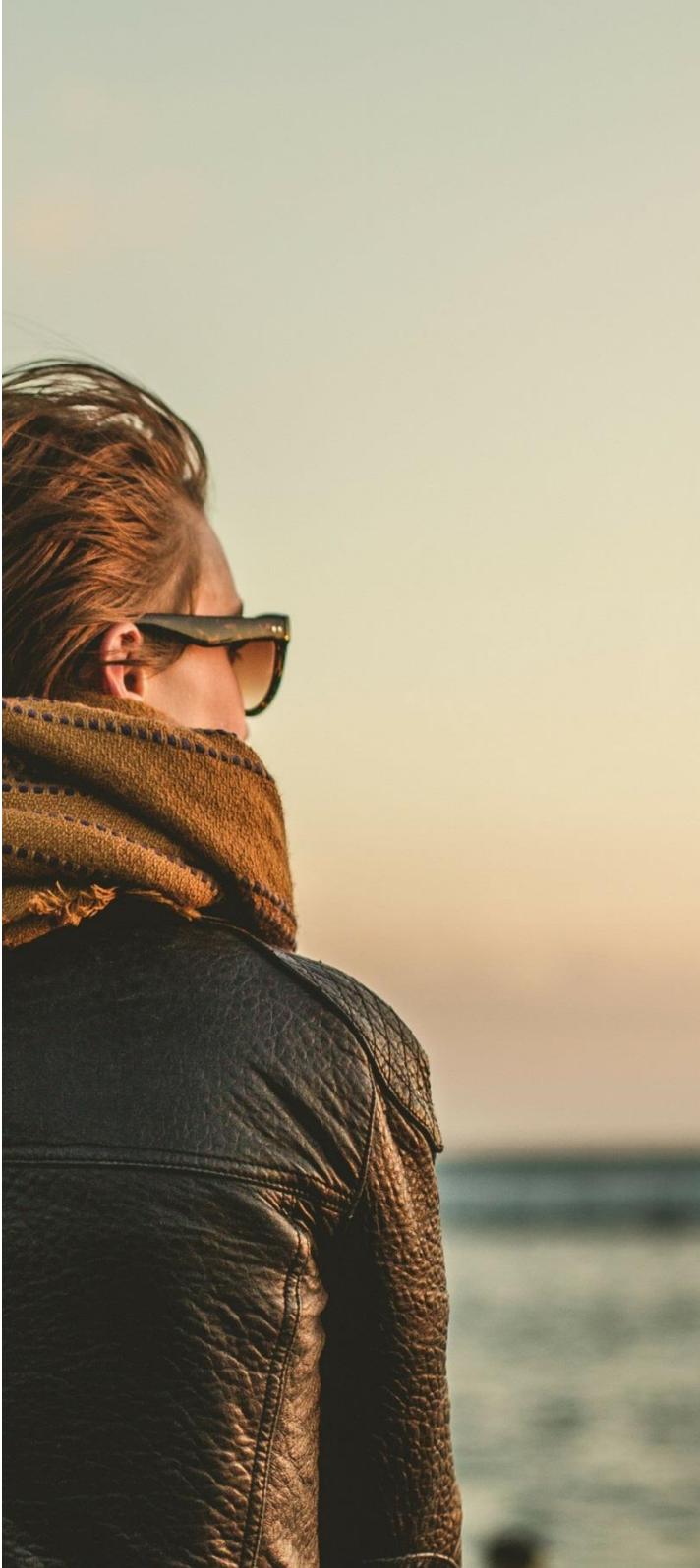


Responses to the question: *What day should events be held on?*



Responses to the question: *What time should events be held?*





## Other reports

### ***Public Health Network population health data profile (2016)***

The Public Health Network (PHN) Livingstone local government authority (LGA) presented the following statistics in the 2016 health data profile:

#### *Health Status*

- Central Queensland has a higher rate of overweight, obesity, and risky alcohol consumption compared to Queensland overall
- The rate of smoking during pregnancy is significantly higher in Central Queensland (22% of expectant mothers) than in Queensland overall (17%)
- Five out of nine indicators of maternal and infant health were worse in Central Queensland than Queensland overall

