



# Tuggeranong Community Council Youth Engagement Committee Forum Executive Summary

9 August 2017

Tuggeranong Community Centre

1.30-3.00pm



## Introduction

The Tuggeranong Youth Forum is an initiative of the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) and its Youth Engagement Sub-Committee. The councils youth engagement subcommittee had identified some key topics of concern for youth living in the Tuggeranong region. The council felt it was important to have a follow up discussion with the broader community, so as to expand the conversation and to capture feedback from a larger group of young people. So, with the support of TCC members, the YWCA Canberra and Communities@Work the forum was planned.

The consultation activity utilised a World Café approach, which is a creative and interactive process, where community members come together to have their say.

The Tuggeranong Community Council's Youth Engagement Sub Committee gained support from TCC members to help plan the event and organise and pay for lunch. In addition, the subcommittee approached Communities@Work (who helped plan the forum and provided the facilities and a Community Development Officer to facilitate it) and the YWCA Canberra (who attend Youth Engagement meetings, helped plan the event and provided people to facilitate some of the tables). Each organisation played a significant role in ensuring the success of the day.

The Tuggeranong Community Council invited all high schools and colleges (10) in the region to attend. Eight schools took up this offer and sent 28 students mainly from year 10. Those that were not able to attend have indicated an interest in attending future consultations and are interested in asking students in their schools for feedback on these topics which they will then forward to the TCC.



Image source: <http://www.theworldcafe.com/>

Students and teachers who attended were provided with lunch, which was prepared by members of the Tuggeranong Community Centre and volunteers.

The event officially commenced at 1.30pm, with the President of the Tuggeranong Community Council welcoming attendees and providing a brief background on how the consultation activity was developed, and what the information collated at the consultation activity would be used for.

The key topics identified through the youth subcommittee were utilised as topics of discussion for the consultation. Each topic was allocated a table and a facilitator, and throughout the activity attendees rotated around the different tables to provide feedback on each topic. The hosts for each table were volunteers from a variety of backgrounds, and their key role was to welcome and engage attendees in a discussion around their table topic.

Evaluations completed at the end of the event showed that students were very happy with the youth consultation activities. In fact, both the table facilitators and students commented that if the opportunity arose they would love to participate again.

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The key points from the nine topics of discussion were:

### Climate Change

- Concerns over global warming, effect on Barrier Reef and worries about continued impact of mining, and US withdrawing from Paris Accord
- Education – need to educate more people, have it better integrated into the curriculum at all levels
- Solutions – more renewables, get Federal government to change its policies and establish preventable measures

### Housing

- Money – need more affordable housing,
- Young people need training and education in this area – budgeting, living skills, household management
- Transport – cost of getting from home to jobs
- Homelessness

### Job Seekers

- Barriers young people face – not knowing how to search for work, no work experience, qualifications; balancing study and work
- Expectations when entering the workforce – employer expect them to be job ready
- Knowledge of entitlements, awards, contracts of employment
- Importance of being able to get a job within your local area
- Understanding of the job climate in Tuggeranong and more broadly

### Nightlife and activities for Young People

- Jobs, school and study often means little time for other activities
- Transport poor- most young women not able to go out at night – felt unsafe and poor bus services
- Few places to go besides the cinema – would like movie nights for young people
  - Would like places like Guild in Civic (Board game restaurant)
  - Youth centre

### Safety and Surveillance

- Concerns about Bus interchange (lighting & security), underpasses and some suspected drug dealing
- Wanted – better street lighting (particularly behind CIT) and CCTV at places like the Interchange
- Better knowledge of where ‘Safe Houses’ are

### Sport

- Conflict between school, studying, jobs and sport
- Aware of the physical benefits e.g. health. However, many were unaware of other benefits such as mental wellbeing and social opportunities to make friends etc.
- Some not interested in sport
- Didn't know what sports available in Tuggeranong
- More women's sports

### Transport including Roads

- Problems with buses – lack of buses on midday and weekend, breakdowns, feel unsafe, dark bus stops, buses should be rerouted from Anketell Street, more bus stops, crowded buses
- Solutions – more buses throughout day and weekends and at popular times
- Better app, better lighting, physical timetable at bus stops

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### Waste and recycling

- Concerned about environmental impacts of waste creation
- Lack of guidance, coupled with inconsistencies in public infrastructure
- Lack of accountability of business community
- We should **create** a 'plain packaging' standard for regular packaging
- Want to be actively engaged in society - Need to “change our society before we end the world

### Where to from here

- Concerned their opinions won't be acknowledged, the voice of young people needs to be heard
  - Access to youth centre, safe places for young people to go,
  - Equal opportunity for everyone
  - Getting into a career they want
  - Managing commitments – study, sports and jobs
  - Lack of bus timetables for the region
- Education – schools focus on theoretical rather than practical skills, a lot seen as not relevant
- Want more opportunities for youth engagement to voice an opinion – Liked our Forum
- Look and feel of Tuggeranong – need more community places
- Ideas to encourage community connectedness – more community events, improved access to activities

### Next Steps

Tuggeranong Community Council will look to follow up on a range of areas raised at the forum, including::

- Send educational comments onto the Education Department – (Climate Change, Housing, Jobs, Safety, Sport, Waste, Where to From Here)
- Talk to ACT government about solutions for homelessness e.g. beds etc.
- Better promotion of:
  - some of the activities in the area (Nightlife)
  - sports available in Tuggeranong (Sports)
- Improved Lighting in car park behind the Tuggeranong CIT and around the Lake generally and bus stops (Safety)
- Lobby to improve Bus Interchange (Safety)
- Better bus app and better bus services (Transport)
- Future opportunities to promote engagement with young people (Where to From Here)



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