#### *Services*

- 17% of patients surveyed in Central Queensland felt they waited longer than acceptable to get an appointment with a GP

- Central Queensland showed significantly higher rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations than the rest of the Public Health Network catchment area

#### *Stakeholder Feedback*

- Geographical isolation and limited services in the region is a significant concern for people living in Livingstone. Stakeholders noted that patients often need to travel to Rockhampton for services
- Stakeholders noted limited bulk billing clinics, especially for mental health service
- Due to transport and financial costs, compounded by loss of employment and income, it was felt that many families are unable to access the health services they need
- Long wait lists to access services was raised as a serious concern



## ***Queensland Youth Strategy (2017)***

Released in late 2017, the Queensland Youth Strategy focuses on four building blocks, each of which incorporates various actions, and outcomes.

### **The Four Building Blocks**

Building Block 1: Supporting our most vulnerable people

- Young people in out-of-home care
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- Culturally and linguistically diverse young people
- LGBTQI+ young people
- Young people with a disability
- Young people who are carers
- Young women
- Young people from rural and regional communities

Building Block 2: Housing

Building Block 3: Healthy futures

Building Block 4: Educating into employment

The Strategy incorporates the feedback and ideas from 1,200 young Queenslanders and will maintain engagement throughout the implementation and assessment of the actions.

### **What does this mean for Livingstone?**

The Queensland Government has developed a detailed action schedule for each of the building blocks. Many can be supported or potentially delivered by Livingstone Shire Council, including:

- Action 20: work to reduce the impact of disasters on young people;
- Action 27: deliver outcomes through the Youth Support Program to ensure young people at risk of disengaging are supported in an appropriate way
- Action 32: Support young women to achieve gender equality through leadership opportunities and improved economic, personal, and health outcomes
- Action 59: reduce youth homelessness through early intervention;
- Action 68: work with schools to deliver anti-bullying campaigns;
- Action 70: deliver Respectful Relationships training to prep – year 12 students;
- Action 71: deliver programs to encourage young people to participate in sport and physical activity; and
- Actions 82, 85, 102, 103, 109, 100: facilitate programmes to encourage young people to explore career pathways in the arts, digital fields, tourism, and entrepreneurship.

## ***Mission Australia Youth Survey Report (2017)***

In its sixteenth annual youth survey, Mission Australia reported feedback from approximately 24,000 young Australians, making it the most reliable report of its kind. Within this national cohort, the following trends were identified:

- More males than females indicated they did not intend to complete Year 12 (3.8% compared to 2.1%)
- Academic ability, financial difficulty, and mental health were the most commonly stated barriers to young people's post-school goals
- Friendships, study satisfaction, physical and mental health, and financial security were listed as highly valued by respondents
- Respondents identified mental health, alcohol and drugs, and equity and discrimination as the issues of highest concern in Australia, while education and employment have risen in importance since the 2016 report
- Coping with stress, study/school problems, and body image were the most common responses to the question 'what issues are of personal concern to you?'

- 85% of respondents indicated they would go to a friend for help with an important issue; 11% said they would go to a community agency for help
- Around 60% of respondents rated their relationship with their family as either excellent or very good
- Three in four respondents said they were involved in a sport in the past year and over half had done some volunteer work in the same period
- 62% of respondents said they felt positive or very positive about the future

Mission Australia lists eight outcomes which it strives to address with those they work with:

1. Developing and achieving
2. Economic wellbeing
3. Healthy
4. Housed
5. Inclusive and cohesive
6. Connected and participation
7. Safe
8. Supported and resourced



## Discussion

Viewed as a whole, the information in this analysis paints an interesting picture of youth in Livingstone. One-third of residents of Livingstone are aged under 25 and yet are often seriously under-represented in engagement and planning activities within our community.

Those aged 18 – 24 represent the only negative net migration out of Livingstone and this is something that needs to be examined more closely in the future.

In terms of youth assets and services, the young people of Livingstone Shire are well supported with a plethora of available services and a range of recreational activities. While service providers reported serious concerns over mental health issues in young people, this is likely a reflection of their clients and the issues they face rather than young people as a whole. While the mental health needs of young people are of high importance, young people within Livingstone reported higher concern over other things.

The majority of young people surveyed said their biggest issue was a lack of things to do here and called on Livingstone Shire Council to provide more entertainment options. Survey results also show young people wanted employment assistance and a say in planning more than mental health support.

Less than one in ten respondents to the Mission Australia survey stated they would go to a community agency for help. More than two in three respondents to the local youth survey stated they were at least somewhat aware of available supports. These results indicate there may be a need to address how young people in Livingstone *do* want to access support services and advocating for this to happen.

Young people in Livingstone have been asked what they want Council to do for them and the resounding response has been 'provide entertainment options.' This response needs to be incorporated into future planning and youth need to be consulted on such plans.

## Limitations

While efforts were made throughout consultation, several limitations arose, including:

### *Participation*

Although return rates for both surveys was high, several groups of young people did not have an opportunity to have their say as surveys were delivered within schools, including:

- Young people not attending school;
- Students absent from school during surveying;
- Young people attending school in Rockhampton or other areas;
- Primary school students; and
- Students with low literacy levels;

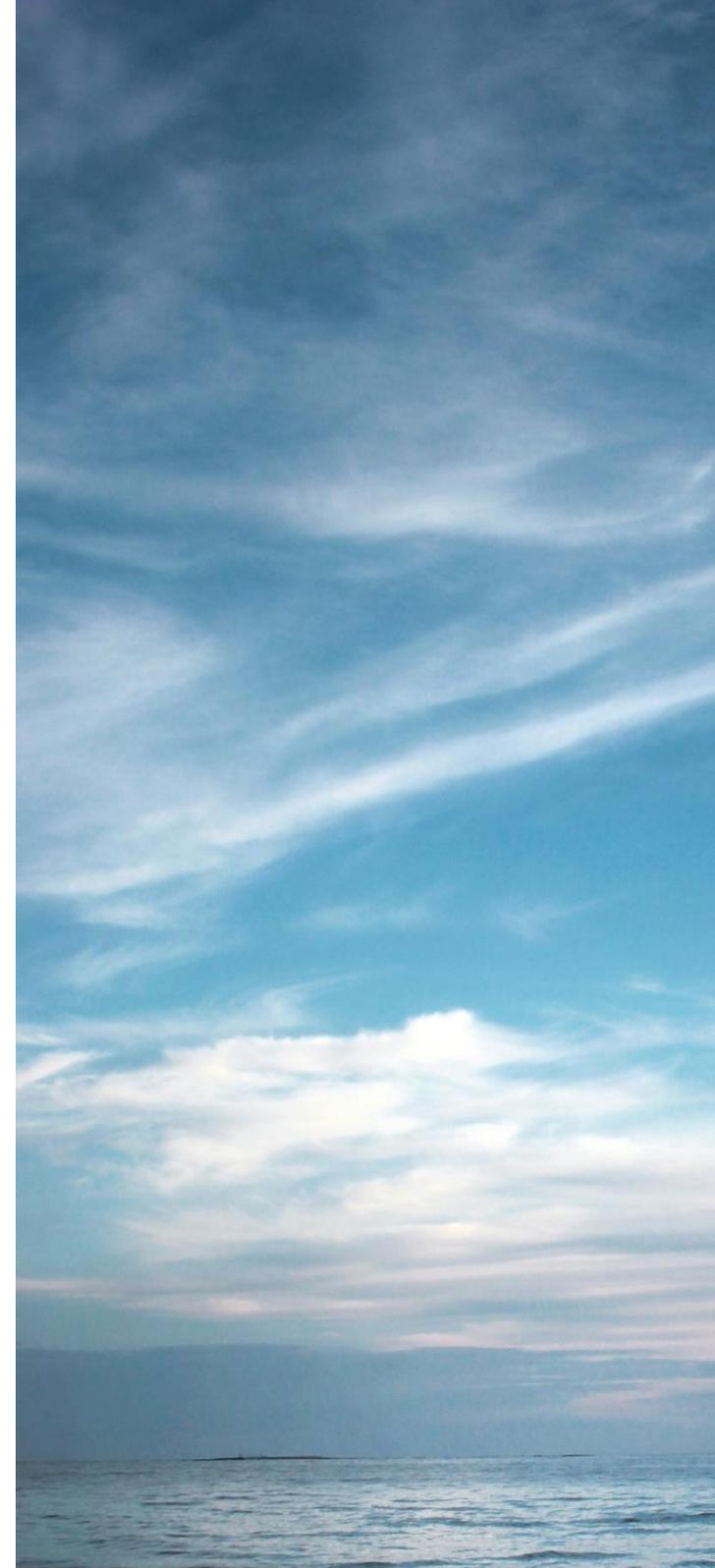
To address this, systems will be put in place in future engagement to ensure as many young people as possible are involved and supported to provide us with information and feedback.

### *Leading/closed questions*

The nature of survey methods used meant young people were asked a specific set of questions with a set number of possible responses. There was no room for flexibility or explaining their answers; nor were young people encouraged to list or express their own individual concerns or opinions.

To address this, future engagement needs to include more open communication where young people are encouraged to provide their thoughts and opinions rather than being asked to respond to prepared questions.

Youth surveys are potentially not indicative of genuine 'youth issues', nor their responses, if they are prepared and scored by adults.



## Conclusions

People aged under 25 years currently make up around 30% of all Livingstone Shire residents; this figure is expected to remain stable into 2038. The years between 2011 and 2016 saw the young population of Livingstone Shire (under 25 years) grow by more than 45%. While the number of young people speaking languages other than English and young people born in non-English speaking countries remains small, it has grown significantly in the past five years.

While the percentage of people in Livingstone Shire who have either obtained a non-school qualification or are currently studying for such a qualification is still around 5% lower than Queensland overall, this figure has increased by 3% since the 2011 census period. Youth unemployment in Livingstone Shire is slightly lower than Queensland overall, but has risen considerably since 2011. When considering the significant increase in the under-25-years population, however, this rise in unemployment is perhaps to be expected.

Young people in Livingstone Shire have access to a wide range of educational, recreational, and support services, with more infrastructure for youth to use being developed at the time of writing this analysis (such as the Yeppoon Foreshore Precinct and Emu Park Foreshore).

Direct engagement and national reports suggest young people are unsure of what supports are available to them and that a large number of young people are uncomfortable accessing services. Young people are also unlikely to utilise community based services.

Public Health Network (PHN) population health data profile suggests that Central Queensland has a higher rate of preventable hospitalisations than other parts of the PHN catchment. While this data covers all ages, it indicates young people may be particularly susceptible to risky behaviours. Modelling behaviours shown by their peers and family members is especially concerning in young people.

There is a clear trend seen in direct engagement: young people feel that there are limited entertainment options in Livingstone Shire, and want Council to provide more entertainment for them. While the overwhelming majority of survey respondents said they wanted Council to screen films, attendance numbers at the school holidays films in recent months does not reflect this. Tailoring the times and locations of films may help this.

Findings of this analysis demonstrate that young people in Livingstone have opportunities and support, but that there is still room for improvement in how we work with youth.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this analysis, the following recommendations should, pending feedback from young people, be incorporated into a Youth Action Plan which will be used for annual and long-term planning and programming.

1. A **Youth Action Plan** should be developed using data from both this needs analysis and future youth engagement to ensure continuity of high quality, relevant services are delivered to our young people.
2. A **youth participation framework** should be developed, in collaboration with young people, to ensure Livingstone Shire Council is reaching as many young people and getting the highest-quality information possible; this will also enable young people to participate in planning and have a say in their community.
3. A dedicated and sustainable **youth committee** and a solutions-focussed **youth development/advocacy group** should be established in Livingstone Shire; the two groups should feed into one another and work in partnership to achieve clear and tangible outcomes.
4. A system for **making young people aware of available supports** should be developed to encourage and empower young people to seek relevant supports and opportunities available to them.
5. **Events, programmes, and activities** for young people should align with the feedback given by young people themselves to reflect what they want; **funding opportunities** should only be sought or applied for where the funding criteria mirror the wants and needs of our young people.
6. An annual **youth review** should be held to update this needs analysis and influence programming for that year; this audit should include a small forum, a survey, and focus groups.

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